

# MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

MICHIGAN'S ONLY STATEWIDE FARM NEWSPAPER

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU



July 15, 1997  
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## New facilities at Michigan State ready



On June 24, during the recent Ag Expo, farmers, industry leaders and elected officials gathered at the site of the newly opened Anthony Hall to celebrate their combined efforts in securing the Livestock Initiative. At the same time, Michigan Department of Agriculture Director Dan Wyant (left), MSU Board of Trustee Dee Cook (center) and MFB President Jack Laurie unveiled the plaque that will commemorate the site where the former livestock pavilion once stood.

### ICMPA sells Kalamazoo plant, makes marketing arrangement with MMI

Butter and powder plant closing July 15

In late June, the 700-member Independent Co-op Milk Producers Association (ICMPA) and 7,500-member Milk Marketing Inc. (MMI) of Strongsville, Ohio, announced an arrangement that includes a milk supply agreement and the sale of ICMPA's Kalamazoo Creamery Company operations and assets to MMI.

According to ICMPA General Manager Charles Courtade, the sale and agreement with MMI boiled down to dollars and cents. "It will be more income on their milk, and rather than going through the butter powder plant, there's better returns going down to fluid markets in Indiana and Ohio. Some of it is still going to go to the butter powder plant in Goshen, but a lot of it will be filling the needs in Ohio where they've been short every year."

"It's clearly that the co-ops is trying to maximize the amount of money they can get for their members," explains Michigan State University Ag Economics Chairperson Larry Hamm. "We've had a big increase in production in the west, particularly California, as you've 'hollowed out' milk production in many traditional dairy regions in the country as production has shifted west. You've left milk plants sitting with less than optimum volume they need to be fully profitable and in the area in Michigan and Indiana, we essentially had three plants doing about the same thing — the Independent plant in Kalamazoo, the Michigan Milk Producers plant in Constantine and the MMI plant in Goshen, Ind."

"After thoroughly studying the situation, ICMPA's board of directors unanimously agreed to this long-term relationship" says Courtade. Under the arrangement, ICMPA and MMI will work together on milk supply needs, mutually strengthen the ability to efficiently balance supplies when there's too much milk in the marketplace, reduce the costly overhead of running two balancing facilities in the same market area, and help to stabilize member incomes.

According to Courtade, the Kalamazoo plant accounted for 193 million pounds of milk, 20 percent of the co-op's total amount of milk marketed. "We'll still continue to supply everybody we had, including Country Fresh and Bareman Dairy. It is just the surplus milk we had that was going to Kalamazoo that we're selling to MMI now."

Don Schriver, executive vice president and chief executive officer, MMI, agrees that the relationship will be beneficial to the farmer-members of both organizations.

"This is a win-win situation for the members of both dairy cooperatives," says Schriver. "MMI and

Continued on page 7

## Ottawa County judge rules in favor of preserving farmland from development

In late June, an Ottawa County judge ruled in favor of residents within a rural Ottawa County township's farmland preservation, curtailing the development of a major subdivision with a large turkey farm owned by Harley Sietsema as its neighbor.

It is repeated many times throughout the state — residential interests pitted against the long-standing agricultural base in the township. What makes this conflict unique is that the Allendale Township Planning Commission originally approved the request to rezone the 37 acres needed for the complete subdivision and the township board subsequently approved the request.

"At that time, the planning commission did give him (Forner) the zoning change and were aware of Mr. Sietsema's concerns and put in some requirements in the approval of the plan that they thought might help at least control some of the anticipated problems that might occur between the two different uses," explains Township Supervisor Jim Beelen. "They had a buffer strip, including a berm with some plantings on it, and they also required a statement in the deed that this subdivision was located next to a farming operation and they were protected by the Right-to-Farm Act."

It wasn't until Ottawa County Farm Bureau member Harley Sietsema, the owner of the large turkey farm, began a petition drive in the spring of 1995 that the ruling granting the subdivision was overturned. In August of that year, voters in the grow-

ing township west of Grand Rapids overwhelmingly rejected the zoning change sending the developer, Phillip Forner, to the Ottawa County Circuit Court.

"This is a landmark case for Michigan," explains Dr. David Skjaerlund, executive director for the Rural Development Council of Michigan. "It proves that individuals, farmers and the community have the right to decide what type of development should occur in their township."

"Forner then sued the township claiming a taking and that his constitutional rights were violated," Beelen adds.

"They claimed that our zoning of the property essentially rendered it valueless," explained Jim Nelson, the attorney who represented Allendale Township. "And we should therefore compensate them for the lost value of the property. So our defense was to claim first under the due process claim, they essentially have to demonstrate that the zoning of this property is not reasonable."

That's when the township called in experts on land values, MSU crop and soil scientists, and Skjaerlund to testify on the validity of the zoning ordinance.

"This case was on the cutting edge of zoning issues," Nelson adds, "because more and more we are faced with the urban sprawl into agricultural areas. And more and more we are beginning to realize that it does cause a conflict. It used to be if you develop out in the country somewhere, there was no problem doing that. And people would do

that without any concern about compatibility between the two uses. Now, you put a residential development next to a high-intensity agricultural operation, you're going to have conflict. And we certainly addressed those conflicts with this case."

"The ruling by the judge further proves the point that local communities are willing to go the extra step in preserving farmland in Michigan," adds MFB Legislative Counsel Scott Everett. "The growth of residential property in Ottawa County is very similar to other parts of the country and each township needs to evaluate how they are going to handle residential growth."

To assist the township in better handling the conflicts which arise in a generally agricultural area, the township has organized a committee comprised of their planning and zoning administrator, a township board member and three farmers. We organized this committee "to look at our zoning ordinances and see once if we can't come up with better ways of dealing with these situations where you do have residential use butting up to farming interests," Beelen adds.

"I think prior to the formation of this committee," he states. "We have a commitment to preserving farmland. It's how do we deal with the residentially zoned areas that are going to be adjacent to farmland. You're always going to have that line somewhere. And that's where this situation was. It was right at that line of residential and agricultural." ■

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# News in Brief



## From the President

### Clean air proposal out of touch with reality

A crucial deadline for agriculture is looming in Washington, D.C., regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone and particulate matter. Under the EPA proposal, new air quality standards will measure average ozone readings and particulate matter (soot and dust). EPA estimates that 34.3 percent of fine particulate matter can be attributed to agriculture and forestry.

While the EPA's plan to improve air quality may have been well intentioned, the end result will be economically disastrous and, ironically, will not improve air quality. The new air quality standards are a textbook example of what happens when overzealous regulators fail to employ common sense and sound scientific data in their decision-making process.

Ask farmers in California what the future holds if this proposal, already rubber-stamped by the Clinton administration, is approved by Congress. Farmers there have been battling with EPA over the agency's use of erroneous projections for dust from various farm operations rather than conducting research and establishing actual emission data. A major portion of California's agriculture has been operating under stringent emission standards under the 1990 Clean Air Act.

Here are a few examples of the absurdities farmers in California have had to contend with. The EPA originally indicated that alfalfa was disced eight times per year, rice 13 times per year and rangeland twice per year. First, farmers disc and seed alfalfa, at most, once every three or more years, not eight per year; and farmers don't even disc rice or rangeland at all, much less 13 and two times per year, respectively.

Some of the control measures suggested for agricultural operations included: sprinkler irrigation on fields prior to planting water tanks mounted on tractors and water sprays on the back of discing equipment, and the use of shaking equipment to shake trucks and farm implements prior to exiting a field or unpaved road onto a paved road (this would supposedly eliminate the carry-out of mud

or dirt, which would later be entrained into the atmosphere by cars or trucks on paved roads).

Just by updating the EPA's estimates with current acreage information for each crop and correcting the number of passes per acre for tillage implements, the agricultural emission levels for tillage operations were reduced 30 percent.

At one point it was discussed that farms be permitted by their local air districts. In the San Joaquin Valley alone, it was speculated that over 31,000 permits would need to be written for farms. Each silage pile, unpaved road and equipment storage yard, to name a few, would have been permitted. The district estimated that it would need 70 additional permitting engineers to process air quality permits just for farms.

In the original EPA projections, it was assumed that all farming in California was "dryland" farmed. It assumed that the land was not irrigated, and that there was no vegetation cover, or cover canopy, from the crops. Once irrigation and vegetation cover were put into the wind erosion equations, wind erosion was reduced an incredible 80 percent, from 410 tons per day to 58 tons per day.

Probably the most blatant example of an inaccurate estimate, which would have cost the agricultural industry thousands of dollars, was the initial emission projections used for combustion engines used to drive irrigation pumps. The EPA originally estimated nitrogen oxide (NOX) emissions at 626 tons per day from all the pumps in the San Joaquin Valley. This would be the highest emissions category for NOX transmissions in the San Joaquin Valley, exceeding all the mobile sources including all cars and trucks, which together only emit 353 tons per day.

Driven by agricultural inquiries, a new study was commissioned that was based on actual interviews with 360 farmers. The new study determined that the NOX emission for these pumps is only 32 tons per day.

A shotgun approach will only serve to put American agriculture out of competition with other countries and put agricultural producers out of work. Because U.S. agricultural commodity prices are tied to world prices, a farmer cannot simply "pass on" the cost of doing business to the consumer. Any increase in operational costs of farming becomes significant and must be based on accurate information that justifies the expenditures.

The agriculture community enjoys breathing clean air as much as anybody, but it doesn't want to waste money on control measures that have little or no effect on cleaning up the air of this nation. It is an absolute necessity that the EPA be held accountable and be required to use science-based research, so that intelligent, reasonable and justifiable decisions can be made.

Sincerely,

*Jack Laurie*

Jack Laurie, President  
Michigan Farm Bureau

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#### But wait, there's more

Sunday, Sept. 7 is FFA Day at Tiger Stadium. On Sept. 7 at 1:00 p.m. the Tigers play the Anaheim An-

gels. When we sell 1,000 tickets, there will be a pre-game FFA show on the field conducted by our own FFA members, with one lucky person winning the honor of throwing out the first pitch (name will be drawn from Sept. 7 ticket orders). You'll also have special seating when you use the FFA order form. The Tiger mascot will even visit you during the game!

If that isn't enough, there will be some special surprises on Michigan FFA Game Day, Sept. 7.

It's important to use the FFA Tiger Baseball order form when ordering your tickets. It's the only way you can have a ball and benefit your Michigan FFA. Use the order form for group and/or individual orders. You can make as many copies of the order form as you need.

Get your whole community and take them out to the ball park!

### Campaign management workshop helps to win an election

The 1998 elections will provide opportunities for candidates to seek election to many township, county, state and federal public offices. These offices include township trustee, county commissioner, state representative, state senator and U.S. representative, to mention just a few.

In past elections, many Farm Bureau members as well as others have been candidates for local, state and federal public offices. Some have been successful while others have not. Whatever the outcome, the candidates have learned from their experience that a well-planned and executed election campaign is very important. They have also learned that because election campaigns require time and money, it is important to begin thinking early about the effort to win.

To assist Farm Bureau members who are thinking about being a candidate for any public office in 1998, Michigan Farm Bureau will sponsor a "How to Win an Election" Campaign Management Workshop. The workshop will be held September 16-17 at Farm Bureau Center in Lan-

sing. It will provide useful information and opportunities for hands-on experience in preparing an effective election campaign. Topics covered will include the formula for winning, campaign laws and reports, selecting the right issues, raising money, working with the news media, organizing the campaign, obtaining volunteers, get-out-the-vote, etc.

If you may be a candidate for any public office in 1998, you are encouraged to consider attending the workshop. Also, if you know of others who may be a candidate and could benefit from the Campaign Management Workshop, please share this information with them in case they would like to attend. Spouses and campaign managers are encouraged to attend with the candidate.

There will be a fee charged to attend of about \$95 per person to cover materials and meals. Persons attending must be Farm Bureau members. To obtain an enrollment form, please contact the Public Affairs Division by calling 517-323-6560.

### Piedmontese: Tomorrow's beef today!

The Piedmontese Association of Michigan will be sponsoring a Field Day Aug. 2, hosted by Red Bird Farm. This event is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. featuring Piedmontese Beef. Scheduled events for the day include:

- An embryo flushing and implanting presentation will be given.

- Wayne Schlabach will discuss Certified Beef Program.

- Door prizes to be awarded throughout day.
- Come and Enjoy!

Several area breeders will have their animals on display.

For more information or directions, call Ron or Sandy Mroz (810) 667-7389.

### Kellogg Biological Station field day slated for Aug. 6

Profitable Michigan farming in a changing environment is the theme for MSU's Kellogg Biological Station (KBS) Field Day, set for Aug. 6 at the station's Farming Systems Center.

"The goal of the field day is to highlight some of the ecological research that's going on at KBS and throughout the farm fields of Michigan," said Dale Mutch, MSU Extension IPM agent based at KBS.

The field day will begin at 2:30 p.m. Demonstrations will focus on nitrogen management, cover crops, landscape-level insect management and dairy forage. Presentations and a poster session by farm-

ers who have participated in on-farm research is scheduled from 5 to 6 p.m.

An evening pasture walk at the KBS managed rotational grazing demonstration site will run from 7 p.m. to sunset.

"We are inviting Kalamazoo County grazers to join the pasture walk in the evening after the presentation," Mutch said.

Families are encouraged to bring their children for a special program led by the Kalamazoo County 4-H Teen Club.

To register for the field day, call the KBS Extension office at 1-800-521-2619.

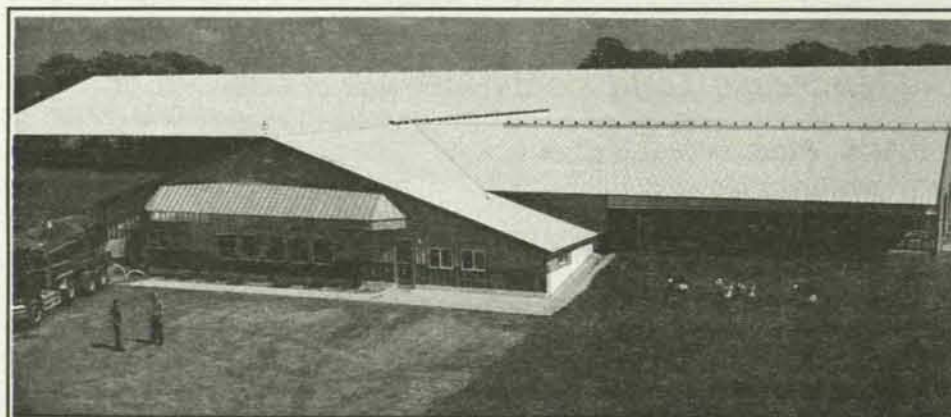
### Strawberry company indicted

The strawberry processing plant that earlier this year sold hepatitis A-infected strawberries to the federal school lunch program was indicted recently for lying when company officials told Agriculture Department investigators that the berries were grown domestically.

The Andrew & Williamson Sales Company's former president, Frederick Williamson, and the company were charged with one count of defrauding the United States, three counts of making false

statements and 43 counts of false claims stemming from incidents surrounding the hepatitis outbreak that sickened nearly 200 Michigan students and teachers in April.

An A&W salesman pleaded guilty last month to three counts of misleading the government and is expected to be sentenced in August. The salesman in question, Richard Kershaw, is expected to testify for the government in the Williamson case.



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# Capitol Corner

For more information on legislative topics in the Michigan Farm News, call 800-292-2680.

## NATIONAL

### Kill the death tax

Moving with surprising speed, both the House and Senate have passed legislation to reform the federal estate tax — referred to as the death tax.

The House bill increases the current \$600,000 death tax exemption to \$1 million by 2007. The exemption would rise to \$650,000 in 1998, \$750,000 in 1999, \$765,000 in 2000, \$775,000 in 2001 through 2004, \$800,000 in 2005, \$825,000 in 2006 and \$1 million in 2007. Beginning in 2008, the exemption would be indexed annually for inflation.

The Senate bill increases the \$600,000 exemption to \$1 million by 2006. The exemption rises to \$625,000 in 1998, \$640,000 in 1999, \$660,000 in 2000, \$675,000 in 2001, \$725,000 in 2002, \$750,000 in 2003, \$800,000 in 2004, \$900,000 in 2005 and \$1 million in 2006. The bill also provides an additional \$1 million exemption for family-owned businesses including farms.

Prior to passage of the bills, state Farm Bureaus supplied the American Farm Bureau with 23,000 letters written by members in every state

as part of the Kill the death tax campaign. The AFBF scheduled a meeting with House Speaker Newt Gingrich and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Archer, to display the letters and show the strong support that exists for significant reform of the death tax. Following the meeting, the letters were delivered to individual senators and representatives to whom they were addressed.

Despite passage of the bills by the House and Senate, the Kill the death tax campaign continued until July 8. Congress was on recess until July 8. When Congress returned, the two bills went to a Conference Committee to work out the differences between the House and Senate versions. Additional letters from members were delivered to Michigan congressman shortly after their return and should prove to be helpful in showing members of the Conference Committee that they should adopt the most far-reaching reform possible.

MFB Contact: Al Almy, ext. 2040

## NATIONAL

### Balanced budget agreement

In addition to the House and Senate action to reform the death tax (see above), provisions were also passed dealing with capital gains, health insurance deductions for the self-employed and the federal gasoline tax.

Both House and Senate bills cut the capital gains tax rate for those in the 28 percent bracket to 20 percent and to 10 percent for taxpayers in the 15 percent bracket. The tax cut applies to capital assets purchased on or after May 7, 1997.

The Senate approved an amendment increasing the tax deduction for health insurance paid by the self-employed to 100 percent by 2007. Current

law increases the deduction to 80 percent by 2006.

The Senate approved a provision directing that all federal gas tax money be deposited in the Highway Trust Fund. Under current law only 14 cents of the 18.3 cents per gallon tax is deposited in the Highway Trust Fund. The remaining 4.3 cents is used to reduce the federal deficit.

The Senate also approved extending the ethanol tax credit through 2007 at gradually diminishing levels. An amendment was added which allows farmers to use income-averaging over three years to calculate their taxes.

MFB Contact: Al Almy, ext. 2040

## NATIONAL

### Particulate matter standards

Earlier this year, the Environmental Protection Agency published proposed standards restricting emissions of ozone and particulate matter (PM) into the air. Agriculture practices identified as emitting fine PM or ozone include dairies, feedlots, fuel combustion sources, diesel engine emissions and dust from soil preparation, harvesting, grain mills and grain elevators. The standards can significantly impact agriculture because it is impossible to farm without stirring up some dust.

On June 26, President Clinton announced his administration will proceed to adopt and implement

the proposed standards with some slight changes. The new rule requires EPA to conduct a full scientific review of the health effects of fine particles before designating any new non-attainment areas or requiring new controls. EPA will be allowed up to five years to monitor and analyze data on particulate matter. Non-attainment areas will then be given three additional years to submit air quality plans and EPA will have 18 months to review the plans and an unspecified time to comply with the new standards.

The delayed implementation and slightly modified standards were an attempt to defuse

growing bipartisan opposition in Congress and from business and labor. Democrats and Republicans are now preparing legislation to overturn the final rule.

**MFB Position:** Farm Bureau is supporting the legislation.

**MFB Contact:** Al Almy, ext. 2040

## NATIONAL

### Migrant and Seasonal Worker Protection Act

The Migrant and Seasonal Worker Protection Act (MSWPA) has created problems for many farmers who hire migrant and seasonal workers. To eliminate many of these problems, H.B. 2038 has been introduced by Congressman Charles Canady (R-Fla.). The bill would make the following reforms to MSWPA:

- Ensures that a farmer will not lose his MSWPA family farm exemption if his employees work for another farmer on their free time, if the farmer uses a state employment service to obtain referrals of potential employees, or if the farmer obtained referrals for employment from other migrant farm workers
- Specifies that when farm workers voluntarily enter into car pooling arrangements, or such car pools are undertaken pursuant to any federal, state or local law (such as clean air attainment regulations) that such car pooling does not constitute farm labor contracting activity within the MSWPA definition; thus, a farm worker driving a car pool will not be considered an unregistered farm labor contractor, and his employer will not be held in violation of MSWPA
- Requires Department of Labor personnel charged with MSWPA enforcement to meet with a farmer both before and after any inspection visit to discuss the purpose of the inspection visit and result of the visit
- Grants farmers a 10-day grace period in which they can correct violations of MSWPA before either Department of Labor can levy a penalty, or before a legal aid can bring a lawsuit
- Excuses from MSWPA regulation any farm worker housing regulated and approved by a federal or state agency
- Excuses a farmer from MSWPA liability for housing violations that are caused by or are within the responsibility of housed migrant farm workers

- Specifies that when determining whether a farmer is the joint employer of his farm labor contractor's employees, the Department of Labor will consider solely the nature and degree of the farmer's control of the workers, the degree of the farmer's supervision of the farm worker's work, the farmer's ability to determine pay rates and various methods of payment, the farmer's right to hire, fire, or set conditions of employment for farm workers, and whether the farmer prepares payroll and pays wages of farm workers
- Specifies that a farmer is not responsible for confirming farm labor contractor status in a car pooling situation unless the farmer has actual knowledge of illegal farm labor contracting activity; thus, if farm workers are car pooling and paying the driving farm workers for expenses, or where a third party unknown to the farmer is providing transportation for compensation, the farmer has no responsibility for ascertaining whether that transportation provider is MSWPA-registered
- Modifies the definition of migrant and seasonal farm workers to specify that persons working year-around for the same farmer are not covered by MSWPA
- Removes the federal standard for farm worker vehicle insurance and specifies that vehicles will be insured to applicable state standards for employer transportation of employees
- Establishes a two-year statute of limitations for criminal and civil violations of MSWPA.

**MFB Position:** Michigan Farm Bureau supports H.B. 2038, and has asked those Michigan congressmen representing districts where farmers employ migrant or seasonal workers to cosponsor the legislation.

**MFB Contact:** Al Almy, ext. 2040

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Serving Michigan farm families is our only business

Since its beginning in 1971, Michigan Farm Radio Network's only objective has been to serve Michigan's farm families. This dedication to serve agriculture is shared by 27 local radio stations in Michigan. Through these stations, Michigan Farm Radio Network provides the latest in market analysis, weather and news to Farm Bureau members daily on the following stations:

Station	City	Frequency	Morning Report	Noon Report
WABJ	Adrian	1490	5:45 am	11:05-12:00 pm
WATZ	Alpena	1450	5:30 am	11:30 am
WTKA	Ann Arbor	1050	6:05 am	12:00-1:00 pm
WLEW	Bad Axe	1340	6:30 am	12:50 pm
WKJF	Cadillac	1370	5:45 am	11:10 am
WKYO	Caro	1360	6:15 am	12:10-1:00 pm
WTVB	Coldwater	1590	5:45 am	12:00-1:00 pm
WDOW	Dowagiac	1440	6:05 am	12:15 pm
WGHN AM	Grand Haven	1370	5:45 am	12:15 pm
WGHN FM	Grand Haven	92.1	5:45 am	12:15 pm
WPLB	Greenville	1380	6:15 am	11:50 am
WBCH	Hastings	1220	6:15 am	12:30 pm
WCSR	Hillsdale	1340	6:45 am	12:45 pm
WHTC	Holland	1450		12:15 pm
WION	Ionia	1430	6:45 am	12:30-1:00 pm
WKZO	Kalamazoo	590	5:00-6:00 am	12:00-1:00 pm
WPLB FM	Lakeview	106.3	6:15 am	12:15 pm
WOAP	Owosso	1080	7:15 am	12:40 pm
WHAK	Rogers City	960		12:15 pm
WMLM	St. Louis	1520	6:05 am	12:20 pm
WSGW	Saginaw	790	5:55 am	11:30-12:30 pm
WMIC	Sandusky	660	6:15 am	12:45 pm
WKJC FM	Tawas City	104.7		12:40 pm
WLKM	Three Rivers	1510	5:45 am	12:15 pm
WTCM	Traverse City	580	5:45 am	11:10 am

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# Capitol Corner

Continued from page 3

## STATE

### Amendments to P.A. 591, the Land Division Act and voting record

S.B. 345, sponsored by Sen. Leon Stille (R-Spring Lake), passed the Senate and was referred to the House Agriculture Committee where a substitute version was adopted. Farm Bureau strongly supported the substituted version. However, that version of the bill failed to receive enough votes to be adopted on the House floor. S.B. 345 was then substituted on the House floor with another bill by Rep. Alley (D-West Branch), which ultimately passed the House and Senate. The bill is now on the way to the Governor for his signature.

S.B. 345, as passed by the House, amends the Land Division Act in the following areas:

- Limits the local unit of government's zoning authority at the time of division to width, depth and area.
- Establishes the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) rules for water and sewer to apply for all divisions of land smaller than 1 acre at the time a building permit is requested, rather than at the time of division.
- Establishes the local health department rules for water and sewer to apply for all divisions of land larger than 1 acre at the time a building permit is requested rather than at the time of division.
- Provides for penalties for violation of the act.
- Provides for a process to track the transferring of exempt divisions.

Potential problems with S.B. 345:

- It does not contain the clear authority for local units of government to administer this act. It appears local control may be severely limited.
- Local units of government may only ensure proposed divisions are in compliance with width, depth and area zoning ordinances at the time of division. Attempts by local communities to protect farms or rural character of an area through clustering, site density, setbacks, etc., by use of zoning, can only be done at the building permit stage, virtually eliminating the ability to do so. Local units of government could be put in a position of approving land divisions, even if it doesn't comply with zoning ordinances, and then attempting to deny a building permit because the building site does not meet current zoning.
- Sanitary requirements will be at the building permit stage. A proposed division could be approved by the local unit of government, then a building permit could be denied because the division cannot meet either DEQ or local health department standards for water and sewer.

Farm Bureau opposes S.B. 345, as passed by the House of Representatives, due to the fact that the bill:

- Limits the ability of the use of local zoning to protect agriculture.
- Restructures the local review process thus creating potential legal problems for local government.
- Does not contain key items as required by Farm Bureau policy.

**MFB Position:** Farm Bureau supported a YES vote on S.B. 345

**MFB Contact:** Scott Everett, ext. 2046

### USDA corn and soybean acreage report

The Agriculture Department released in late June its corn and soybean planted acreage report, showing both crops will reach at least 10-year-plus highs.

For corn, USDA says farmers nationwide planted nearly 80.2 million acres of corn. The figures represent the highest amount of corn acreage since 1985, which would be the second largest corn crop in history.

Soybean plantings will hit nearly 70.9 million acres this year, making this year the highest number of planted soybean acres since 1982. The numbers represent an increase of six million-plus acres over last year. The USDA figures are more than two million acres higher than private soybean analysts had estimated. If the planted acreage holds, this year's soybean harvest could be the largest in history.

### Here is how the House of Representatives voted:

Name	Party	Legislator's Vote
James Agee	D	N
Tom Alley	D	N
David Anthony	D	N
Paul Baade	D	Y
Laura Baird	D	Y
Lyn Bankes	R	N
Ray Basham	D	Y
Patricia L. Birkholz	R	Y
Bill Bobier	R	Y
Beverly Bodem	R	N
Rose Bogardus	D	Y
Bob Brackenridge	R	N
Elizabeth Brater	D	Y
Lingg Brewer	D	Y
Bob Brown	D	N
William Byl	R	Y
William J. Callahan	D	N
Nancy Cassis	R	N
Deborah Cherry	D	N
Nick Ciaramitaro	D	Y
Penny Crissman	R	Y
Alan Cropsey	R	N
Candace Curtis	D	N
Jessie Dalman	R	N
Eileen DeHart	D	N
Larry L. DeVuyst	R	N
Barbara J. Dobb	R	N
Agnes Dobronski	D	Y
Robert L. Emerson	D	Y
Frank M. Fitzgerald	R	N
A.T. Frank	D	Y
John F. Freeman	D	Y

Name	Party	Legislator's Vote
Pat Gagliardi	D	N
David Galloway	R	Y
Terry Geiger	R	N
John Gemaat	R	N
Donald H. Gilmer	R	Did Not Vote
Sharon Gire	D	Y
Patricia Godchaux	R	Y
Michael J. Goschka	R	N
Mike Green	R	N
Michael J. Griffin	D	N
David M. Gubow	D	Y
Dan Gustafson	R	N
Derrick F. Hale	D	Y
Beverly Hammerstrom	R	Did Not Vote
Michael Hanley	D	Y
Clark Harder	D	Y
Curtis Hertel	D	Y
Morris W. Hood Jr.	D	Y
Jack Horton	R	N
Mark C. Jansen	R	N
David Jaye	R	N
Ron Jelinek	R	Did Not Vote
Jon Jellema	R	N
Shirley Johnson	R	N
Greg Kaza	R	N
Thomas Kelly	D	Y
Kwame M. Kilpatrick	D	N
Alvin H. Kukuk	R	N
Edward LaForge	D	Y
Gerald H. Law	R	N
Burton Leland	D	Y
Clyde LeTarte	R	N
John Llewellyn	R	Did Not Vote
Terry London	R	Did Not Vote
Allen Lowe	R	N
George W. Mans	D	N
Lynne Martinez	D	Y
Thomas Mathieu	D	N
Jim McBryde	R	N

Name	Party	Legislator's Vote
Michelle McManus	R	N
James McNutt	R	N
James Mick Middaugh	R	N
Thomas Middleton	R	N
Raymond M. Murphy	D	N
Michael E. Nye	R	N
Dennis Olshove	D	N
Lynn Owen	D	Did Not Vote
Glenn Oxender	R	N
Joseph Palamara	D	N
Mary Lou Parks	D	Y
Charles Perricone	R	N
Hubert Price Jr.	D	N
Kirk Profit	D	Y
Michael Prusi	D	N
Nancy L. Quarles	D	Y
Andrew Raczkowski	R	N
Kim Rhead	R	N
Andrew C. Richner	R	N
Vera B. Rison	D	N
Sue Rocca	R	N
Mark Schauer	D	N
Gloria Schermesser	D	N
Mary Schroer	D	Did Not Vote
Martha G. Scott	D	Y
Judith L. Scranton	R	Y
Ken Sikkeema	R	N
Keith B. Stallworth	D	Y
Paul Tesanovich	D	N
Samuel Buzz Thomas III	D	N
Ilona Varga	D	N
Ed Vaughn	D	Y
Harold Voorhees Sr.	R	N
Timothy L. Walberg	R	N
Ted Wallace	D	Y
Howard Wetters	D	Y
Deborah Whyman	R	N
Karen Willard	D	Y
Paul Wojno	D	N

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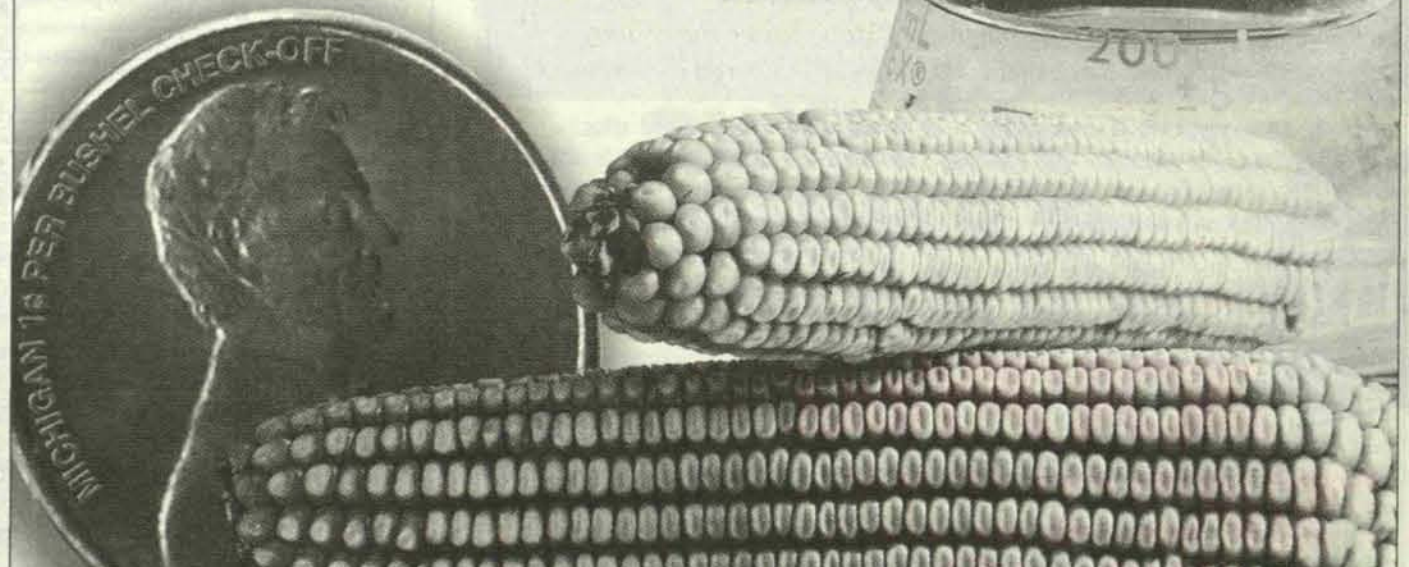
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STATE

### Truck Registration Fees

As part of the Governor's transportation reform package, S.B. 581 was introduced to raise truck registration fees. S.B. 581, as introduced and as it passed the Senate Transportation Committee, would have raised \$38 million per year in additional funding for state roads and bridges. It would have raised the additional funding by increasing registration fees for all truck plates by 35 percent. On the Senate floor, however, a substitute was adopted to increase fees on a gradual basis. Fees for trucks with a gross vehicle weight up to 80,000 lbs. would be increased 30 percent, trucks between 80,001 and 130,000 lbs. would be increased 40 percent, and trucks above 130,000 lbs. would be in-

creased 50 percent. An amendment was added to exempt the farm plates from any increases. Farm Bureau supported an amendment sponsored by Sen. McManus (R-Traverse City) to change the graduated fee system to a straight 30 percent for all vehicle weights (the farm plate would remain exempt from increases). 20 votes were needed on the Senate floor to have the amendment adopted. It was adopted by a vote of 20 to 17. Farm Bureau supported a "YES" vote on the amendment. A "NO" vote would have made heavier trucks pay much more than lighter trucks. Studies have shown that heavier trucks do no more damage to the roads than lighter trucks.

The following senators supported Farm Bureau's position and voted "YES":

Berryman	Dunakiss	McManus	Shugars
Byrum	Emmons	North	A. Smith
Cisky	Gast	Rogers	Steil
DeGrow	Gougeon	Schuette	Van Regenmorter
Dingell	Koivisto	Schwarz	Young

The following senators did not support Farm Bureau's position and voted "NO":

Bennett	Conroy	Miller	V. Smith
Bouchard	Geake	O'Brien	Stallings
Bullard	Hart	Peters	Stille
Cherry	Hoffman	Posthumus	Vaughn.

Senator Carl was absent for the vote.

MFB Contact: Tim Goodrich, ext. 2048

### MSU dairy scholarships awarded

More than \$34,000 in scholarships has been divided among 16 Michigan State University students who intend to pursue careers in dairy production or in the dairy food industry.

The scholarships, based on academic merit and professional goals, were awarded for the 1997-98 academic year at MSU.

The funds are provided each year by the Michigan Dairy Memorial Scholarship Foundation Inc.

Scholarships of \$1,000 each have been awarded to incoming freshmen Sarah Zagata, of Sebewaing; Jeremy Arend, Baroda; Nathanael Desjarlais,

Dagget; and John Whitmore, Ithaca. Scholarships of \$2,500 each have been awarded to Troy Bowman, of Alto; Luke Haywood, Hastings; Suzanne Sickels, Bronson; Andy Zagata, Sebewaing; Dana Kirk, St. Johns; Kerry Akerman, North Adams; Amy Steffey, Stockbridge; Kyle Weidmayer, Ann Arbor; Tricia Marshall, Stockbridge; William Sickener, Otter Lake; Micheal Dietz, Webberville; and Jamie Juros, Hamilton. Rebecca Mitchell, of Hersey, was awarded the Glenn Lake Scholarship, which covers all tuition and fees for the coming academic year.

### MSU's Dairy Expo is intended for the entire dairy family

What is beginning to look like the state's biggest dairy event, the Michigan Dairy Expo, July 22-26, will feature a nearly equal mixture of shows, workshops and seminars for youth and adult dairy producers.

About 500 of the state's top dairy animals are expected to be shown at the event, which will feature 4-H and FFA youth events, adult state breed shows and more than 50 commercial exhibitors from 10 states.

Richard Pursley, Michigan State University specialist in dairy youth events, says the event has been in the discussion and planning stage for several years.

"Our ideas and hopes really didn't begin to materialize until the Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education was built - that proved to be the catalyst for what had been talked about for some time," Pursley says.

The adult portion of the event will include, beginning on July 25 (Friday) of Expo, the state shows for holstein, Brown Swiss, Ayrshire, red and white holstein, jersey and guernsey breeds.

Included in the dairy management seminars for producers will be discussion on July 24 (Thurs-

day) on increasing dairy herd reproductive efficiency and, on Friday, discussion with some of the state's top producers on how they are positioning their farms for business in the next decade. On Saturday, discussion will focus on how the new dairy policy will affect milk marketing in the future.

"We have some of the top speakers in their respective fields for the seminars, and I'm sure that producers will benefit from the information that will be provided," Pursley says.

The youth events will include the All-Michigan Dairy Youth Show and the Showmanship Contest, the State 4-H and FFA Dairy Cattle Judging Contests, and a Dairy Quiz Bowl. Youth workshops will focus on herd health, fitting and showing dairy cattle, and dairy cattle judging.

The top picks of the breed shows will be exhibited on Friday and Saturday, and the "Supreme Champion" will be selected from the breed show winners as the Dairy Expo concludes.

More information about the Expo can be obtained from Pursley by writing to him at the Department of Animal Science, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824-1225, or calling 517-355-8319.

### MMPA hosts 60th 4-H/MMPA Milk Marketing Tour

Over 50 members and adult leaders of 4-H clubs and FFA chapters from several Michigan counties gathered at Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA) headquarters in Novi on June 12-13 for the 60th Annual 4-H/MMPA Milk Marketing Tour.

This two-day conference, co-sponsored by MMPA and Michigan State University Extension, is the longest running 4-H activity in Michigan. More than 4,000 students have participated in the tour over the past 60 years.

Retired MMPA general manager Jack Barnes met with the students for a special anniversary presentation. Barnes participated in one of the first 4-H/Milk Marketing Tours and was later a long-time MMPA employee, serving as the general manager for 26 years.

This year's tour focused on milk marketing principles and the business of dairy cooperatives. Several MMPA managers and President Elwood

Kirkpatrick shared information about milk marketing, dairy policies and quality milk testing. Dr. Joe Domecq, coordinator for the Michigan State University's Ag Tech Dairy Management Program, shared career ideas and educational options with the students.

While at the tour, the students visited Michigan Dairy in Livonia where they watched the processing of various dairy products. This provided an opportunity for students to learn first-hand what happens to milk after it leaves the farm.

For many of the students, this was their first formal exposure to cooperatives and their vital role in milk marketing. Co-chairing the event were Andy Atherton, from Gaines, and Matt Dillon, from Jerome, participants from last year's tour.

MMPA, established in 1916, is a milk marketing cooperative owned and controlled by 3,400 dairy farmer members.

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## EEE Active Surveillance Program begins new season efforts aimed at reducing infection

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), local health departments, and Michigan State University (MSU) will be continuing their efforts to detect Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE) in Michigan this year. The disease, commonly known as "sleeping sickness," has occurred in southern lower Michigan counties in recent years.

The EEE Active Surveillance Program includes participation by local veterinarians to identify suspected cases of EEE in horses, confirmation of suspected EEE cases in horses by MSU, trapping of mosquitoes by local health departments, testing these mosquitoes for the virus by MSU, and identifying sentinel wild bird flocks by several county mosquito abatement agencies. Additionally, the MDCH laboratory will test blood from suspect human cases.

"The goal of the cooperative program is to protect the health of Michigan's equine population and to prevent human exposure to the illness by pinpointing areas in Michigan where the risk of becoming infected is the highest," said MDA Director Dan Wyant.

"EEE is caused by a virus that is transmitted by mosquitoes to people, horses, birds and various other mammals. During 1996, there were no reported cases of EEE in horses or people; however, 20 horses died of the disease in 1995 in southwest Michigan," said Dr. Steven Halstead, equine programs coordinator, MDA.

Dr. Edward D. Walker, associate professor of entomology at MSU, anticipates a large population of mosquitoes for this coming season, thus surveillance needs to be continued to prevent illness in people and horses. Although human infection with the virus is rare, six Michigan residents and a small child from Indiana, who spent time in southern Michigan, have contracted EEE since 1980. Two of these cases occurred as recently as 1995.

Detecting an outbreak of EEE is extremely

important because the disease is fatal in 90 to 95 percent of horses and 60 percent of humans that become infected. Birds recover quickly from the disease and serve as a reservoir for the virus. Horses and humans do not contract the disease from each other, and can only become infected after being bitten by mosquitoes that feed on infected birds. Horses that develop symptoms of EEE may be the first indicators that the virus is in a particular area, so the reporting of all suspect cases is critical. Humans can essentially eliminate their risk of becoming infected by taking reasonable precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes.

In horses, signs of the disease include fever, progressive muscle incoordination and paralysis. Human symptoms include a high fever progressing rapidly to coma.

People should try to avoid areas where mosquitoes are prevalent, particularly during evening hours when they are most active, use insect repellent when out-of-doors, and repair defective window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out. A vaccine is available to prevent the disease in horses, but it is not readily available for human use and is not considered to be practical because of the extremely low incidence of human infection.

MDA recommends that horse owners contact their veterinarian to discuss vaccination against EEE. Veterinarians should report all suspect cases of EEE to MDA's Animal Industry Division at 517-373-1077. Suspected human cases should be immediately reported to local health departments, who will contact the MDCH.

The EEE Active Surveillance Program has enlisted the support of at least 60 equine veterinary practices, 13 local health departments throughout lower Michigan, four county mosquito abatement agencies, three county volunteer researchers, and two major universities. The program will continue throughout the summer and into early fall.

## Market Outlook

Continued from previous page

begins to decline and/or milk consumption begins to improve, surplus production from California will continue to move toward CCC warehouses.

The fundamental supply and demand situation in the dairy industry is not significantly out of balance. Just as last summer's small shortage caused a rapid increase in dairy product prices, this spring's small surplus is causing a rapid drop in dairy product prices. It is still likely that dairy product markets will tighten later this fall resulting in the ability of the BFP to move up significantly. In the meantime, dairy product prices and, therefore, farm level pay prices, are stuck at the current very low levels. Any significant improvement in dairy farm income will likely await September milk checks.

### EGGS

Henry Larzelere

Egg prices at the end of June were about 8 cents a dozen less than last year. For the entire

month of June, the prices averaged between 10 and 15 cents a dozen less than in June 1996. Feed ingredient prices in June were about 9 cents per dozen eggs below the previous year.

It is expected that New York wholesale prices for Grade A large white eggs in cartons will average in the upper 70s for the July, August and September quarter. September prices will likely be the highest for the three months.

Hens and pullets on farms June 1 were 2 percent above a year earlier. Table egg production in May was also about 2 percent above May 1996.

The egg-type chick hatch in May was 1 or 2 percent above the year before. The layer-type eggs in incubators on June 1 was 5 percent above the year before.

The slaughter of spent hens in the last several months has been above earlier months. This has kept hen numbers and table egg production from increasing excessively and resulting in minimum downward pressure on egg prices.

## ICMPA sells Kalamazoo plant

Continued from page 1

ICMPA were faced with the same industry challenges — a smaller dairy producer base, declining milk supplies, harsh and unpredictable price swings, larger customers, and fierce competition for market share. It made economic and marketing sense to work together to reduce costs and to maximize efficiencies for our dairy farmer members."

"The sale does have some positive effect for all of Michigan," Hamm adds. "The milk supply currently which is going to Class III products will now go to another federal order. Therefore, the Class I utilization in the Michigan order will go up somewhat and therefore, the blend price for all of Michigan will increase."

### Details of the agreement

According to the long-term agreements, ICMPA will close its Kalamazoo, Mich. butter and condensed milk operation, which is used primarily as a balancing facility to process surplus milk. MMI will purchase the plant's assets, and move the ICMPA milk supply to MMI's Dairy Farm Products plant in Goshen, Ind. The Goshen facility will perform the all-important balancing function for both organi-

zations. The transfer of Kalamazoo assets is effective August 1, 1997.

"As far as production, we hope the last day is July 15," Courtade adds. "We will continue to operate as a pump over as we continue to change over and work with our haulers to get more milk to go direct down there."

Courtade says there will be some job loss associated with the closing of the Kalamazoo operations. "This kind of issue is always tough because the change impacts good people. Our Kalamazoo employees have been informed that the transfer of property title and plant assets from ICMPA to MMI will occur this summer. We will do everything possible to make that transition smooth," says Courtade. The Kalamazoo operation employs 35 persons.

"This is an exciting cooperative arrangement. If cooperatives are to maximize returns to their dairy farmer-owners, they must pursue relationships like this to increase efficiencies for members in the movement and marketing of their milk," says Schriver. "It's just that simple. MMI and ICMPA share a common vision of working together to maximize returns to their farm families."

## Most-favored-nation status for China

After weeks of heated debate, the House extended most-favored-nation trade status to China for another year. Opponents of the accord said the status should be revoked because of China's human rights record. The pact passed 259-179.

"The American Farm Bureau Federation is very pleased by the pro-trade vote in the House of Representatives," said AFBF President Dean Kleckner. "By overwhelmingly supporting the continuation of most-favored-nation trade status for China,

the House of Representatives has sent a message of continued aggressiveness in protecting and expanding world markets for American agriculture.

"Farmers and ranchers across our country produced more than \$2.6 billion worth of food products that were sold to China in 1996, making them our sixth largest agricultural trading partner. With the addition of more than \$1 billion in food sales to Hong Kong, the potential of this growing market is crucial to U.S. farmers."

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### Enter your idea in Farm Bureau's Idea Exchange

The American Farm Bureau Farmer Idea Exchange is a long-running program to surface ideas developed by farmers and showcase them throughout the country.

"Farmers are the world's best innovators," explains Organizational Development Coordinator Rob Anderson. "The Idea Exchange is meant to recognize the creativeness farmers have put to good use in their farming operations."

There are 14 specific categories in which entries may be submitted, including: soil quality, livestock, crops, management systems, input efficiency, equipment, energy, marketing, safety and handicap helpers, farm shop ideas, water management, wildlife, farm buildings and rotational grazing.

If you have an innovative idea in any of these categories, contact your county secretary for an entry blank or Anderson at (800) 292-2680, ext. 3232. When you have completed the appropriate entry form, send it to Michigan Farm Bureau by **September 15** to complete the application process. ■



Gratiot County Farm Bureau member Denis Netzley earned a trip to the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn. because of his award-winning Idea Exchange called the "Remote Sprayer Switch."

## Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau president hosts open house



Rob Richardson and his family opened up their farm south of Vicksburg to visitors June 30. They conducted tours of their new swine nursery facility and hosted a pig roast.

Rob Richardson began planning for the addition in November. Strict township zoning regulations proved to be a hindrance, but a special-exception use permit was finally granted. Finding the location was the most difficult part of the process, according to Richardson. The facility is tucked into the woods with appropriate setbacks from residential areas. Building began in late February and pigs entered the facility for the first time July 2.

Early-weaned pigs enter the Richardson facility at 14-15 days old, then are fed for seven weeks until they weigh 55 pounds. Liquid manure is stored below the ground concrete tank. ■

## EU approves labeling for gene-altered products

The European Union in late June gave its blessing to a proposal that would require companies marketing gene-modified products to label the product. The proposal also requires companies to, in the absence of a label, provide an accompanying document with the product.

U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, addressing the Senate Agriculture Committee, said the EU's plan to label or segregate genetically altered products may violate world trade rules and could trigger a formal U.S. complaint.

"This can't be tolerated, especially when segregation is done, based on purely political goals, and not based on science at all," said Barshefsky. She added that American farmers stand to lose up to \$5 billion in European exports if sales of genetically altered products lag because of the EU rules.

The EU claims the labeling simply provides Europeans "valuable information." It says the labels are not intended to scare the public away from genetically altered products. ■

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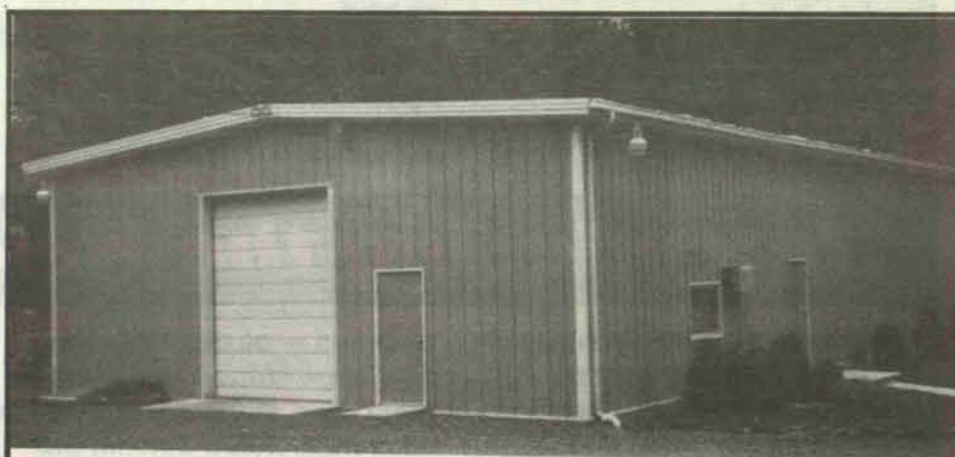
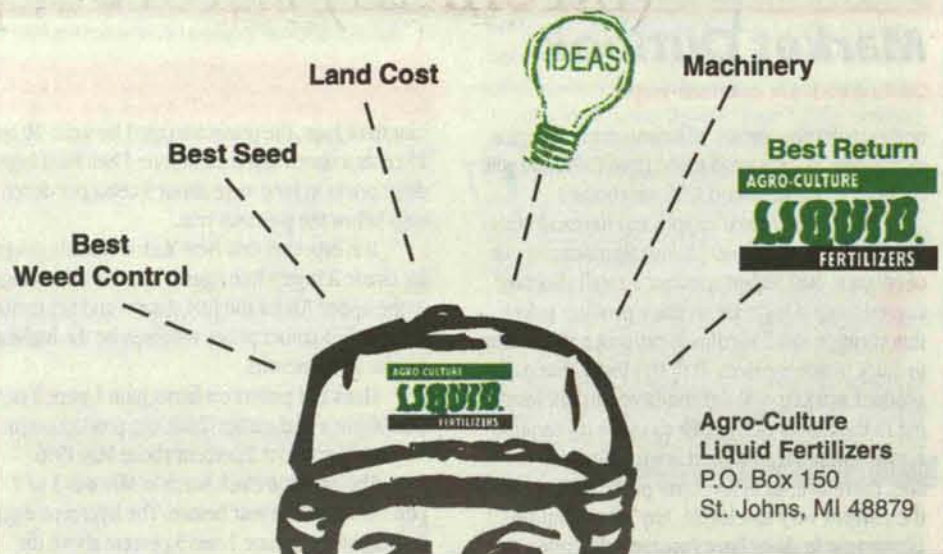
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# HEALTH HARVEST

## Do you know what your kids are eating?



**T**oday, children are eating out more often and at a greater variety of places than ever before. As a result, parents and caregivers may have less control over the quality of foods their children eat. An important question is whether eating away from home improves or worsens kids' nutrient intake. The answer to this and other questions related to what, where and how much kids eat can be found in a new government report. This report is based on data compiled from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 1989-91 *Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals* and the companion *Diet and Health Knowledge Survey*. Major findings for children aged 2 to 17 years follow:

Children consume on average 4% more total fat, 3% more saturated fat and 23% more sodium than the recommended intake, whereas calorie and fiber intakes are below the recommended levels.

Only 16 percent of teenage girls meet the recommended intake for calcium, compared to 43 percent of children two through 17 years.

Teenage girls' low calcium intake may be related to their eating habits. Compared to other children, teenage girls are more likely to skip morning meals, which are high in calcium; eat the fewest number of meals and snacks; consume the highest proportion of meals and snacks away from home, which tend to be low in calcium; and drink the least amount of fluid milk, a major source of calcium.

Fiber and iron are two other nutrients limited in teenage girls' diets.

Children consume about one-quarter of their meals away from home. Older children are more likely than younger children to eat away from home. Female teens eat about 30 percent of their meals away from home compared to 18 percent for preschoolers. For preschoolers, 42 percent of away-from-home meals come from fast-food establish-

ments, whereas for school-aged children, schools provide the largest percentage of away-from-home meals (36 to 43 percent).

Foods that kids eat away from home tend to be higher in total and saturated fat and lower in calcium, iron, fiber, cholesterol and sodium than foods consumed at home. School meals are higher in calcium and fiber and lower in sodium than meals at fast-food establishments, restaurants and other away-from-home sites (e.g., vending machines and recreation places).

Snacks provide about 15 percent of total calories for children. Older children eat a higher proportion of snacks from away-from-home sources than younger children.

More than half of all children eat three meals a day. Skipping morning or midday meals increases with age. Teenage girls consume the fewest number of meals.

### **Contrary to beliefs, children "know" how much they need to eat**

Fear that their children may become overweight, along with the belief that children are incapable of regulating their own food intake, leads many conscientious parents to strictly control their children's food intake. Yet research demonstrates that controlling children's food intake may actually contribute to childhood obesity.

To determine if children can self-regulate their calorie intake, researchers fed preschoolers aged 3 to 5 years a high- or low-calorie fruit-flavored drink and then allowed the children to eat as much as they liked for lunch. Calorie intake during lunch was measured and information was obtained on the children's body fat stores and on parents' body fat, dieting and child-feeding practices.

The preschoolers with more controlling parents were less able to adjust their food intake in response to the caloric content of the drinks and

had higher body fat stores than the preschoolers of parents who were more flexible in their child-feeding practices. Coercive child-feeding practices, such as insisting that children eat only at meals rather than when hungry or finish all the food on their plate, interferes with children's ability to self-regulate their calorie intake. Also, restricting children's access to palatable foods or forcing children to eat "nutritious" foods to obtain rewards may foster children's preferences for energy-dense foods high in sugar, fat and salt. Both these food acceptance patterns are associated with childhood obesity.

Genetic and environmental factors influence children's eating behavior. Among environmental influences, parents' own eating and dieting history and their attitudes and behaviors relating to child feeding can impact children's food intake and risk of obesity. While genetic predisposition cannot be changed, parents and caregivers can play an important role in creating an environment in which children develop food acceptance patterns conducive to health. Parents should provide children with a wide variety of nutritious foods, but children should be allowed to control the amount of food they eat.

### **Childhood obesity: Reversing the trend**

American children are getting heavier. The prevalence of obesity among children and teenagers increased from 5% in the 1960s to 11% in 1988-91. The first step in reversing this unhealthy trend is to recognize the contributing factors.

Obesity is caused by energy imbalance or consuming more calories in food than expended in exercise. Both genetic and environmental factors (e.g., diet, physical activity) contribute to this energy imbalance. Because children's calorie intake appears to meet or be slightly below recommended levels, factors in addition to calorie intake explain the rise in obesity. Children's low

level of physical activity contributes to their obesity. In particular, time spent watching television and using the computer takes time away from being physically active. Researchers in Boston found that children 10 to 15 years of age who watched more than five hours of television a day were five times more likely to be overweight than children who spent less than two hours a day watching television.

To reverse the rise in childhood obesity:

- Provide children with a wide variety of foods from each of the five food groups and include foods in the "others" group (such as cookies and chips) in moderation.
- Encourage children to be physically active. National physical fitness and sports organizations recommend that children exercise vigorously for 20 minutes or more at least three times a week. Vigorous activities include brisk walking, running and competitive sports like swimming.
- Promote positive attitudes about food and physical activity by being a role model.
- Help children feel good about themselves regardless of their weight.
- Capitalize on children's zest for play, fun and joy to help them adopt a healthful lifestyle.

The primary goal of childhood nutrition is to provide adequate energy and other essential nutrients to promote optimal growth and development. Diets for overweight children should, therefore, provide enough calories for growth without promoting weight gain. Regular monitoring of children's growth by a health professional determines whether or not calorie intake is adequate to maintain weight or reduce the rate of weight gain. Adopting a healthy lifestyle early in life — a nutritionally balanced diet and increased physical activity — may go a long way toward reducing obesity in adulthood. ■

Source: Nutrition Reports

# Report card for America's eating habits

The USDA's Agricultural Research Service is completing its 10th nationwide look at America's eating habits as part of its *Continuing Survey of Food Intake by Individuals*. The "grades" for how people ate in 1994 are already in, and let's just say that if the folks at USDA were our parents, many among us would be grounded.

Yes, based on responses from almost 5,000 people across the country, the average American is now eating the minimum recommended three servings of vegetables a day (the advice is to have three to five servings). But more than half of the country isn't eating even that much. And 40 percent of the vegetables that are eaten come in the form of selections like french fries and mashed potatoes. On any given day, while one in four people eats fries, only one in 10 eats a dark green or deep yellow vegetable — the type with antioxidants and other substances now associated with better health and longevity.

As for fruit, the average number of servings eaten a day is one and two-thirds, while what's called for is two to four servings. Three out of four Americans fall short of the two-servings-a-day minimum recommendation.

People also aren't doing well in dairy, grains and other "required" categories. They are overdoing it only in the popular "elective," added sugars and fats.

Now, unless you're ahead of the "class," turn off that TV and ... make a salad (or buy one ready-made).

## Vegetables

We're at the low end of the recommended three to five servings daily, with almost half coming from potatoes. We average only half of a serving of dark green and deep yellow vegetables a day — about two bites worth.

## Fruits

Only 24 percent of us are eating the minimum recommended two servings a day. And that's only when you include apples from apple pie, etc.

## Grains

About 85 percent of our grain-based foods are refined rather than whole-grain, which contributes to a huge fiber shortfall.

## Dairy

Two to three servings a day are called for. We're averaging one and a half servings daily. Women over 20 are averaging only one serving a day.

## Meat, poultry, fish

Men don't exceed the five to seven ounces recommended each day. Women eat four ounces daily.

## Added sugars and fats

No more than 27 percent of calories are supposed to come from these sources, but we're up to 40 percent.

## Exercise

One-third of men and almost half of women "rarely" or "never" work up a sweat.



## Check your serving-size IQ

To coax us into eating right, the government's official Food Guide Pyramid suggests that we plan our diets by the numbers. So here's your daily meal plan: two to three servings of cheese, milk or yogurt; two to three of meat; three to five of vegetables; two to four of fruit; and six to 11 of bread, cereal, rice or pasta.

It's definitely a well-rounded diet. But does anyone have a clue about just how much food equals one of those perfect portions? Do you know how your own meals are stacking up? Take the quiz below to check your serving-size IQ.

- How many cherries add up to a fruit serving?
  - 15
  - 20
  - 35
- A serving of pasta would fill:
  - an ice cream scoop
  - a cereal bowl
- A sirloin steak the size of a paperback book is how many servings?
  - two
  - three
  - four
- When you spread peanut butter thickly on a slice of bread, as in the TV commercials, how many servings is that?
  - one-third
  - two-thirds
  - one
- Women are advised to have no more than two servings of alcohol a day. How many come in a bottle of wine?
  - six
  - eight
  - ten
- An ounce-and-a-half of cheddar cheese — one serving — is the size of:
  - one domino
  - two dominoes
  - three dominoes
- Enough broccoli to hit your daily vegetable ideal would fill how many cups?
  - one
  - one-and-a-half
  - two

### Answers:

- (a) A heaping handful — 15 cherries — amounts to a serving that totals just 75 fat-free calories. Have another handful, then add a banana and a small glass of orange juice and you're up to four.
- (a) When a half-cup scoop's a serving, it's not hard to pile up enough pasta to hit the daily

minimum of six starchy foods. That's just one large plate of spaghetti.

3. (b) The sanctioned serving size for beef, pork, chicken and fish is three ounces, the size of a deck of cards. Because meat's a big source of saturated fat, however, a daily total of three servings is actually high. Don't forget that the official "meat group" includes beans.

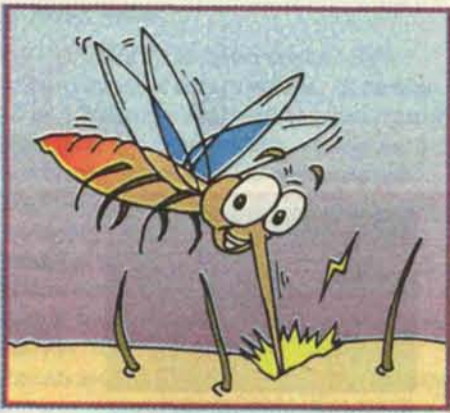
4. (a) A thick smear of peanut butter is about two tablespoons — which the government calls a third of a serving. Why? Nuts, too, got lumped in the meat group (they're high in protein and fat), and experts say your peanut butter smear counts as an ounce of meat. (Just don't eat too much.)

5. (a) A third of a bottle equals two servings of wine. A standard "glass" is four ounces, although some restaurant goblets hold as much as ten. That's two servings ... and then some.

6. (c) Three dominoes' worth of cheese isn't a lot. A typical chef's salad has six, two of your day's three dairy servings. Add a cup of yogurt and a cup of milk — one serving each — and you could be over the top.

7. (b) To reach the daily minimum of three servings, you'd need to eat just a cup-and-a-half. Even with healthful vegetables, the government makes its portions small.

## take a bite out of summer plans



The summer season brings picnics, boating and hiking, but along with these fun activities goes the danger of insect bites. Although most bites and stings are harmless, they can produce pain or discomfort. Here are some ways to treat the results of an insect bite:

### The mosquito bite

Most people are well aware of what a mosquito bite looks like and feels like. It is made more painful, though, when the mosquito leaves in all or part of its stinger.

#### To treat a mosquito bite:

- Remove the stinger if possible.
- Clean the area of the sting to prevent infection.
- Apply calamine lotion or a cortisone cream to lessen the itching.

### The bee sting

Symptoms of a bee sting may include swelling around the eyes, lips, tongue or throat; breathing difficulties, coughing or wheezing; and widespread numbness or cramping. Hives may appear on the skin. Speech may be slurred, and anxiety, mental confusion, nausea or vomiting, or unconsciousness may occur.

#### To treat a bee sting:

- Remove the stinger as quickly as you can. The longer a bee's stinger is in your skin, the more you'll hurt.
- Wash the area with soap and water. Then apply an ice pack for 15 minutes or so to minimize swelling and relieve pain.
- See your doctor if you notice that you have developed symptoms away from the sting site. Hives, itching, swelling, vomiting, dizziness, and difficulty swallowing or breathing could be signs of a life-threatening allergy that requires immediate attention.

### The tick bite

A tick bite may manifest itself as a circular skin eruption that occurs after you have been in a place where ticks live (mainly wooded areas or tall grasses). This eruption may occur even though you did not see the tick. The principal risk is not from the tick bite itself but from a bacteria that is carried by the insect that can cause Lyme disease.

#### To treat a tick infestation:

- Remove the tick from your skin. If the tick has buried itself underneath your skin, try to remove it with tweezers.
- When removing the tick, make sure that you have removed all of the tick's body.
- Be careful not to squeeze the tick as you remove it, because this may release bacteria into your bloodstream.
- After you've removed the tick, alcohol should be applied on the spot.

# Healthy Bites

## Hope for snorers

A technique that shrinks excess soft tissue around the upper airway

(including the tongue, roof of the mouth and nose) may eventually offer a new way to treat sleep apnea, a disorder that causes people to stop breathing



while they sleep. In a study published in the May *Chest*, Stanford researchers describe how they shrunk pigs' tongues using a wandlike instrument that emits radio waves. The special needle electrode relays radio frequency energy to nearby cells, destroying them. Scar tissue created by the healed lesion takes up less space. Preliminary tests in people suggest the method can diminish heavy snoring — one of the classic signs of sleep apnea — by shrinking tissue on the roof of the mouth. The new method is quick, relatively painless, and doesn't require a hospital stay — unlike some treatments for sleep apnea, which include cutting or burning away extra tissue with a scalpel or laser. Further tests are under way to verify the procedure's safety and effectiveness.

## Ice cream headache



As ice cream lovers know, wolfing down a cone or guzzling an icy cold drink can bring on a sudden, stabbing pain in the head, usually around the middle of the fore-

head. These so-called ice cream headaches usually go away within 20 seconds, though they can last up to five minutes, according to a short report in the *British Medical Journal*. If you're prone to the problem, here's a tip: Keep cold foods and drinks from contacting the back of the roof of your mouth, since that's the most sensitive area when it comes to triggering these headaches, says the author.

## Is eating before you go to sleep a good and healthy way to gain weight?

It is a myth that eating before bed will make you gain weight. You have to look at your whole day's food intake.

When I work with people who want to gain



## Angioplasty, stenting are preferred methods to open clogged arteries

Although new devices to open blocked coronary arteries have grown in number, balloon angioplasty is still the overwhelming choice, according to a Mayo study in a recent issue of *Archives of Internal Medicine*. Angioplasties were used in more than 90 percent of all coronary interventions at Mayo in 1995. "Angioplasty is considered at least as effective as any new device, even when the patient's case is complex," says Mayo cardiologist Dr. David Holmes. "Newer devices may be more effective than conventional angioplasty only in very specialized cases."

Devices invented since 1988 include athrotomies ("roto-rooter" devices), lasers that "sweep out" the plaque in arteries, and various types of stents (devices inserted into arteries to support the vessel's structure). Stents were used in about 48 percent of all coronary interventions at Mayo in 1995, while other new devices were used in less than 10 percent of all procedures. (Note: Since more than one approach may be used in any procedure, the sum of all procedure types is greater than the total number of procedures.)

## Better bones, fewer fractures

The drug Fosamax (alendronate sodium) not only slows bone loss in people already diagnosed with osteoporosis, but also can be used preventively to keep bone loss and fractures from occurring in the first place, the FDA ruled in late April. An ongoing study of about 1,600 post-menopausal women showed that Fosamax stopped bone loss and built additional bone mass, while those taking a dummy drug lost bone over a two-year period. A second, larger study found that women who took Fosamax reduced their risk of hip and spinal fractures by about half. Estrogen also prevents and treats osteoporosis, but Fosamax is the only non-hormone treatment available.



## Adolescent arteries

Artery-clogging deposits that can eventually lead to heart attacks start accumulating as early as age 15 in youths who eat high-fat diets or smoke cigarettes. Autopsies of such teenagers (who had died from causes other than disease) showed fatty streaks and early plaques — the beginnings of atherosclerosis — on the linings of major blood vessels. That finding adds to growing evidence that diet and lifestyle in the teen years can strongly influence health in adulthood.

## How much?

In one year, the average American consumes:

32 quarts of orange juice,  
50 quarts of milk,  
4 pounds of butter,  
46 quarts of popcorn,  
23 quarts of ice cream and 16 pounds of chocolate.



## On the horizon

A nasal spray that wards off the common cold virus has shown promise in chimpanzees, raising hopes that the strategy might work in humans. The spray contains a substance called intercellular adhesion molecule-1, which fills in nasal cell receptors where rhinoviruses (including those that cause colds) normally bind, thereby preventing them from taking hold. But several other antiviral nasal sprays that met with initial success didn't pan out in human tests, and it's not clear how often one would need to sniff the treatment. The researchers, who reported their findings in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, say that if human tests prove successful, the spray might be used during peak cold season in those at risk for serious complications from colds, such as children with asthma.

# Office Calls

weight, I estimate the number of calories they need to maintain their weight, then add at least 1,000 calories to that.

The extra calories should be from a mix of foods, not just fatty ones. This high-calorie diet should be eaten every day for at least a month to see results.

It takes more work than you may think to eat this much extra food every day. Sometimes people need to eat six or more times a day to fit all of the food in, so that may mean eating a snack before bed. But it's not just the bedtime snack that makes the difference.

Another thing to consider when trying to gain weight is physical activity. Research has shown that people who do moderate weight training (and keep their calories high) are more successful with gaining weight in the long run. They also gain more muscle than fat.

How long can you freeze hot dogs? I have had 12 packages frozen for about a year. They looked fine and tasted fine.

According to the "Spotlight On Freezer Storage" bulletin from Michigan State University Extension, freezing hot dogs and other luncheon meats is not a recommended practice, because it affects the quality of the product.

The frozen hot dogs would be considered safe to eat, but they may not be as tasty as you'd like.

There are a couple of food quality changes to consider. First, freezing can "break the emulsion" of hot dogs and luncheon meats, causing them to "weep," or leak liquid.

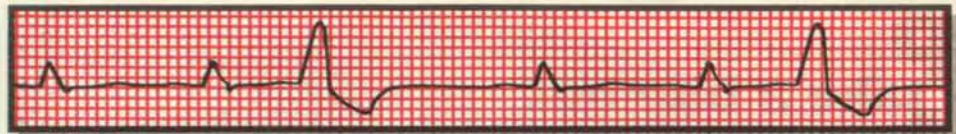
Second, cured meats (such as ham, bacon, lunch meats, hot dogs, etc.) are very salty, and this saltiness encourages the development of rancidity, or "off" flavors.

If people have these types of meats in their freezer already, it's best to use them within a month's time for the best quality.

You are lucky that your hot dogs survived a year in the freezer. ■

by Vicky Ferguson, RD

# Medical Focus



## Evaluating melanoma risk

**M**ost beachgoers know that packing a bottle of sunscreen and a broad-brimmed hat is at least as important as bringing the beach towels. But while awareness of the hazards of sunbathing is on the rise, the incidence of sun-related skin cancers is skyrocketing as well. By the year 2000, the lifetime risk of developing malignant melanoma, the most dangerous form of skin cancer, will be one in 75, the American Academy of Dermatology estimates. That's double the risk of just a dozen years ago, when melanoma affected one out of every 150 Americans over a lifetime.

For people who tend to develop a lot of moles, the odds may be even greater. A study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* of more than 700 men and women diagnosed with melanoma and 1,000 healthy volunteers found that having just one atypical, or dysplastic, mole doubles the risk of melanoma, and 10 or more increase 12-fold the chances of developing the disease. Moles the researchers considered troublesome were flat or partially flat, larger than 5 millimeters (about the size of a pencil eraser), and varied in color, with irregular borders or mismatched halves.

Surprisingly, small moles also appear to raise melanoma risk if you have a multitude of them: People with 50 or more small, normal moles were about twice as likely to develop melanoma as people with 24 or fewer. The study involved researchers from the National Cancer Institute, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of California at San Francisco.

Of all the types of skin cancer, melanoma is the most deadly. About 7,000 people die of the disease every year in the United States — approximately six times as many as die of either of the other two main varieties, basal cell and squa-

mous cell cancer. But when caught early, melanoma is highly treatable, making it all the more important to learn how to recognize it and get help before it spreads.

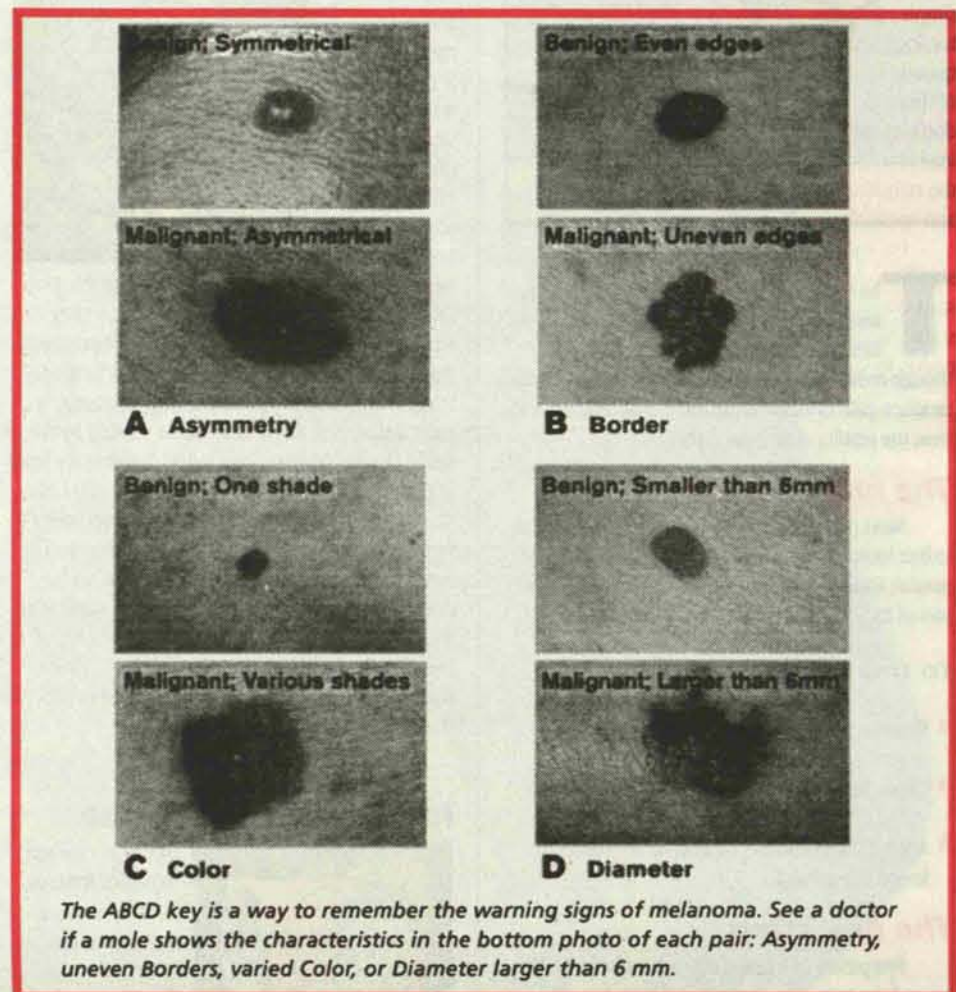
If you have lots of moles, what does this study mean for you? What steps should you take to reduce your risk of melanoma? We asked dermatologist and surgeon Gary S. Rogers, MD, of Boston University to give us some insights.

### The physician's perspective — Gary Rogers, MD

The idea that certain types of moles (nevi) might develop into melanoma has been around for some time, but dermatologists disagree about their significance. There is general agreement that large, atypical moles in people with a strong family history of melanoma can turn into cancer. This is known as the Familial Atypical Mole and Melanoma (FAMM) syndrome. However, the significance of dysplastic moles in people without a family history is hotly debated.

Some would argue that the term "dysplastic mole" — meaning a mole that exhibits abnormal growth — is a misnomer, since it is unclear whether these moles are truly premalignant. While it's true that melanoma does sometimes develop from such unusual moles, it doesn't always; in many cases, it arises from a mole that appears normal or from an area of skin with no moles. And dysplastic moles occur so often in such a large number of people without a family history of melanoma — about 30 percent of the population has them — that it isn't clear that these atypical moles have any direct link with melanoma at all outside of FAMM.

This study still doesn't entirely resolve the debate about whether melanoma arises directly from dysplastic nevi. The researchers didn't look at whether patients with dysplastic moles devel-



oped melanoma directly from those moles. They studied patients already with melanoma who, it turns out, did have more dysplastic and normal moles than people without melanoma. This suggests a link between dysplastic moles, increased numbers of moles, and a higher risk of melanoma, but it doesn't show that dysplastic nevi turn into melanoma. What it does show clearly is that people with many moles — dysplastic or otherwise — are at a higher risk for melanoma. And large moles confer a greater risk than small ones.

That said, the quantity and size of moles shouldn't be the only factors you take into account in evaluating your risk of melanoma. The most important risk factor by far is family history. If someone in your immediate family (parent, sibling or child) has had melanoma, then the number of large moles you have takes on a whole new light. Some data suggest the risk may be up to 20 times as high if a family member has had the disease.

Other risk factors include having fair skin, blond or red hair, and blue eyes. People who sunburn easily and never or rarely tan are twice as likely to develop melanoma as people with olive complexions who seldom burn. Research also suggests that blistering and peeling sunburns, especially during childhood and adolescence, make people more susceptible to melanoma later in life.

**People who are at high risk for melanoma should have an annual skin examination by a primary care doctor or a dermatologist. Even if you're not at high risk, it makes sense to check your skin regularly for signs of melanoma.** That way, you can tell more easily if a mole has changed or grown — probably the most important warning signs of melanoma. Moles may become elevated, change color, or become asymmetrical (the two halves don't match). In addition, any skin growth that bleeds or crusts should be looked at by a doctor. Abnormal moles are also marked by four key characteristics:

- Asymmetry
- Border irregularity
- Color variation
- Diameter larger than 6 mm

People aren't perfectly symmetrical, so even normal moles aren't likely to be perfectly oval or smooth. Moles that are of concern may have borders

that are notched or irregular, or part of a mole may be elevated or a different color from the rest. Color variations range from black to red, blue or white.

If a mole exhibits any of these warning signs, see a doctor for an evaluation. In the early stages, when the skin lesion is 1 mm thick or less, melanoma has a 95 percent cure rate. By comparison, when lesions reach 4 mm thick, the five-year survival rate is just 35 percent. That's because as the melanoma lesion thickens, it penetrates into the deeper skin layers, where blood vessels and lymph can carry it to other parts of the body.

Because melanoma doesn't always arise from atypical moles, wholesale removal of dysplastic moles isn't recommended. Scarring and complications outweigh any benefit that might come from preventive removal. But any suspicious-looking mole should undergo biopsy to see if it is indeed cancerous. Biopsies are usually done in the doctor's office under local anesthetic and are relatively quick and painless. If a growth turns out to be melanoma and the disease is still in the early stages, the mole can be removed surgically, again usually as an in-office procedure under local anesthesia. Surgery for more serious cases of melanoma may be done in the hospital.

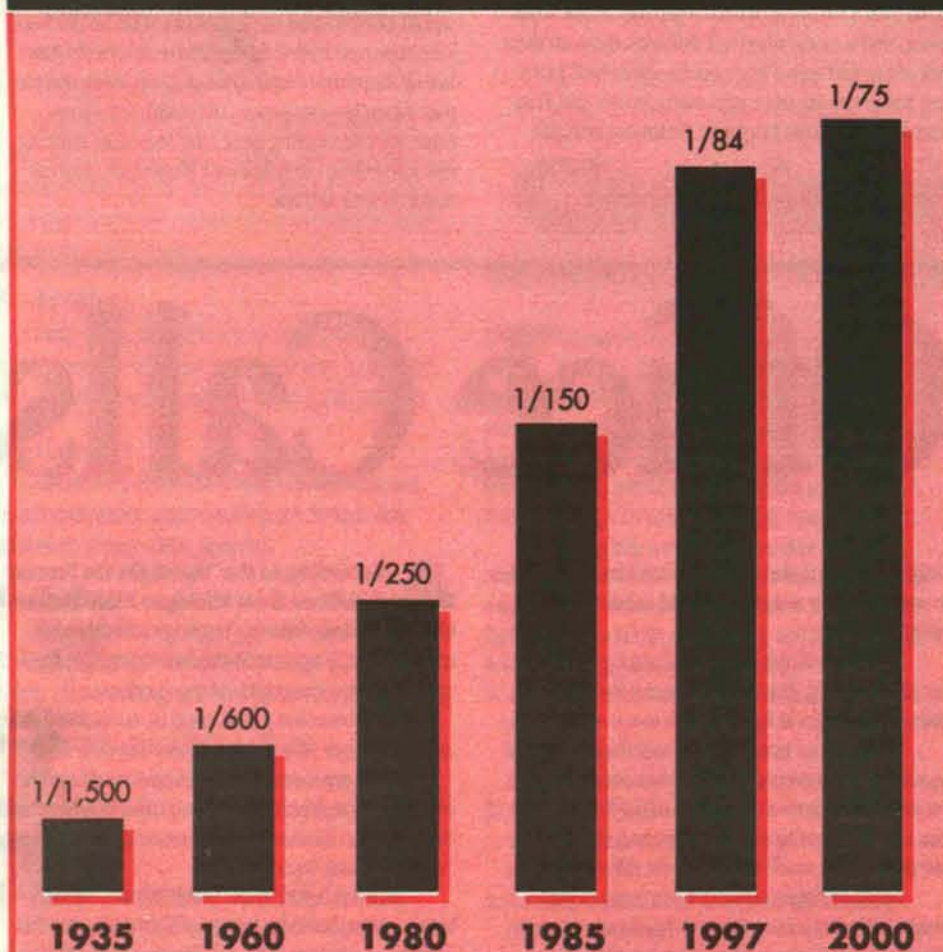
Studies suggest that it may take 20 to 30 years from the inciting sunburn to develop melanoma, so sun protection is especially important for children and teens. And, although past sun exposure is likely to be more important than current exposure, it still makes sense to use caution when spending time outdoors. This doesn't mean you have to live like a cave dweller. The goal is to enjoy the sun wisely:

- Avoid peak sunlight hours, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Use a sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher.
- Wear a hat with a broad brim that keeps the sun off your face and neck.

Gary S. Rogers, MD, is co-director of the Skin Oncology Program and director of dermatologic surgery at Boston University School of Medicine.

For more information on melanoma, contact the American Cancer Society, (800) ACS-2345 or the American Academy of Dermatology, P.O. Box 4014, Schaumburg, IL 60168-4014, [www.aad.org](http://www.aad.org)

## Melanoma on the Rise



Lifetime risk in the United States for malignant melanoma has risen dramatically this century. Reasons may include a jump in outdoor leisure time, a thinning ozone layer, and the increased popularity of tanning.

Source: Darrell S. Rigel, MD

# Precision Agriculture

by Neil R. Miller

**Y**ield is the ultimate integrator of the factors of crop production. In the final analysis, fertility, drainage, pests, varietal characteristics, cultural practices, weather, and a host of other factors can all be reduced to one simple measure: bushels in the bin. A yield monitor, logging yields every second or two, is consequently an invaluable tool to measure the impact of these factors and fine tune production. But don't let the elegant simplicity of a yield map mislead you. Sorting out the influences that create the reds and greens calls for shrewd interpretation and keen observations throughout the season.

For example, corn development varies significantly this year, with plants on lighter soils considerably ahead of those on heavy soils. As European corn borer moths seek out plants to lay eggs on, they will move to the tall-

# Crop scouting aids yield map analysis

er plants. If yield maps of these fields show lower yields on the lighter soils, you'll need to distinguish whether this is due to heavier insect feeding or the lower productive potential of the sand. By scouting your fields you may be able to sort these factors out. If you rely on the yield map alone, identifying the true cause will be impossible.

Farmers who have just begun to use a yield monitor are often surprised by how much their crop yields drop when they hit a weed patch. My first question is "Where did the escapes occur?" Herbicides are often least effective in high organic matter soils (which are often also poorly drained) and low pH soils (which are often sandy and drought prone). The weeds undoubtedly cause some of the observed yield reduction, but to judge whether other complicating factors are involved, the producer needs to combine har-

vest-time observations with thorough soil testing.

Similarly, herbicide carry-over and injury is often related to pH and soil texture. To distinguish its impact from the variation in inherent yield potential of your different soils, you will need both keen field observations and a thorough knowledge of how soil pH varies across your fields.

Side dressing and cultivation are good times to record observations on crop health, drainage problems, weed outbreaks, etc. Some yield monitors can be moved to the tractor during these operations thus giving you the ability to mark these observations with GPS. If you don't have this capability, hand drawn maps and good notes will still provide invaluable insights for yield map interpretation. If you simply don't have time, consider hiring a crop scout from your local consultant or elevator.

As I described in my March 15 column, the best way to measure the influence of a factor of production is to lay out a controlled field trial. Nevertheless, many factors are beyond our control. Come next winter you will do a lot less head scratching if you've done a thorough job of scouting and documenting field observations now. ■

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**su·per (soo'-per) adj. superior to; better than others**

**ex·tra strength (eks'-tra) adj. more than is normal or expected; (strenkth) n. force, power, potency**

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## MCA welcomes new executive vice president

**B**ridgette Voisinnet began working for the Michigan Cattlemen's Association (MCA) as executive vice president (EVP) on May 21. Voisinnet is replacing Cindy Reisig, who served for MCA in that position since 1990. Reisig announced her desire to resign the position earlier this year. "We are very pleased by the over 40 candidates who applied for the MCA EVP position. Undoubtedly, each could have added something to our organization," said Gary Voogt, MCA president. "We're pleased to have the opportunity to balance Reisig's cattle feeding background with Voisinnet's stocker cattle upbringing."

Voisinnet received her bachelor of science degree from Michigan State University in Animal Science in 1994. During her time as a Michigan State student, Voisinnet worked as a Research Assistant for Dr. Roy Black in the MSU Agricultural Economics Department. Besides becoming extremely computer literate, she assisted with compilation of the computer software manuals for both the Spartan Beef and Dairy Ration Balancer computer programs and developed the preliminary computerized spreadsheet analysis system for the Michigan Integrated Resource Management (M-IRM) program.

She completed a master of science degree from

Colorado State University in animal science with a concentration in Animal Behavior in December, 1996.

Upon returning to Michigan, she has served the state's agriculture industries in several short-term capacities including being the on-site registration coordinator for the 1997 Mega-Conference and Trade Show, administrative assistant for the Michigan Cattlemen's Association, and trade show assistant for the Great Lakes Basin Grazing Network. Voisinnet says she is excited to be serving Michigan beef producers and the Michigan beef industry in this position. She remarked that she looks forward to developing a productive relationship with the MCA board and strengthening MCA's communication channels. She envisions using Internet communications, regional producer gatherings and an expanded magazine focus to better serve current members and increase MCA's visibility to expand membership.

Voisinnet is the daughter of UP Dairy and Beef Extension Agent Ben Bartlett and his wife, Denise. The family farm in Traunik, in the central Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where she was raised, is a stocker cattle and commercial sheep operation, which provides her with an excellent background to work with the cattle producers in the state. She currently resides in St. Johns with husband Brent, who is also a 1994 graduate of Michigan State University.

"Bridgette is a finisher/doer, and not a stranger to hard work. She will work well with the MCA board of directors and its committees in meeting the needs of Michigan's beef cattle industry," Voogt commented.

With the transition of a new executive vice president, the MCA office also be changed locations on June 17. The new MCA office is located in the NorthStar Select Sires office building on Forest Road at the south end of MSU's campus.

Contact information for the new MCA office is P.O. Box 24041, Lansing, MI 48909-4041, phone (517) 336-6780, fax (517) 336-6799, e-mail mcabeef@voyager.net



## MDA celebrates grand opening of new weights and measures lab

**O**ne of the nation's finest weights and measures laboratories officially opened its doors Friday, June 20, 1997 in Williamston, Michigan. Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) Director Dan Wyant joined lab employees and representatives from the food and agricultural industry in celebrating the dedication of the E.C. Heffron Metrology Laboratory.

Also on hand were family members of the late Dr. Edward C. Heffron, former director of MDA's Food Division and primary advocate of the project. As Food Division Director, Dr. Heffron was responsible for programs including weights and measures, food safety, motor fuel quality and grain enforcement. According to Wyant, "Dr. Heffron helped establish a number of regulatory standards within MDA that became national models. The lab will stand as a lasting tribute to his accomplishments."

Designed by Bernath-Coakley Associates, Inc., the \$2.2 million state-of-the-art laboratory was built by

Clark Construction, and will provide 9,700 sq. ft. for ultra precision testing for Michigan's business, especially those manufacturers who export their products or sell products to the U.S. military. This is especially critical for Michigan exporters of high and medium technology products who need short turn-around time on ultra-precision, small mass calibration.

The new facility was needed in order for Michigan to maintain its current accreditation from the National Standards Board. Funding for the lab was facilitated by the Michigan Department of Management and Budget (DMB). "The purchase of this new metrology lab is a great example of how flexible construction and purchase arrangements benefit state government by allowing the state to move forward quickly on critical projects," said DMB Director Mark Murray. Prior to the purchase, the weights and measurements lab was located in the basement of the Lewis Cass Building in downtown Lansing.

## New air quality standards counter-productive

**A**s a July 19 deadline approaches, opposition to the Environmental Protection Agency's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone and particulate matter is also growing from both sides of the political aisles. Chief among those legislators opposing the standards is U.S. Rep. John Dingell (D-Dearborn), a ranking Democratic member of the House Commerce Committee.

Michigan Farm Bureau is also expressing its opposition to the standards, calling them unrealistic and counter-productive to the objective of actually improving air quality. Al Almy, director of the Michigan Farm Bureau's Public Affairs division says while the EPA's plan was well intentioned, the end result will be economically disastrous and will not improve air quality.

"In Michigan for example, on the west side of the state much of the ozone and even the particulate matter that EPA is objecting to is coming across the lake from Milwaukee and Chicago. Yet the west side of the state would have to impose strict standards upon itself to solve a problem they are not responsible for," Almy said. "In agriculture's case,

the particulate matter standards would have a detrimental impact and make it very difficult for agriculture to take steps to comply, because it is virtually impossible to farm without stirring up some dust."

Almy is critical of EPA's lack of scientific evidence to justify the stricter air standards, saying the agency relied on projections rather than gathering sound research data on emission factors for agricultural operations. "This research needs to be completed before proposals of this magnitude are finalized and forced on consumers," he said. "This is going to be a very costly item for the economy and the benefits derived from the proposed standard are virtually non-existent."

The standard for fine particles (2.5 microns or less in diameter) will be 15 micrograms per cubic meter on an annual average, with 65 for a daily average. In reducing the particulate matter (soot and dust) standard from 10 microns to 2.5 microns, which is less than one twenty-eighth (1/28th) the diameter of a human hair, Clinton attempted to soften the impact of the new standards by modifying the implementation schedule.

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# Cash in on long-distance savings with The Farm Bureau Connection

## New long-distance phone service from Farm Bureau

Are you sick of all the commercials and evening phone calls claiming this company offers better long-distance phone rates or that company giving you an incredible deal for your business? Well Farm Bureau members – listen up – the newest member-only service called The Farm Bureau Connection just made long distance coverage simple – 8.5 cents instate and 11.9 cents nationally – no calling circles and no marketing gimmicks.

The low rates are made possible by the group purchasing power of Farm Bureau's 4.5 million member families nationwide. Michigan Farm Bureau's member services department now offers you the same convenient one-plus service you have grown to expect. Once you sign up, you will continue to call just as you have always done, but instead of your current long distance carrier, The Farm Bureau Connection will act as your long distance carrier.

"The Farm Bureau Connection is truly a valuable new program for Michigan Farm Bureau members," explains Doug Fleming, MFB manager of member services. "It cuts through the red tape and offers a single flat rate of 8.5 cents a minute anywhere, anytime in Michigan and 11.9 cents anywhere, anytime in the rest of the United States, with a low monthly access fee of \$1.50."

## Supreme Court ruling supports commodity checkoff programs

The U.S. Supreme Court issued a 5-4 decision in *Glickman vs. Wileman*, in which California tree fruit growers challenged the constitutionality of assessments for generic advertising under a USDA marketing order.

According to Ken Nye, director of the Michigan Farm Bureau's Commodity and Environmental Division, the Supreme Court ruled that generic advertising resulting from checkoff programs does not violate the First Amendment right of free speech of producers. A Michigan cherry producer had made a similar court challenge in the past, over promotional programs funded through a similar state-level program for cherries.

"It's important that the Supreme Court has affirmed that self-help commodity check-off type programs are, in fact, valid under the constitution," Nye said. "The Supreme Court basically said that as long as growers affirm these kind of programs in a majority vote, which is accomplished with these kind of programs before they're started, then they're valid under the constitution. Growers have, for a number of years, combined their efforts to pay for research, promotion, advertising type programs for numerous commodities."

Nye said that although the ruling dealt specifically with promotion programs funded under federal order programs, the decision will have an impact on various state-level programs that were also being challenged based on the free speech argument. Michigan operates several state-level commodity checkoff programs for generic promotion and research, including cherries, corn and soybeans.

"The rationale of the court ruling was that generic advertising is intended to stimulate consumer demand for an agricultural product," Nye explained. "At least a majority of the producers in each of the markets in which such advertising was authorized must be persuaded that it is effective, or presumably the programs would have been discontinued. As long as a majority of producers affirms the program, then they're valid under the constitution."

The Supreme Court's decision reverses an earlier ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that had found the First Amendment protected against coerced subsidization of commercial speech. The Ninth Circuit decision was in direct conflict with that of a Third Circuit ruling involving the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985. The secretary of agriculture had petitioned the Supreme Court to resolve the conflict.

According to Fleming, the personal 800-number service with a flat rate of 14.7 cents per minute is an attractive option for small businesses. "While many long-distance services bill by full minute increments, The Farm Bureau Connection charges are based on six-second increments," he adds. "If you talk for one minute and six seconds, you pay for one minute and six seconds, not for two minutes, as you would with many companies. Your long-distance dollars go farther because you do not pay for unused time."

Fleming adds that the personal calling cards are another attractive option for members looking to avoid costly surcharges when using other long-distance cards. "The calling cards are issued to all new subscribers and cost only 22.5 cents per minute."

"We've done studies throughout the state

and we've saved members between \$5 and \$40 a month on their bill," Fleming states. "Whether your monthly bill is \$12 or \$70, you can save the value of your membership and more with The Farm Bureau Connection."

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# Discussion Topic

## Term limits set to take effect in the '98 election year

**August 1997**  
A monthly resource for the Community Action Groups of Michigan Farm Bureau



When term limits were passed by Michigan voters in 1992, it seemed like a long way off before they would actually take effect. Now, with the 1998 elections not far away, the six-year term limits are about to open up 65 races for Michigan's Congress.

"In the 1998 election, there will be 65 members of the House of Representatives who have served their six years and will be ineligible for the election," explained Al Almy, director of Michigan Farm Bureau's Public Affairs Division. "We're going to see 65 races in which there is no incumbent running. Those familiar names will not be on the ballot."

"Our Farm Bureau members are going to have to take a hard look at all the candidates and decide for themselves which ones are best able to understand the concerns of agriculture," he continued.

### What this means for agriculture

Exactly how having these brand new elected officials will affect the agriculture industry is yet to be determined. "I think that will depend, to a large degree, who the 65 new legislators are to replace the old 65 — whom we know where they stand on issues and know how they're going to react," Almy said.

Nonetheless, there will be scores of new legislators for farmers to build positive relationships with. Almy said this will require Farm Bureau members and staff to educate the new congressmen about the agriculture industry.

### How term limits came about

The idea of term limitation was placed on the ballot and passed with a majority of "yes" votes in 1992. "A year prior to that, at our annual meeting, members adopted policy supporting term limits," Almy explained.

"I think there was a feeling — and that same feeling exists today — that the Legislature was made up of a lot of individuals who were making a long-time, professional living from being state politicians," Almy said. "I think there was a feeling among our members that some of these folks were simply no longer in touch with the realities of the world that they were supposed to be representing."

### Challenges of term limitation

Opponents of term limitation say voters have

always had a chance to limit the terms of their politicians — through elections. "I think there was a feeling, however, that the power of the incumbent in winning re-election — because they had name recognition and access to dollars to run a campaign that their challengers did not have — that it was rather difficult to replace a long-time incumbent," Almy said.

"If there is a down side to term limitation for agriculture — which is a minority group when looking at the sheer number of farmers in terms of the whole population — we currently have persons who are very familiar and have a strong background in agriculture in our leadership positions," Almy said.

Term limits could mean losing some friends of agriculture, such as Senate Majority Leader Dick Posthumus and many others who have strong farm backgrounds.

### Surfacing good candidates

In order to make sure our legislators represent our needs, many Farm Bureau members are active in committees to surface candidates for the soon-to-open positions. They strive to find electable people who will represent them fairly.

Michigan Farm Bureau also offers a workshop for political candidates to learn how to run their campaigns well. "The Campaign Managers' Workshop is for people who have either made the

decision to run for public office in the 1998 elections or are thinking about it," Almy said. The seminar helps them plan and carry out all aspects of their race, including how to announce their candidacy, how to raise money, how to select the right issues and more.

"When term limitation is fully implemented in the year 2002, we will see the real impacts," Almy said. Until then, citizens must find the right candidates to represent them fairly in Lansing.

### Discussion Questions

1. In your opinion, what are the most important benefits of term limitation?
2. How will the Michigan agriculture industry, as a whole, be affected by term limitation after the 1998 election? How will it affect ag in the long term?
3. What legislators from your area will be replaced because of term limitation? What can you, as a Farm Bureau member, do to fill their seat with someone who will represent you and your industry well?
4. Once the new congressmen are elected, what can you do to see that they truly represent your area well? How can you help them learn about our industry?

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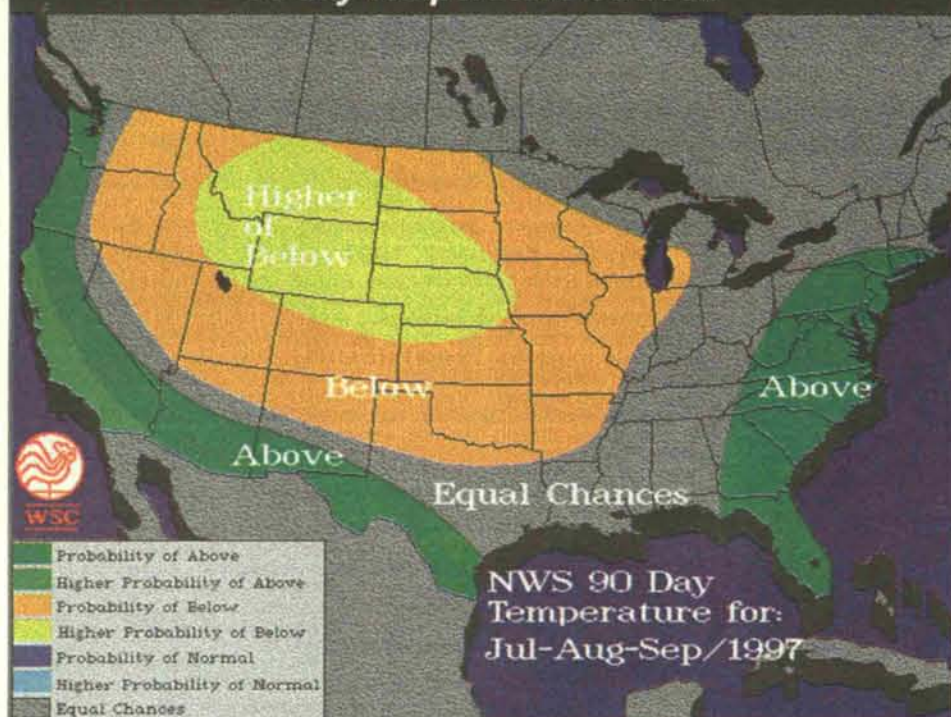


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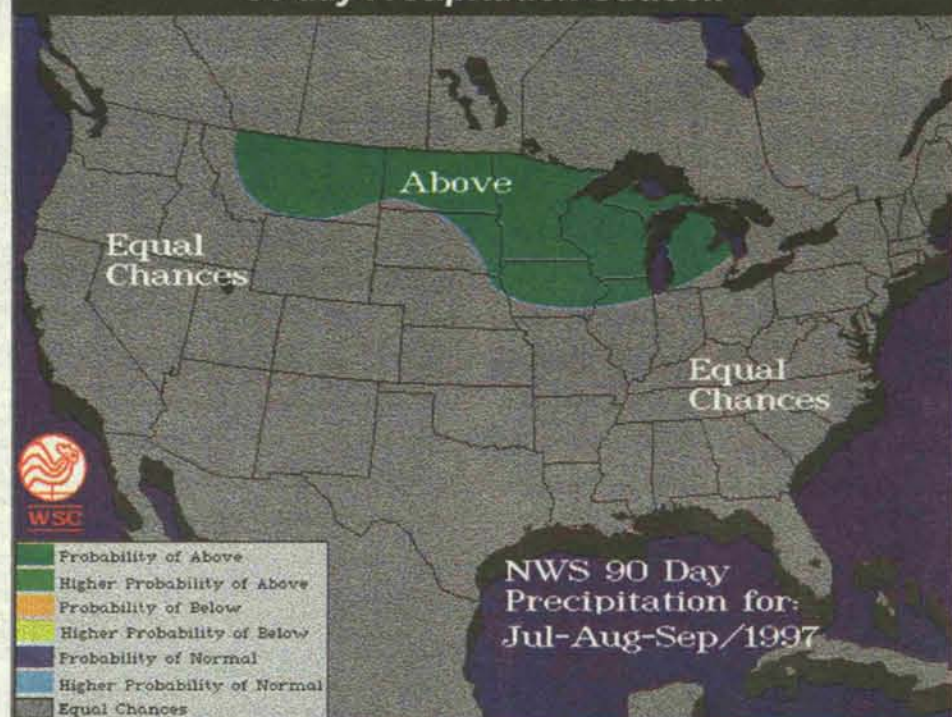




90-day Temperature Outlook



90-day Precipitation Outlook



# Weather Outlook

by Dr. Jeff Andresen,  
Agricultural Meteorologist,  
Dept. of Geography,  
Michigan State University



Sections of Michigan were struck by two major outbreaks of severe weather during the past month. In the first event, a large area of 'training thunderstorms' (the observed pattern of thunderstorm formation and movement across the same areas on radar) brought torrential rains of 4 to 9 inches to sections of southwestern lower Michigan on the 20th and 21st. The heavy rain led to flash flooding and destruction of crops and cropland, especially in low-lying areas. The second event was an outbreak of severe weather statewide on July 2, fueled by the rare combination of low-level tropical moisture, a strong jet stream aloft, and a fast-moving cold front. Severe thunderstorms, large hail and tornadoes were reported statewide, although most damage was in southeastern Lower Michigan, where at least three confirmed tornadoes and thunderstorm 'microbursts' (an area of intense straightline winds, sometimes exceeding 100 mph, flowing downward and out of a severe thunderstorm) caused at least 10 fatalities and left over 200,000 households without power. The outbreak was considered the worst in decades in the Detroit metro area.

More benign weather should prevail in July, with near equal odds of below-, near-, and above-normal temperatures and precipitation forecast for Michigan by NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. Latest medium-range forecast guidance suggests cooler temperatures for the state in association with weak northwesterly flow aloft. Above-normal temperatures in late June led to great advances in crop phenology, although current seasonal growing degree day (GDD) accumulations still lag behind normals for the date. However, instead of the 2 to 3 week or greater deviations that were common in mid-June, current deviations are now on the order of only 7 to 10 days behind normal. Such deviations could be made up quickly, as climatological monthly GDD totals are greatest during July, followed closely by August.

## Ag companies team up for research

Cargill Corporation, DowElanco and Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. have signed an agreement to collaborate on learning and determining how the interactions of various farming practices, inputs and environmental conditions can be collected, processed and turned into information to help farmers make better crop production decisions.

The companies will partner to study better ways to plan, plant, manage and harvest corn and soybeans in the Corn Belt. Farmer cooperators have been identified who will supply land for the project. A variety of environments across soils and maturity zones in the Central Corn Belt will be represented in order to study a variety of farming conditions.



## Michigan Weather Summary

5/16/97-6/15/97	Temperature		Growing Degree Days <sup>(*)</sup>		Precipitation	
	Obs. mean	Dev. from normal	Actual Acc.	Normal Acc.	Actual (inch)	Normal (inch)
Houghton	64.4	5.0	525	617	1.44	3.61
Marquette	65.1	5.8	564	617	3.24	3.61

Sault Ste. Marie	63.3	4.6	484	471	1.58	3.26
Lake City	65.4	1.8	620	717	2.84	3.03
Pellston	64.6	3.6	580	717	0.54	3.03
Alpena	65.0	2.8	570	681	0.62	2.90
Houghton Lake	65.1	1.3	596	681	1.28	2.90
Muskegon	66.8	1.1	684	821	3.01	2.94
Vestaburg	67.0	-0.1	717	875	1.97	3.36
Bad Axe	66.6	1.3	644	870	1.26	3.08
Saginaw	69.6	2.6	808	870	1.60	3.08

Grand Rapids	68.5	1.4	768	980	2.46	3.55
South Bend	68.9	0.5	849	980	3.32	3.55
Coldwater	68.3	0.3	787	967	1.56	3.57
Lansing	67.0	-0.1	710	967	1.96	3.57
Detroit	69.7	2.0	825	951	3.09	3.36
Flint	67.4	1.1	720	951	1.58	3.36

\* Growing degree day accumulations are calculated with the 86/50 "corn" method and are summed beginning April 1, 1997.

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Everything you always wanted to know about EQIP but were afraid to ask
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With the accelerating conversion of farmland resulting from urban sprawl, it is critical to protect the farmland we now have with conservation management practices. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program is designed to make the adoption of conservation measures easy and financially feasible.

## Conservation planning — the way business will be done now and into the next century

**B**efore and during the development of the 1996 farm bill, farmers and ranchers nationwide bent the ears of their legislators, letting lawmakers know that the old top down, rigid manner in which government has traditionally operated in the conservation arena would not work in this day and age. More flexibility, more local input into the decision-making process and more program diversity would promote the adoption of conservation at the farm and ranch level. With the old Agricultural Conservation Program (you may know it as ACP), one program was expected to meet the many and various conservation needs of all producers. A farmer had to make his or her operation fit the program, however awkward or manageable that fit may have been. The 1996 farm bill conservation provisions reflect the feedback from those making their living from the land in agricultural production. The old cost share programs are gone, the focus now rests on adaptive management that is flexible, locally driven, diverse and voluntary. The cornerstone of this new way of doing business is the conservation plan.

Conservation planning is nothing new. The purpose of the plan is to provide a means to correct resource problems that may be present. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS, formerly the Soil Conservation Service) provides the technical expertise that may be needed to design and implement systems to improve the resource situation. In the past, a landowner would call up the NRCS resource conservationist with a resource problem, the resource conservationist would go out and assess the problem, and a conservation plan would be formulated with the producer. The conservation plan would contain technical recommendations from the NRCS Technical Guide

and a contract would be drawn up with the Farm Services Agency (formerly ASCS) if financial assistance, i.e., cost share or incentive payments, were available. The conservation plan would usually focus on just one resource problem and identify one practice to correct the problem. In addition, the conservation measures to correct resource problems that could qualify for financial assistance were decided upon at the national level and applied across the board.

Not surprisingly, producers responded to this situation by making it clear that they wanted a voice in identifying the resource concerns in their area and that they wanted a more integrated method of resource management. The interconnectedness of the resource base demands a more comprehensive planning system. In acknowledgment of the changing needs of producers, the 1996 farm bill conservation provisions are driven by a locally led resource management process based on conservation planning at the resource management systems (RMS) level. This means that when a producer calls NRCS with a resource concern, the resource conservationist will still go out and assess the land, but this assessment will encompass all of the resources — soil, water, air, plant and animal — and will consider the potential ramifications of a plan on the people living in the area. A conservation plan will be drawn up based on recommendations from the NRCS Technical Guide just as before; however, various conservation measures to address the resource concerns will be identified. Jane Hardisty, Michigan NRCS state conservationist states, "This comprehensive new approach to conservation planning allows the producer greater flexibility, and at the same time meets all of the resource needs identified." In addition, potential funding

from a variety of sources will be identified, with one of the possibilities being the Environmental Quality Incentive Program. At this point a con-

tract may be drawn up with Farm Services Agency if financial assistance from the various USDA programs will be used.

### How EQIP fits in with conservation planning

**T**he Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is the largest of the 1996 farm bill conservation cost share programs. It replaces many of the old cost share programs. The foundation of EQIP is the locally led process, whereby local work groups, headed by the Conservation District, identify the most significant resource concerns in a designated geographic area. Funding for EQIP is allocated based on proposals submitted to the state Technical Committee, a team of conservation representatives at the state level. The Technical Committee reviews the proposals, and the NRCS state conservationist, with the Technical Committee's input and the Farm Services Agency's concurrence, selects proposals for funding. The selected proposals are called Conservation Priority Areas (CPAs). Sixty-five percent of the state's total fund allocation will go toward these CPAs, while the other 35 percent of the funds will be available statewide for addressing statewide priority resource concerns (SPRCs). In Michigan, the state Technical Committee is chaired by the NRCS state conservationist, Jane Hardisty. Jane explains that, "Michigan has approved 10 Conservation Priority Areas and six Statewide Priority Resource Concerns. In total, Michigan has received \$4.2 million for funding EQIP."

EQIP fits into the conservation process as one potential source of funds for financial assistance. If, upon the resource assessment by the NRCS Resource Conservationist, resource concerns are identified and the land is in a CPA or the resource concerns fall into one of the State-wide Priority Resource Concerns, then

an application for cost-share or incentive payments to address these concerns can be submitted. Applications are available at NRCS, FSA or Conservation District offices. It is necessary, however, to have a conservation plan that meets all the standards and specifications of the NRCS Technical Guide and that is approved by the Conservation District Board completed before an application for EQIP can be submitted.

For a listing of the CPAs and the Statewide Priority Resource Concerns can be found on subsequent pages of this insert. To guide you through the process of applying for EQIP, a flow-chart outlining the entire process from start to finish is provided inside as well.

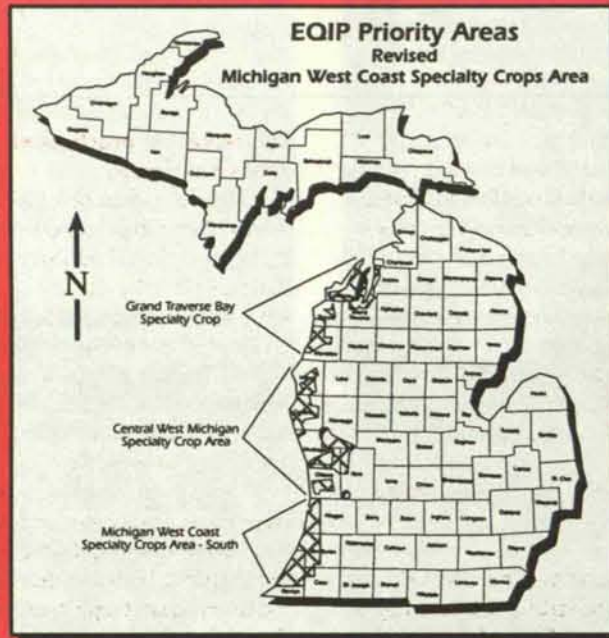


NRCS state conservationist Jane Hardisty explains the details of the EQIP program.

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## 8 Centralized CPAs

## Michigan West Coast Specialty Crop CPAs

## Animal Manure CPAs

# EQIP conservation priority areas (CPAs) — where the dollars are

### St. Joseph River Basin CPA

**Location:** Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties

**Designated NRCS Conservationist:** John Barclay, NRCS Centreville

**Designated FSA County Executive Director:** Sharon Hoch, St. Joseph County

**Description:** Prime farmland soils, a diversity of farm enterprises and use of irrigation combined to form the unique character of this St. Joseph River Basin CPA. The resource concerns identified in the area include ground-water quality and quantity, water and wind erosion, conversion of prime farmland into non-agricultural use, sediment deposition into water bodies, and streambank/shoreline erosion. It has been determined that more than 1.5 million acres will need conservation systems, with these systems targeted at improving the soil and water quality. The conservation systems used may include Integrated Conservation Cropping Systems, Ground and Surface Water Quality/Quantity Systems, Livestock Management Systems, Water and Erosion Control Systems, Well-head Protection, and Integrated Crop Management Systems.

#### Conservation practices eligible for cost share payments:

Agrichemical Containment Facility, Critical Area Planting, Diversion, Fence with Use Exclusion, Animal Waste Management Filter Strip, Above Ground Fuel Storage Facility, Grade Stabilization Structure, Grassed Waterway or Outlet, Heavy Use Area Protection, Lined Waterway or Outlet, Riparian Buffer Strips, Sediment Basin, Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Stream Crossing and Livestock Access, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Use Exclusion, Waste Storage Facility, Water and Sediment Control Basin, Well Decommissioning, Wetland Development or Restoration, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation.

#### Land management practices eligible for incentive payments:

Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Cover and Green Manure Crop, Cross Wind Strip Cropping, Cross Wind Trap Filter Strip, Filter Strip, Irrigation Water Management, Nutrient Management, Pasture and Hayland Planting, Pest Management, Prescribed Grazing, Residue Management (No Till, Strip Till and Mulch Till 30% Minimum), Field Strip Cropping, Waste Utilization, Wildlife Upland Management, Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management.

### Crockery Creek Watershed CPA

**Location:** Kent, Newaygo and Ottawa counties

**Designated NRCS Conservationist:** Greg Mund, Fremont

**Designated FSA County Executive Director:** Dave Bain, Kent County

### Description:

The Crockery Creek is a productive, high value cold water trout stream that is experiencing degradation through sedimentation and nutrient and bacterial deposition. The destruction of wildlife habitat by wetland conversion is also a resource concern in this CPA. Improved manure, pesticide and nutrient management; restoration of wetlands; the installation of filter strips along streams and drains; and conservation tillage are some of the conservation measures that will be taken to improve the natural resource concerns.

#### Conservation practices eligible for cost share payments:

Critical Area Planning, Well Decommissioning, Fence, Trough or Tank, Agrichemical Containment Facility, Above Ground Fuel Storage Facility, Riparian Buffer Strip, Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Grade Stabilization Structure, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Grassed Waterway, Sediment Basin, Wetland Development or Restoration, Waste Storage Facility, Composting Facility, Stream Crossing and Livestock Access, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment, Filter Strip.

#### Land management practices eligible for incentive payments:

Conservation Crop Rotation, Filter Strip, Waste Utilization, Use Exclusion, Prescribed Grazing, Residue Management, No Till/Strip Till, Mulch Till, Cover and Green Manure Crop, Conservation Cover, Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management, Wildlife Upland Habitat Management, Nutrient Management, Integrated Crop Management, Chiseling and Subsoiling.

### Saginaw Bay Area CPA

**Location:** Arenac, Bay, Clare, Clinton, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Iosco, Isabella, Lapeer, Macomb, Midland, St. Clair, Saginaw, Sanilac and Tuscola counties

**Designated NRCS Conservationist:** Jim Dickie, Saginaw

**Designated FSA County Executive Director:** John Porath, Huron County

**Description:** The Saginaw CPA includes more than 3 million acres, a majority of which are used for agricultural production of some type. Traditional farming methods in this area have relied heavily on pesticides and fertilizers and have left the soil vulnerable to wind and water erosion. Erosion has caused soil degradation as well as sedimentation and nutrient loading in the Saginaw Bay and its tributaries. To address these resource concerns, conservation tillage systems, manure, pesticide and nutrient management systems, filter strips, and streambank stabilization measures will be encouraged.

#### Conservation practices eligible for cost share payments:

Conservation Cropping Rotation, Residue Management, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment, Cover

and Green Manure Crop, Cross Wind Stripcropping, Strip Intercropping, Vegetative Barriers, Critical Area Planting, Pasture and Hayland Planting, Grade Stabilization Structure, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation, Tree Planting, Grassed Waterway, Water and Sediment Control Basin, Filter Strip, Stream Crossing and Livestock Access, Dike, Clearing and Snagging, Sediment Basin, Wetland Restoration, Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management, Wildlife Upland Habitat Management, Diversion, Field Border, Waste Utilization, Riparian Buffer Areas, Use Exclusion, Prescribed Grazing, Chiseling and Subsoiling, Conservation Cover, Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Agrichemical Containment Facility, Above Ground Fuel Storage Facility, Streambank Protection, Field Stripcropping.

### Huron and River Raisin Watersheds CPA

**Location:** Hillsdale, Lenawee, Jackson, Monroe and Washtenaw counties

**Designated NRCS Conservationist:** Tom Van Wagner, Adrian

**Designated FSA County Executive Director:** Lois Bondy, Monroe County

**Description:** Seventy-five percent of the Huron and River Raisin Watershed CPA is in agricultural production with 95 percent of the agricultural land classified as prime farm land. The primary resource concerns of the CPA are safe and sufficient water resources; productive and sustainable soil resources and pesticide, nutrient and manure management. To address these concerns, nutrient/manure management systems and grazing management systems will be applied, riparian buffer areas will be restored or created, and wetlands will be restored.

#### Conservation practices eligible for cost share payments:

Agrichemical Containment Facility, Critical Area Planting, Diversion, Animal Waste Management Filter Strip, Above Ground Fuel Storage Facility, Grade Stabilization Structure, Grassed Waterway or Outlet, Lined Waterway or Outlet, Obstruction Removal, Pasture and Hayland Planting, Sediment Basin, Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Stream Channel Stabilization, Stream Crossing and Livestock Access, Terrace, Underground Outlet, Use Exclusion, Vegetative Barriers, Waste Storage Facility, Water and Sediment Control Basin, Well Decommissioning, Wetland Development or Restoration, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment.

#### Land management practices eligible for incentive payments:

Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Cover and Green Manure, Cross Wind Stripcropping, Cross Wind Trap Strip, Filter Strip, Nutrient Management, Prescribed Grazing, Residue Management, No Till, Strip Till, Mulch Till, Riparian Buffer Strips, Contour Stripcropping, Field Stripcropping, Waste Utilization.

### Animal Manure Production Area CPA

**Location:** Clinton, Gratiot, Ionia, Montcalm, Kent, Ottawa, Huron, Sanilac, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Jackson and Allegan counties

**Designated NRCS Conservationist:** Jim Scott, Ionia

**Designated FSA County Executive Director:** Betty Arp, Ionia County

**Description:** The Animal Manure Production CPA includes five focus in Michigan. Over 13 million tons of animal manure are produced from the animal units in this CPA. Lack of a proper manure management system can pose a threat to soil and water quality. Build-up of phosphorus levels in the soil, nitrates and other contaminants in ground and surface water, and erosion of streambanks and grazing areas are some of the resource concerns in this CPA. Manure management and planned grazing systems will be designed and implemented to address these resource concerns.

#### Conservation practices eligible for cost share payments:

Agrichemical Containment Facility, Composting Facility, Conservation Cover, Critical Area Planting, Cross Wind Trap Filter Strip, Cross Wind Trap Field Strip, Well Decommissioning, Diversion, Fence, Field Windbreak, Filter Strip, Animal Waste Management Filter Strip, Above Ground Fuel Storage Facility, Grade Stabilization Structure, Grassed Waterway or Outlet, Heavy Use Area Protection, Pasture and Hayland Planting, Riparian Buffer Strips, Roof Runoff Management, Sediment Basin, Spring Development, Stream Crossing and Livestock Access, Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Structure for Water Control, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Trough or Tank, Waste Storage Facility, Water and Sediment Control Basin, Well, Wetland Development and Restoration, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation.

#### Land management practices eligible for incentive payments:

Conservation Cropping Rotation both with and without Residue Management, Cover and Green Manure Crop, Cross Wind Trap Filter Strip, Cross Wind Trap Field Strip, Filter Strip, Animal Waste Management Filter Strip, Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment, Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Prescribed Grazing, Residue Management: No Till, Strip Till, Mulch Till, Ridge Till, Riparian Buffer Strips, Cross Wind Stripcropping, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Use Exclusion, Waste Utilization, Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management.

### Maumee River Watershed CPA

**Location:** Hillsdale and Lenawee counties

**Designated NRCS Conservationist:** Dennis Haskins, Hillsdale

**Designated FSA County Executive Director:**

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program 3

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Dave Williams, Hillsdale

**Description:**  
The Maumee River Watershed covers three states — Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. Soil erosion has caused excessive sedimentation in the Toledo Harbor in Ohio and the St. Joseph River in Indiana. Pesticide contamination and turbidity have caused drinking water quality problems. Habitat loss of endangered species found in the tributaries of this watershed is an additional concern. To address these resource concerns, conservation systems will be installed to reduce soil erosion and protect endangered species habitat.

**Conservation practices eligible for cost share payments:**

Sediment Basin, Diversion, Grade Control Structures, Grassed Waterway, Streambank Stabilization, Stream Channel Stabilization, Terraces and Water Control and Stabilization Basin, Tree Planting, Wetland Restoration, Agrichemical Containment Facility.

**Land management practices eligible for incentive payments:**

Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Residue Management, Contour Farming, Cover Crop, Critical Area Planting, Riparian Buffer, Filter Strip, Pasture and Hayland Planting, Nutrient Management, Pesticide Management, Wetland Wildlife Habitat, Upland Wildlife Habitat.

**Capital Area CPA**

**Location:**

Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties

**Designated NRCS Conservationist:**

Steve Law, St. Johns

**Designated FSA County Executive Director:**

Andrew Calcaterra

**Description:**

The Capital Area CPA includes Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties in central lower Michigan. Due to interstate highway expansion and suburban sprawl, prime farmland is at risk of being lost to development. Intensive agricultural practices are causing an increase in the amount of soil, pesticides and animal manures entering ground and surface waters. To address these resource concerns, conservation systems are needed on 100,000 acres. Some of the practices that may be included in these systems are rotation and tillage systems for row and specialty crops, riparian buffer and filter strips, structural practices with management systems to control erosion and to protect groundwater from run-off of agrichemicals and fertilizers.

**Conservation practices eligible for cost share payments:**

Composting, Agrichemical Containment Facility, Critical Area Planting, Diversion, Fence, Animal Waste Filter Strip, Above Ground Fuel Storage, Grade Stabilization Structure, Grassed Waterway or Outlet, Heavy Use Area Protection, Lined Waterway or Outlet, Mulching, Riparian Buffer Strips, Roof Runoff Management, Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Stream Crossing and Livestock Access, Terrace, Trough or Tank, Waste Storage Structure, Waste Storage Pond, Water and Sediment Control Basin, Well Decommissioning, Wetland Development or Restoration.

**Land management practices eligible for incentive payments:**

Conservation Cover, Cover and Green Manure Crop, Filter Strip, Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Waste Utilization, Wildlife Upland Habitat Management, Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management, Prescribed Grazing, Use Exclusion.

**Michigan West Coast Specialty Crop CPAs**

**Location 1:**

Grand Traverse Bay area, including Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Leelanau and Manistee counties

**Designated NRCS Conservationist:**

Buzz Long, Lake Leelanau

**Designated FSA County Executive Director:**

Debra Stephens, Grand Traverse County

**Location 2:**

Central West Michigan area including Kent, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana and Ottawa counties

**Designated NRCS Conservationist:**

Glenn Lamborg, Fremont

**Designated FSA County Executive Director:**

Dave Bain, Kent County

**Location 3:**

South Michigan Area, including Allegan, Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties

**Designated NRCS Conservationist:**

Les Hainey, Berrien Springs

**Designated FSA County Executive Director:**

Dave Mroczek, Berrien County

**Description:**

The Michigan West Coast Specialty Crop CPA consists of three areas of focus and extends the length of Michigan's Lower Peninsula west coast, a prime area for the production of fruit and vegetables. The intensive nature of fruit and vegetable production results in the heavy use of pesticides and fertilizers as well as inadequate soil protection from wind and water erosion. To address these resource concerns, agrichemical and fuel storage structures and integrated crop management systems will be planned and applied, and conservation systems to reduce erosion and protect water resources will be planned and implemented.

**Conservation practices eligible for cost share payments:**

**Location 1:**

Grand Traverse Bay area — Critical Area Planting, Well Decommissioning, Agrichemical Containment Facility, Fuel Containment Facility, Riparian Buffer Strips, Streambank and Shoreline Erosion Protection, Heavy Use Area Protection, Field Windbreak, Grade Stabilization Structure, Windbreak Renovation, Grassed Waterway, Diversion, Sediment Basin, Water and Sediment Control Basins.

**Location 2:**

Central West Michigan area — Critical Area Planting, Well Decommissioning, Agrichemical Containment Facility, Above Ground Fuel Storage Facility, Riparian Buffer Strips, Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Heavy Use Area Protection, Windbreak and Shelterbelt Renovation, Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment, Grade Stabilization Structure, Pasture and Hayland Planting, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Grassed Waterway, Diversion, Sediment Basin, Water and Sediment Control Basins, Wetland Development and Restoration, Cross Wind Trap Field Strips, Cross Wind Trap Filter Strips.

**Location 3:**

Southwest Michigan area — Critical Area Planting, Well Decommissioning, Agrichemical Containment Facility, Fuel Containment Facility, Riparian Buffer Strips, Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Heavy Use Area Protection, Field Windbreak, Grade Stabilization Structure, Grasses and Legumes in Rotation, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Windbreak Renovation, Grassed Waterway, Diversion, Sediment Basin, Water and Sediment Control Basins, Wetland Restoration, Cross Wind Trap Strips.

**Land management practices eligible for incentive payments:**

**Location 1:**

Grand Traverse Bay area — Residue Management, Cover and Green Manure Crop, Filter Strips, Irrigation Water Management, Contour Orchards, Nutrient Management, Pest Management.

**Location 2:**

Central West Michigan area — Conservation Crop Rotation, Residue Management, Cover and Green Manure Crop, Filter Strip, Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Waste Utilization, Irrigation Water Management, Contour Orchards and Other Fruit Area, Field Stripcropping.

**Location 3:**

South West Michigan area — Conservation Crop Rotation, Residue Management, Cover and Green Manure Crop, Filter Strips, Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Waste Utilization, Irrigation Water Management, Contour Orchards, Field Stripcropping.

**Karst Water Quality Protection CPA**

**Location:**

Alpena, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Delta, Emmet, Mackinac, Monroe, Montmorency, Presque Isle and Schoolcraft counties

**Designated NRCS Conservationist:**

Perry Smeltzer, Cheboygan

**Designated FSA County Executive Director:**

Carman Kleaver, Cheboygan, Emmet and Presque Isle counties

**Description:**

The Michigan Karst Water Quality CPA covers counties in southern lower, northern lower and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. In karst formations, limestone bedrock has eroded and formed underground systems of caverns, crevasses and fractures that are tied to aboveground lakes, streams and run-off. Abandoned wells drilled into these formations provide a direct route to groundwater drinking supplies. Some areas of

this priority area rely on alternative drinking water sources due to well contamination. Pest and nutrient management systems, abandoned well closures, vegetative filter strips and land use exclusion systems will be implemented to address this water quality problem.

**Conservation practices eligible for cost share payments:**

Well Decommissioning, Underground Outlet, Diversion, Use Exclusion, Above Ground Fuel Storage Facility, Agrichemical Containment Facility, Filterstrip, Riparian Buffer Strips, Water and Sediment Control Basin, Waste Storage Facility, Trough or Tank, Stream Crossing and Livestock Access, Spring Development, Grassed Waterway or Outlet, Roof Runoff Management, Well.

**Land management practices eligible for incentive payments:**

Waste Management System, Nutrient Management System, Pest Management System, Waste Utilization, Prescribed Grazing, Residue Management, Conservation Cover, Septic Drainfield Maintenance, Cover and Green Manure Crop, Critical Area Planting, Farm\*A\*Syst, Conservation Crop Rotation, Fence, Pasture and Hayland Planting.

**Bays de Noc CPA**

**Location:**

Alger, Delta, Dickinson, Iron, Marquette and Menominee counties

**Designated NRCS Conservationist:**

David Higbee, Stephenson

**Designated FSA County Executive Director:**

Earl Bass, Menominee County

**Description:**

The Bays de Noc CPA is located in Michigan's south-central Upper Peninsula. Soil erosion due to steep, shallow soils in the region, agrichemical run-off and leaching, animal waste disposal and loss of native wildlife habitat are the major resource concerns in this CPA. Conservation systems comprised of animal manure management systems, nutrient and pest management systems, abandoned well closures and wildlife habitat creation, restoration and enhancement will be implemented to address these resource concerns.

**Conservation practices eligible for cost share payments:**

Agrichemical Containment Facility, Composting Facility, Critical Area Planting, Diversion, Fence, Filter Strip, Animal Waste Filter Strip, Fish Stream Improvement, Forest Harvest Trails and Landings, Above Ground Fuel Storage Facility, Grade Stabilization Structure, Grassed Waterway or Outlet, Irrigation with Water Conveyance Pipe, Obstruction Removal, Pond, Roof Run-off Management, Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Stream Crossing and Livestock Access, Trough or Tank, Waste Storage Facility, Water and Sediment Control Basin, Well Decommissioning, Wetland Development or Restoration.

**Land management practices eligible for incentive payments:**

Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Cover and Green Manure Crop, Farm\*A\*Syst, Irrigation Water Management, Nutrient Management, Prescribed Grazing, Pasture and Hayland Planting, Pest Management, Residue Management, Riparian Buffer Strips, Field Stripcropping, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Use Exclusion, Waste Utilization, Wildlife Food Plots, Wildlife Upland Habitat Management, Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management.

**Statewide Priority Resource Concerns (SPRCs)**

**I. Integrated Wildlife Management Systems**

**Description:**

Integrated Wildlife Management Systems address permanent fish habitat, wetland wildlife habitat, and upland wildlife habitat. Lost habitat will be replaced with newly established sites. Poor quality sites will be identified and improved with management practices. Sites being threatened for conversion will be identified and improved for quality value, or new sites will be identified and established to replace lost habitat.

**II. Impaired Use Waterbodies Systems**

**Description:**

Impaired Use Waterbodies Systems addresses water quality concerns already documented where agriculture has been cited as a major source of pollution. According to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, this is a concern in 75 percent of Michigan's watersheds. EQIP will be used in a coordinated

and complementary way with existing programs, including EPA's Section 319 program, the 14 Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs), the 13 Water Quality Incentive Program Areas (WQIP), and the four PL-566 Watershed Projects in Michigan.

**III. Groundwater Resource Protection Systems**

**Description:**

Groundwater Resource Protection Systems address the single focus of water resources in terms of groundwater quality. The issues involved include agrichemical and nitrogen leaching and runoff to recharge areas and the leaching of agricultural petroleum products into the groundwater. Protection of recharge areas by removing risk of direct discharge from abandoned wells and Karst areas and surface contamination of ground/surface water interfaces.

**IV. Riparian Corridor Management Systems**

**Description:**

Riparian Corridor Management Systems address the full range of natural resource concerns that occur in the riparian zone of surface waters and wetlands. They include soil resource concerns related to excessive soil erosion from water and loss of protective vegetation at the water's edge. Water resource concerns are related to agrichemical runoff and accelerated sedimentation. Grazing lands concerns deal with excessive soil erosion due to poor pasture management and animal control. Wetlands concerns are related to those wetlands that are subjected to agricultural runoff contaminated with phosphorus and sediment. Wildlife habitat concerns deal with habitat that has been degraded due to loss of native plants and loss of biodiversity and fragmentation.

**V. Integrated Conservation Cropping Systems**

**Description:**

Integrated Conservation Cropping Systems address four resource concerns. The soil resources that will be addressed include excessive wind and water erosion and increasing compaction. The water resources have the following concerns: agrichemical runoff, accelerated sedimentation, agrichemical leaching, and improper irrigation water management. Wetlands are being threatened by sedimentation as a result of excessive soil erosion from adjacent cropland. Lastly, the loss and degradation of wildlife habitat that serves as a buffer between cropland and surface waters is a concern.

**VI. Animal Production Management Systems**

**Description:**

Animal Production Management Systems address soil resources in terms of those land areas with escalating phosphorus levels above 300 pounds per acre. Water resources are a concern in terms of animal manure runoff to surface waters, waste disposal methods causing excess nitrogen and phosphorus to enter ground and surface water, and livestock activity in riparian areas causing sedimentation and direct discharge to surface water. Grazing lands areas is a concern in terms of lost vegetative cover on grazing systems and location of adequate watering and feeding locations away from surface waters and highly leachable soils.

**Location of all SPRCs:**

Statewide

**Conservation practices eligible for cost share payments:**

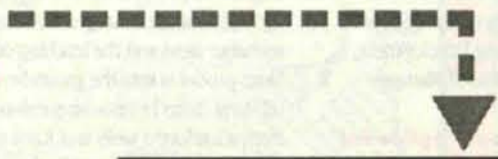
Agrichemical Containment Facility, Composting Facility, Critical Area Planting, Diversion, Fence, Animal Waste Management Filter Strip, Above Ground Fuel Storage Facility, Grade Stabilization Structure, Grassed Waterway or Outlet, Heavy Use Area Protection, Riparian Buffer Strips, Roof Runoff Management, Sediment Basin, Spring Development, Stream Crossing and Livestock Access, Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Structure for Water Control, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Trough or Tank, Waste Storage Facility, Water and Sediment Control Basin, Well Decommissioning, Wetland Development or Restoration, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation.

**Land management practices eligible for incentive payments:**

Chiseling and Subsoiling, Conservation Cover, Cover and Green Manure Crop, Cross Wind Stripcropping, Filter Strip, Hedgerow Planting, Irrigation Water Management, Pasture and Hayland Planting, Pest Management, Prescribed Grazing, Residue Management, Strip Intercropping, Field Stripcropping, Use Exclusion, Vegetative Barriers, Waste Utilization, Wildlife Upland Habitat Management, Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management.

## A step-by-step guide to conservation planning with EQIP

1.



To pass go you must have a plan!

See article on page 1 about planning.

2.

Fill out an application for EQIP at your local USDA Service Center or your Conservation District office. Sign-up is continuous.



3.

Ranking of applications by the NRCS Conservation Priority Area designated conservationist.

A ranking criteria was developed that takes into consideration the environmental benefits to be gained from the plan in conjunction with the environmental sensitivity of the land in question. All applications in a given CPA will be ranked against the same criteria, although criteria may vary among the different CPAs.

4.

Selection of applications for funding. Selection occurs on the 15th and 30th of each month. The top third after ranking will be selected pending availability of funds.

5.

Contract drawn up by Farm Services Agency on CCC Form 1200. Contract approved through the FSA county committee.

Contracts are for 5 to 10 years. The maximum cost-share and/or incentive payments for one contract is \$50,000 for the life of the contract and a maximum of \$10,000 per year (with certain exceptions).

6.

Contract signed and implemented. Conservation practices installed and funds dispersed.



7.

Follow-up. Progress of conservation plan will be reviewed yearly.



# What is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)?

**E**QIP is a new, voluntary USDA conservation program for farmers and ranchers who face serious threats to soil, water, and related natural resources. It provides technical, financial, and educational assistance primarily in designated priority areas. Nationally, half of the funding for EQIP is targeted to livestock-related natural resource concerns and the remainder to other significant conservation priorities.

### What are priority areas?

In general, priority areas are defined as watersheds, regions, or areas of special environmental sensitivity or having significant soil, water, or related natural resource concerns.

### How are priority areas selected?

Priority areas are determined by local work groups. These local work groups—convened by local conservation districts—do a conservation needs assessment and, based on that assessment, develop proposals for priority areas. These proposals are submitted to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist, who selects those areas within the State based on the recommendations from the State Technical Committee.

### Who serves on the local work groups?

The local work groups are made up of representatives from conservation district board members and key staff, NRCS, Farm Service Agency (FSA), FSA county committees and key staffs, the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, and other Federal, State, and local agencies interested in natural resource conservation. Their recommendations go to the NRCS-designated conservationist for the local area and then to the State Conservationist, who sets priorities with the advice of the State Technical Committee. The recommendations are integrated into regional and national strategic plans. These strategic plans provide a basis for funding decisions.

### Who is eligible for the program?

Eligibility is limited to persons who are engaged in livestock or agricultural production. Eligible land: cropland, rangeland, pasture, forestland, and other farm or ranch lands where the program is delivered.

### Are confined livestock operations eligible?

The 1996 Farm Bill prohibits owners of large confined livestock operations from being eligible for cost-share assistance for animal waste storage or treatment facilities. However, technical, educational, and financial assistance may be provided for other conservation practices on these large operations.

### What is the definition of a large confined livestock operation?

USDA has defined a large confined livestock operation as an operation with more than 1,000 animal units in confinement.

### What cost-sharing is available?

Cost-sharing may pay up to 75 percent of the costs of certain conservation practices, such as grassed waterways, filter strips, manure management facilities, capping abandoned wells, and other practices important to improving and maintaining the health of natural resources in the area.

### What are incentive payments?

Incentives may be made to encourage a producer to perform land management practices such as nutrient management, manure management, integrated pest management, irrigation water management, and wildlife habitat management. Incentives may be provided for up to three years to encourage producers to carry out management practices they may not otherwise use without the program incentive.



Residue management can be supported with cost-share or incentive funds.

### Do all resource concern areas have the same priority?

No. Soil, water, air, plant, animal, and related natural resource concerns are all given equal initial consideration for treatment, but higher priority is given to areas where State or local governments offer financial or technical assistance and to areas where agricultural improvements will help producers in complying with Federal or State environmental laws, such as the Clean Water Act. Nationally, 50 percent of the program funds will be targeted to natural resource concerns relating to livestock production.

### If I am not in a priority area, can I still qualify for EQIP?

EQIP can address additional significant statewide concerns that may occur outside designated priority areas. In the first year of the program, at least 65 percent of the funds will be used in designated priority areas and up to 35 percent can be used for other significant statewide natural resource concerns. Additional emphasis is given to areas where State or local governments offer financial or technical assistance and where agricultural improvements will help meet water quality and other environmental objectives.

### How do I apply for the program?

Producers may obtain contract applications at any USDA Service Center. The applications will be accepted throughout the year. The ranking and selecting of offers of producers will occur periodically during designated periods.

### Do I need a conservation plan under EQIP?

Yes. All EQIP activities must be carried out according to a conservation plan. Conservation plans are site-specific for each farm or ranch and can be developed by producers with help from NRCS or other service providers. Producers' plans should address the primary natural resource concerns. All plans are subject to NRCS technical standards adapted for local conditions and are approved by the conservation district. Producers are not obligated, but are encouraged, to develop comprehensive management plans.

### Do I need to enter into a long-term contract to get assistance from EQIP?

Yes. EQIP offers 5- to 10-year contracts that provide cost-sharing and incentive payments for conservation practices called for in the site-specific plan.

### Are there limits to individual payments?

Yes. Total cost-share and incentive payments are limited to \$10,000 per person per year and \$50,000 over the length of the contract.

### How is EQIP funded?

Funding comes from the Federal Government's Commodity Credit Corporation. EQIP's authorized budget of \$1.3 billion is prorated at \$200 million per year through the year 2002.

### When is the sign-up period for EQIP?

There will be a continuous sign-up through Sept. 30, 1997. Applications will be approved for assistance on the 15th and 30th of every month.

### Would an application that was not selected return to the application pool for consideration during the next selection?

Yes, applications will remain on the list until they are approved or until their application is withdrawn.

### What reason would the county committee have for disapproving an application?

The county committee would disapprove an EQIP application if the applicant did not meet the "producer" definition, did not provide evidence of control of the land for the contract period, or there is an existing LTA on the planning unit.

### Will producer applications continue to be approved for funding every 15th or 30th of the month even if the allocation to the CPA has been exhausted?

No. A register will continue to be kept as applications are received and ranked. When additional funds become available, then approvals will resume.

### What is the duration of an EQIP contract?

No less than 5 years and no more than 10 years.

### Can a farm with three partners have three contracts?

No. A farm operated by a partnership is eligible for one EQIP payment limitation. An individual member of the partnership or corporation would be eligible



Erosion control structures are one of the many conservation practices eligible for cost share assistance under EQIP.

for a separate payment limitation only if he or she had a separate farming interest.

### Is a producer eligible to apply for assistance through a Statewide Priority Resource Concern (SPRC) and a Conservation Priority Area (CPA)?

Yes, provided (1) the conservation plan addresses the resource concerns of the CPA and SPRC, as appropriate, and (2) the producer does not receive double cost-share or incentive payments for an individual practice installation, e.g. the producer could receive cost-share assistance from the CPA for grassed waterway #1 and from the SPRC for grassed waterway #2, but the producer could not receive assistance from both the CPA and the SPRC for grassed waterway #1.

### Some Conservation Priority Areas overlap. Is a producer eligible to apply for assistance to more than one CPA?

Yes, provided the applications are for different planning units.

### Are local units of government, such as Road Commissions or Drain Commissions, eligible for EQIP assistance?

No. State, county, city or other local government units are ineligible "persons" for EQIP purposes.

### Who determines the "person" and/or "land" eligibility?

FSA determines "person" eligibility and NRCS determines "land" eligibility.

### Can cost of practices performed after a plan is completed, but before a contract is approved be eligible for EQIP?

No, any practice that is performed before the contract is approved by the county committee is not eligible for EQIP.

### Can one person have more than one contract?

Yes, depending on the conservation problems on the farm and location in relation to a CPA. For example, a producer may have a surface water quality problem that is included in a specific CPA. There may also be a livestock (manure management) concern that could be addressed by the State-wide Priority Resource Concern portion of EQIP. However, these two contracts will be based on one approved conservation plan.

### Is an incentive payment limited to one year?

The incentive payment for a specific land management practice should extend only as long as reasonably necessary to demonstrate the viability of the practice to the producer. In no case should an incentive payment extend more than three years.

### Does a producer get paid per practice completed by the local FSA office?

They are paid by the local FSA office after the practice is performed and certified.

### When can producers that complete practices scheduled for FY 97 in their approved EQIP contract expect to receive their cost share payments?

Payments for practices completed and certified in FY 97 will be made after Oct. 1, 1997.

### If a producer has been implementing a land management practice, are they eligible for

### incentive payments for that practice?

No. The purpose of incentive payments is to encourage producers to adopt new technologies and demonstrate the effectiveness of improved management practices. If a producer is already implementing that practice, there is no need to get them to adopt the technology or demonstrate its value.

### Can cost share of incentive payments be used to purchase equipment such as manure injectors, in-line mixing pesticide sprayers, or portable mix/load pads?

Cost share and incentive payments may only be used for practices that are part of a planned resource management system. Cost share payments may only be used to install structural practices for which there is a standard in the NRCS Technical Guide. Incentive payments encourage producers to adopt new technologies and demonstrate the effectiveness of improved management practices. Accepting incentive payments obligates the producer to implement the management practice for the life of the contract.

### Is a practice that is partially completed eligible for financial assistance?

No. Any practice started before the EQIP contract is approved is ineligible for EQIP financial assistance.

### Can EQIP cost share or incentive payments be combined with other program funds for the same practice? For example, can a producer receive cost share funds for an Agrichemical Containment Facility through the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program and cost share from EQIP for the same facility?

Yes, if those other funds are not federal, and then only if (1) the total cost share does not exceed 100% of the producer's total installation cost, and (2) this "double dipping" is authorized by the other program. No, if the other funds are federal.

### What if a producer who is signed up into EQIP does not complete the practice(s) he signed up for, can an extension be granted? If yes, for how long? If no, does any cost share that was previously received have to be refunded? Will there be any penalties involved?

Yes, but the extension cannot exceed beyond the initial contract completion date. Cost share is only provided after structural practices are satisfactorily completed. Incentive payments are annual payments that are only provided for land management practices after they are satisfactorily implemented. Therefore, there would be no previous payments to refund. There is no provision for penalties.

### Who will determine if the producer has satisfactorily completed an EQIP practice? Who will determine if a landowner has adopted a certain practice?

NRCS is the agency responsible for certifying all practices applied.

### How can you find out more about EQIP and other USDA conservation programs?

Contact your local USDA Service Center listed in the telephone directory.

### Livestock producers — Special info for you!

**T**he resource concerns associated with livestock production are receiving special attention in EQIP. Nationwide, 50 percent of EQIP funds are designated for livestock producers. In Michigan there is a Conservation Priority Area (CPA), the Animal Manure Production CPA, that was established for areas with a high concentration of livestock production. In addition, a Statewide Priority Resource Concern (SPRC), Animal Production Management Systems, has been established. Funds are available statewide for this SPRC regardless of geographic location (see the Conservation Priority Area section of this insert for more information on these areas of concern).

**In order to be eligible for cost share or incentive payments under EQIP the following steps must be taken:**

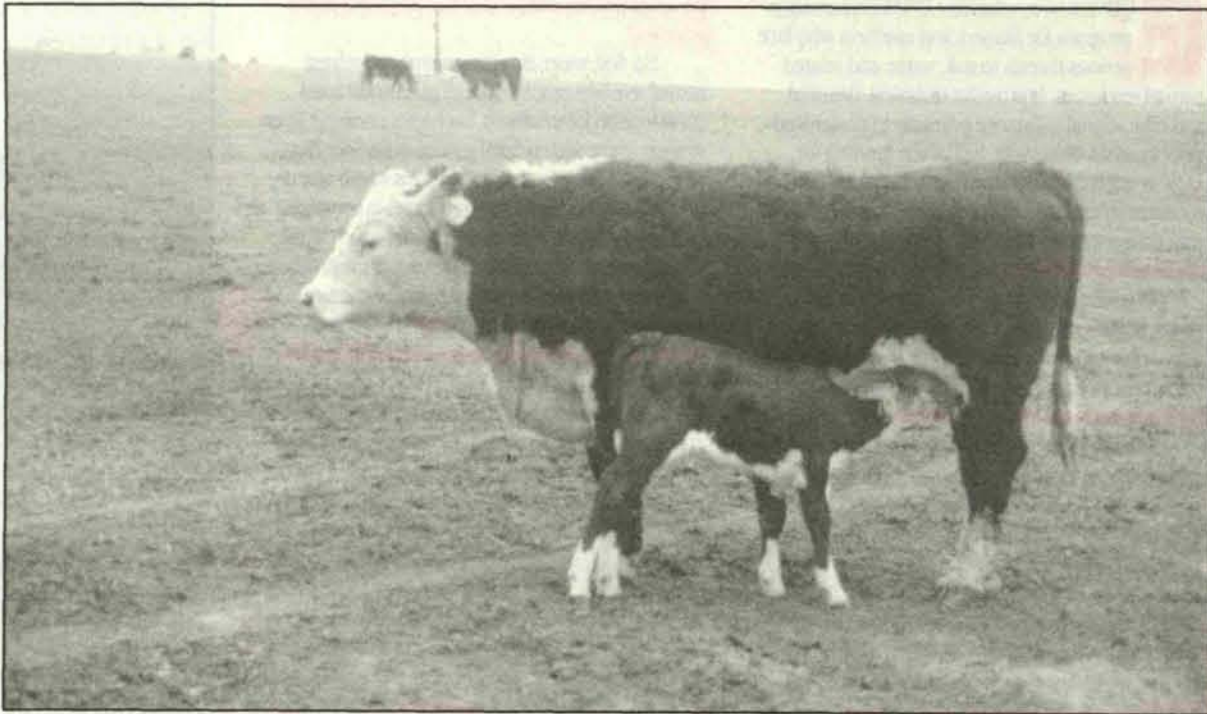
- A conservation plan with the various resource concerns identified and conservation practices suggested must be approved
- The conservation practices for which EQIP financial assistance is requested must be among those selected in the CPA or SPRC as practices eligible for cost share or incentive payment
- The EQIP application (Form CCC 1200) must be ranked based on the ranking criteria and selected by the NRCS Designated Conservationist
- The FSA County Committee must approve the application and the contract must be signed by the producer.

Only operations with existing resource concerns may apply for cost share or incentive payments (refer to the flow chart in the step-by-step section of this insert).

Significant dialogue at the local, state and national level has occurred regarding the size of livestock operations that will qualify for financial assistance under EQIP. It has been decided that nationally, 1000 animal units (1 animal unit = 1,000 pounds live weight) is the definition of a large livestock operation. Large confined livestock operations are able to receive technical and educational assistance under EQIP, but are not eligible for financial assistance for manure storage or manure treatment facilities. They are eligible for financial assistance for all other practices on the eligible practice list. However,

the NRCS state conservationist can request a modification of this definition from the Chief of NRCS. Based on guidance from the Michigan Technical

Committee, in fiscal year 1997, the definition of large livestock operations in Michigan will follow the national definition. ■



Numerous conservation practices are eligible for technical and financial assistance for livestock operations. See page two for a detailed listing.

### EQIP seen as an opportunity to improve the farmstead's environmental management

by Bob Neumann, MSU Outreach Communications

**R**ather than working under a law or being part of a regulation, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides growers an opportunity to voluntarily work, perhaps with others, on improving the well-being of the farmstead's natural resources.

"I think this is a tremendous opportunity for a farm family to begin, or renew their own ideas on farmstead conservation management and to be part of what will likely be a community effort to improve overall environmental quality," says Larry Olsen, Michigan State University Extension interim associate director.

Olsen says the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) shift in emphasis from regulatory management to flexible incentives to solve community environmental resource concerns is apt to be more successful.

"Growers very well may have some ideas for improved conservation management that they have been waiting to try out for years but under the con-

straints or philosophy of previous government designed programs, they could not," Olsen says. "Under EQIP, flexibility is the mode of operation and probably more than anyone else, the grower who manages the soils of the farmstead probably knows best what improved practices will work for them."

"EQIP is also an opportunity for growers to try out new ideas they might like to implement on their own but may not have had the resources to do so in the past," Olsen adds.

Olsen also likes the idea of a community based approach, via the local soil conservation district, to sensitive environmental areas for many of the same reasons. "Number one, because it is locally recognized as being valid and needed and therefore likely to attract more interest, and two, because it provides the opportunity for innovation to problem solving, including partnering, which most always works more effectively than a program regulation," he says.

He says that MSU Extension people should be able to effectively advise growers on making the transition from regulation programs to volun-

tary programming with regard to just about any current or new conservation practice they may wish to undertake through EQIP. Extension can also provide ideas on other NRCS programs such as the Forestry Incentive Program (FIP), the Wetlands Restoration Program (WRP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) management or the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP).

MSU Agricultural Economist David Schweikhardt says the current farm bill's new approach on voluntary compliance and flexibility, and the range of environmental programs that it offers, coupled with incentives, has a purpose.

"We have a very diverse agriculture in the United States, particularly in Michigan, in fact far more than many other states, with a lot of very different environmental issues that need addressing," he says. "The new bill moves us toward a flexible approach to solving those issues and opportunities for solving a broader range of problems, and that is particularly important for a state like Michigan."

Citing a similar approach to industry, he says

that utilities, for instance, are making faster progress on air pollution programs than they were under former programs.

"There is a general movement toward 'let's set criteria that we want met' and then allow firms to decide how they get to that point," Schweikhardt says. "It offers a lot of new incentives to allowing firms to figure out how to reduce pollution at a lower cost than under a strict regulatory approach. In many cases, the utilities are well ahead of schedule in reducing their pollution emissions."

The same philosophy is being applied to agriculture — an opportunity to recognize and solve the known soil and water problems in the community.

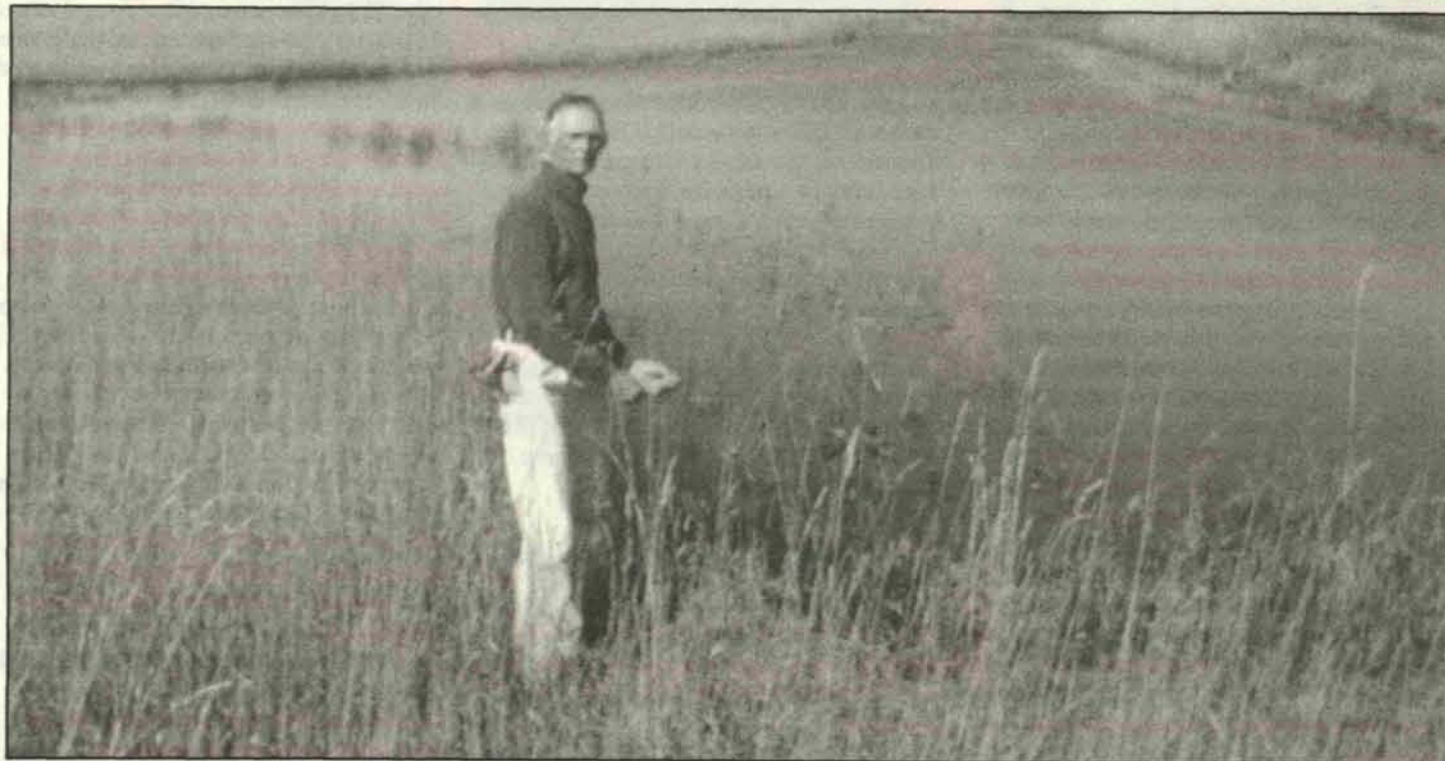
The new approach is also much broader than previous programs such as the old CRP and the conservation compliance programs, which worked well for what they were supposed to do. However, new concerns have become apparent since those programs were started in 1985, Schweikhardt says. "We are looking at environmental problems in agriculture very differently than we did in 1985 when the original CRP was created," he says. "At that time there was major concern about soil erosion as an environmental problem, but since that time we've also become concerned about groundwater contamination, runoff into surface waters and animal manure management."

In addition, the conservation compliance program incentives were limited to growers of a commodity such as wheat or corn but no incentives or benefits were offered to growers who grew non-compliance program commodities such as cherries, sugar beets or tomatoes. EQIP and other NRCS programs are open to all commodity growers.

"I do think this new program offers an extremely important, even critical, opportunity for agriculture," Schweikhardt says. "If we want agriculture to continue without an unreasonable level of regulation, this program is going to have to show progress on dealing with environmental problems."

"It's extremely critical that this program succeed and that we demonstrate that a program of incentives and flexibility that address a wide variety of environmental problems can work."

"If we don't demonstrate that such a program will work, I do think down the road there is the possibility of a stronger regulatory approach and so I see this as a real prove-it drill for agriculture to demonstrate that it can use a flexible system of incentives to try to achieve the objectives of a cleaner, more wholesome place to farm," Schweikhardt says. ■



The ecological importance of wetlands is increasingly apparent as wetlands become scarce. Wetlands provide wildlife habitat, recharge groundwater supplies, filter impurities from surface water and serve a variety of other valuable functions. With EQIP, wetland can be created, restored or improved.

### Locally led conservation is back!!

by Martha La Forest, Special Projects Coordinator, Michigan Association of Conservation Districts

When Conservation Districts were created during the dust bowl days of the 1930s, their main purpose was to set priorities and carry out conservation programs based on local conditions and needs. However, the 1985 and 1990 Farm Bills, the 1987 Clean Water Act amendments, and the 1990 Coastal Zone Act significantly changed the way conservation needs were addressed. These and other programs were driven largely by national priorities, not by local needs.

The 1996 Farm Bill signaled a shift back to the original method of locally led conservation. Elected officials have reaffirmed that local leadership and grass roots decision-making are the keys to successfully managing our natural resources. Congress has emphasized the need for close working relationships

among Conservation Districts, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Farm Services Agency and other government agencies. To facilitate this, Conservation Districts have been asked to establish Local Work Groups comprised of community leaders who provide input on local natural resource concerns.

The St. Joseph County Conservation District has discovered that establishing a diverse Local Work Group provides an opportunity to strengthen existing partnerships and establish new ones. "The more people you involve, the better your program is going to be," explains Tegan Stuby-Young, Administrator of the St. Joseph County Conservation District. "We have leaders from the Parks and Recreation Dept., Health Dept., County Commission, Drain Commission, numerous Sportsmen and Conservation Clubs, not to mention the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, Farm Bureau, and the Michi-

gan Audubon Society sitting around the table discussing natural resource issues in the county."

What the St. Joseph County Local Work Group found is that natural resources are inter-related. Problems with one resource can impact multiple resources. After many hours of deliberating, the Group came to consensus on their top five natural resource concerns:

#### Fragmentation of Forest Land

Forest land is increasingly being converted to agricultural and development uses. It is anticipated that woodland loss will continue as development pressure increases and the agricultural economy improves. Fragmentation is occurring as woodlands are being split from one owner to many via housing developments.

#### Lack of Land-Use Planning

Land-use planning fails to place a commitment to natural resources as development occurs

in areas other than planned residential communities. This is especially evident around lakes, rivers and streams.

#### Loss of Topsoil Due to Wind Erosion

Productive topsoil is blown from plowed and unprotected fields during periods of high winds. This is evident from the soil found in ditches, complaints from non-agricultural residents, and accidents caused by blowing topsoil.

#### Protecting Groundwater Quality

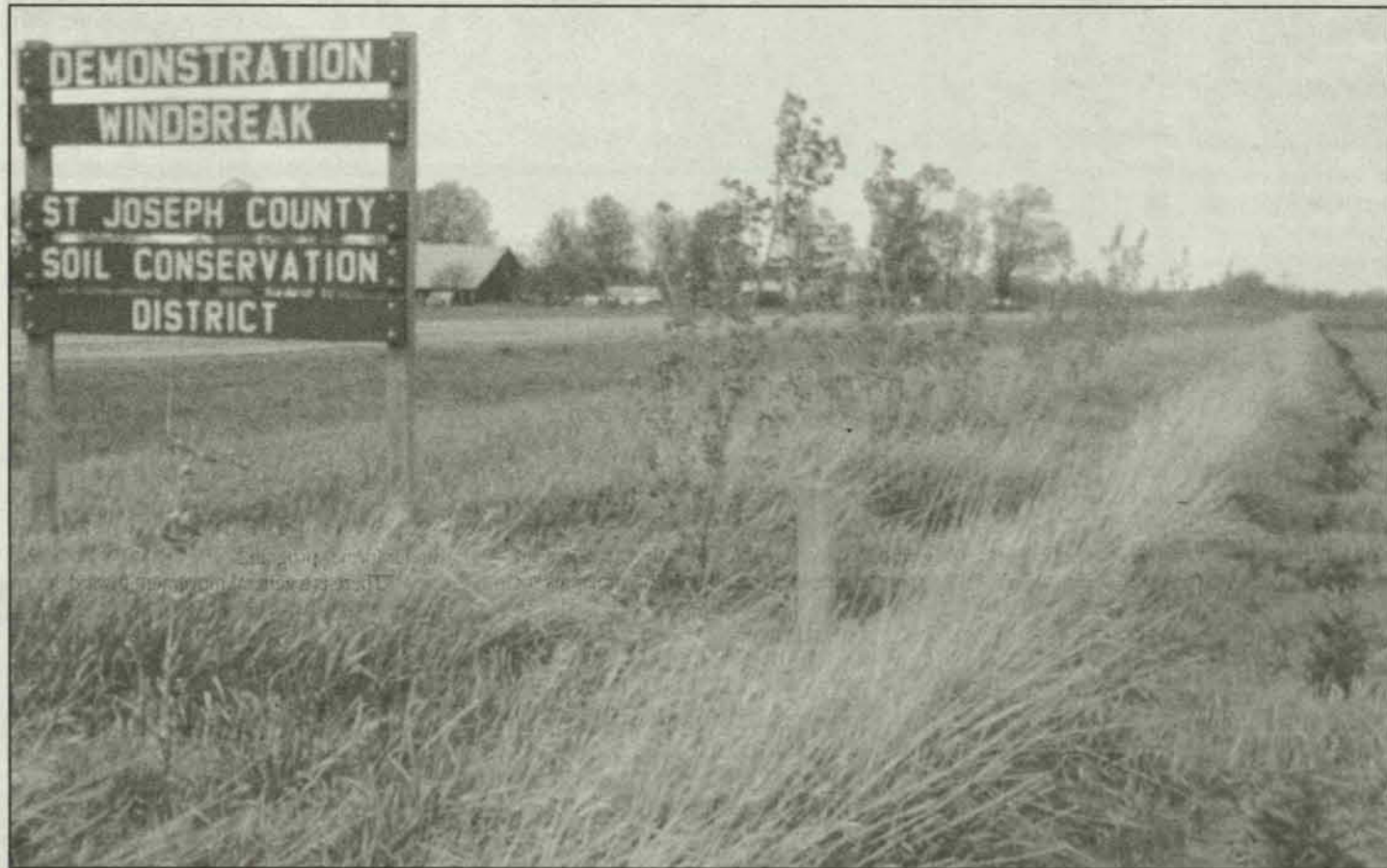
Contamination of ground and surface water by non-point pollutants is occurring county-wide. It is particularly evident during July through August when agricultural, residential, and recreational activities are at their peak. Groundwater contamination is also occurring from other sources than non-point pollutants such as areas that store fertilizer, chemicals, and fuel.

#### Lack of Corridors for Wildlife Habitat and Declining Habitat

Development and poor management practices are destroying wildlife habitat. Agriculture and development throughout the county have gradually taken over areas where wildlife once lived, such as fencerows and wooded areas.

The St. Joseph County Local Work Group will look toward several state and federal programs that offer solutions to solve these and other natural resource problems. They include the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a program to retire environmentally sensitive cropland; Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), a program to restore cropland back to wetland conditions; Groundwater Stewardship Program, a program to protect groundwater; 319 Water Quality Program, a program to plan and implement non-point pollution controls on a watershed basis; Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) a program to provide cost-share funds for best management practices to protect all natural resources; Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), a program to provide cost-share for the development of wildlife habitat. Additional resources are also available through the Environmental Protection Agency, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, and other state and local organizations.

Once plans are written, submitted and approved, dollars will be provided to implement programs that address these concerns. Innovative solutions, developed through teamwork, can be used to maximize benefits to multiple resources. Another example of Conservation Districts leading the way. ■



This windbreak was a demonstration project in St. Joseph County. As it matures it will serve an additional function as wildlife habitat.

### EQIP: What it means to farmers

by Kevin Kirk, Michigan Farm Bureau

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a new program under the 1996 Farm Bill. It provides technical, financial and educational assistance for farmers to address natural resource concerns. Some more pressing natural resource concerns are soil erosion, water quality and quantity, wildlife habitat, wetlands and grazing lands. Protecting our natural resources will provide a future for the next generation of farmers. This philosophy has always been important to Michigan farmers.

The EQIP program is USDA's largest conservation program designed to conserve and improve land while it remains in production. To qualify for EQIP consideration, producers must have a site-specific conservation plan developed in cooperation with local NRCS staff. The plan must protect the soil, water, or related natural resources in a way that meets the purpose of the program. The plan becomes part of an EQIP contract. The contract specifies the cost-sharing or incentive payments the producer will receive in return for applying the needed conservation practices. A key advantage to the conservation plan is that it is designed for the individual farm by local people whom producers know and trust.

Producers have various reasons to be reluctant to apply certain conservation practices, even

when there may be financial benefit in the near or long term from adopting the practices. Typically,

producers do not feel comfortable when it comes to contracts with the government. There is a hidden fear the contract will be transformed into additional rules or regulations on their farm. Program participation in EQIP is voluntary.

EQIP is another tool for producers to use on their farm to help protect natural resources. By producers participating they will be showing non-farmers a pro-active movement to protect the environment. Today more than ever before agriculture has to be willing to show the neighbors positive measures being adopted on the farm to protect the environment

for future generations.

Michigan Farm Bureau supports the efforts of

EQIP. This program will help farmers protect the most important natural resources — soil and water. ■



This field in Jackson County provides a spectacular view of contour strip cropping in use.

## The rest of the story — other farm bill conservation programs

**T**here are other farm bill conservation programs out there that may assist producers with conservation efforts. The following is a summary of the other farm bill conservation programs with reference to what is happening with these in Michigan.

### Conservation Reserve Program

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) reduces soil erosion, protects the nation's ability to produce food and fiber, reduces sedimentation in streams and lakes, improves water quality, establishes wildlife habitat, and enhances forest and wetland resources. It encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as tame or native grasses, wildlife plantings, trees, filterstrips, or riparian buffers. Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract. Cost sharing is provided to establish the vegetative cover practices.

#### In Michigan —

There is a continuous sign-up available for riparian area protection with cost-share available for eligible practices. Sign-up period 15, the previous general sign-up period ending March 31, 1997, enrolled 42,039 acres into CRP.

### Emergency Conservation Program

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides financial assistance to farmers and ranchers for the restoration of farmlands on which normal farming operations have been impeded by natural disasters. ECP also helps with funds for carrying out emergency water conservation measures during periods of severe drought. Emergency conservation assistance is available for removing debris and restoring permanent fences, terraces, diversions, irrigation systems, and other conservation installations. Conservation problems that existed before a disaster are not eligible.

### Emergency Watershed Protection Program

The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program is designed to reduce threats to life and property in the wake of natural disasters. It provides technical and cost sharing assistance. Assistance

includes both removing and establishing vegetative cover; gully control, installing streambank protection devices; removing debris and sediment; and stabilizing levees, channels, and gullies. In subsequent storms, EWP projects protect homes, businesses, highways, and public facilities from further damage. The Secretary of Agriculture may purchase floodplain easements under EWP.

### Farmland Protection Program

The Farmland Protection Program provides funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farmland in use. Working through existing programs, USDA joins with State, tribal, or local governments to acquire conservation easements or other interests from landowners. USDA provides up to 50 percent of the costs of purchasing the easements. To qualify, farmland must: be part of a pending offer from a State, tribe, or local farmland protection program; be privately owned; have a conservation plan; be large enough to sustain agricultural production; be accessible to markets for what the land produces; have adequate infrastructure and agricultural support services; and have surrounding parcels of land that can support long-term agricultural production.

#### In Michigan —

A \$1 million grant was received by Michigan to implement this program in 1996. Peninsula Township, located north of Traverse City, has been very successful in purchasing the development rights in the township for the protection of very unique and



Wildlife conservation organizations such as Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever are active partners in conservation planning for wildlife habitat.

productive fruit-growing lands.

### Forestry Incentives Program

The Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) supports good forest management practices on privately owned, nonindustrial forest lands nationwide. FIP is designed to benefit the environment while meeting future demands for wood products. Eligible practices are tree planting, timber stand improvement, site preparation for natural regeneration, and other related activities. FIP is available in counties designated by a Forest Service survey of eligible private timber acreage.

#### In Michigan —

During fiscal year 1997, \$54,000 has been allocated for landowners to establish or improve forested areas on their land.

### Small Watershed Program (PL-566)

The Small Watershed Program works through local government sponsors and helps participants solve natural resource and related economic problems on a watershed basis. Projects include watershed protection, flood prevention, erosion and sediment control, water supply, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, wetlands creation and restoration, and public recreation in watersheds of 250,000 or fewer acres. Both technical and financial assistance are available.

### Wetlands Reserve Program

The Wetlands Reserve Program is a

voluntary program to restore wetlands. Participating landowners can establish conservation easements of either permanent or 30-year duration or can enter into restoration cost-share agreements where no easement is involved. In exchange for establishing a permanent easement, the landowner receives payment up to the agricultural value of the land and 100 percent of the restoration costs for restoring the wetland. The 30-year easement payment is 75 percent of what would be provided for a permanent easement on the same site and 75 percent of the restoration cost. The voluntary agreements are for a minimum 10-year duration and provide for 75 percent of the cost of restoring the involved wetlands. Easements set limits on how the lands may be used in the future. Restoration cost-share agreements establish wetland protection and restoration as the primary land use for the duration of the agreement. In all instances, landowners continue to control access to their land.

#### In Michigan —

In 1997, 19 contracts for WRP were entered into by landowners for a total of \$3 million to establish, restore or improve 4,000 acres of wetlands. Sign-up is continuous for WRP.

### Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program provides financial incentives to develop habitat for fish and wildlife on private lands. Participants agree to implement a wildlife habitat development plan and USDA agrees to provide cost-share assistance for the initial implementation of wildlife habitat development practices. USDA and program participants enter into a cost-share agreement for wildlife habitat development. This agreement generally lasts a minimum of five years from the date that the contract is signed.

#### In Michigan —

The final rules for the WHIP program are expected to be posted mid-July in the *Federal Register*. Shortly thereafter a 30-day sign-up period will begin.

Check out the Michigan Natural Resources Conservation Service Home Page at [mi.nrcs.usda.gov](http://mi.nrcs.usda.gov)



The Wetland Reserve Program provides assistance for the restorations of wetlands. To find out more about this program, contact your local USDA Service Center.