Outlook brighter for area farmers

By RICH SWARTZENDRUBER

As spring’s weather turns warmer, drying out the land and government aid checks arrive in mailboxes—Thumb Area farmers are looking more optimistically at agriculture.

A general feeling of depression just a few months ago seems to have turned 180 degrees with hopes of a better year in farming, according to recent chats with area farmers.

GETTING BETTER: “I was pretty depressed last fall but things turned rather pretty good,” says Dennis Fritz of Pigeon. He and his brother will increase the amount of land they farm from about 550 to 750 acres in the hope of 1987 being a better year for farmers.

The combination of federal disaster relief payments and the interest-free state loans have provided some operating funds to plant crops this spring.

“We had about 50% loss on our beans, but we got something out of them. You still have to take the loss, but (government aid) will still keep a lot of farmers in farming,” Fritz says.

GOOD YEAR DUE: Although last year’s rains washed away most of their crop, the Fritz brothers plan to increase bean acreage this year.

“It can’t happen twice in a row—it has to be ‘If it can’t happen twice in a row, it’s possible but unlikely.’ It’s possible, I believe, not likely.”

Farming is always a gamble with the weather, but he feels like the odds are in the farmer’s favor this year.

“I think we’ve been fighting the mud for so many years now, things have to be better this year, adds Fritz.”

HELPFUL BANKERS: Fritz also lauds the local bankers who worked very hard to keep him and his brother in business.

Helping farmers with their financial difficulties is a natural consequence of having a locally owned and controlled bank, according to Thumb National Bank Chairman and Senior Loan Officer Arthur “Bud” Luedke.

“If the farmer doesn’t survive, no one on Main Street will survive,” he says.

With between 60% and 90% of all Thumb National loans going directly to farming—plus all ag related because of the importance of farming in the Thumb Area—Thumb National took their eye off the bottom line and considered the economic survival of the community, he says.

LITTLE PROFIT: Many larger banks refuse to participate in the zero-interest state loan program because low administration fees provide little or no profit to the banks channeling the money to farmers.

On the other hand, Luedke estimates $4 million in state loans are helping the community right now.

“There’s no profit in it for us, that’s for sure,” he says. Improving the economic situation of area farmers, however, helps the entire community, adds Luedke.

He says Pigeon business owners have noted an increase in sales to farm families as some money has been received through government programs.

FEELING GOOD: “The attitude is completely changed since the government money has come out. I’m much more encouraged now than I was Jan. 1,” he says.

The Board Chairman also points out no farmers owing money to the bank were forced out of business because Thumb National refused to re-finance their loan or foreclosed.

Still I think we’re going to come out of this okay,” Luedke says about the effects of last fall’s record-setter.

Pigeon Laundry & Supply, 1937, Home Improvement Show and Sale is going on this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at the Pigeon VFW Hall, and you’re invited.

Dozens of booths are offered for any type of new construction or home fix-ups.

See center pages for details!
Pigeon Lions Club PRESENTS: "LIONS HUNT" MARCH 31st 7:30 PM PIGEON VFW HALL

ARE YOU PREGNANT?

DO YOU HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE THAT COVERS PRENATAL DOCTOR VISITS?

If you don't, the prenatal/post partum care (PPC) program at the Harris County Health Department can help you receive early and regular prenatal checkups to increase your chances of having a healthy baby.

The PPC Program provides pregnant women with vitamins, physician visits and routine laboratory services FREE.

WANT TO KNOW MORE? To see if you are eligible, call 832-771-5888.

$2.50 DONATION CASH & MERCHANDISE

THUMB WEEKLY NEWS ROUNDUP

SMELT ARE RUNNING EARLY

Lake has become the ideal habitat for the smelt, which are known for their silver bodies and black stripes. The smelt season typically begins in mid-November, but this year, they have arrived earlier than usual.

The smelt are an important food source for many migratory ducks and other waterfowl that rely on them for nutrition. The early arrival of the smelt has already attracted a large number of ducks, and the smelt population is expected to grow significantly over the coming months.

AAIR BASE CLOSING REPORTED

The Air Force has announced plans to close its Fort Knox Air Force Station during the next few years. The station, which has been in operation for over 50 years, is located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains near the border of Nevada and California.

The closure is part of a broader plan to reduce the number of military bases and facilities across the country. The Air Force has identified Fort Knox as one of the facilities that will be closed, and the station is expected to be decommissioned by 2025.

HURON DUMP SITE CLOSED

Mayor Bruce Hall of Huron, South Dakota, has announced that the city's dump site will be closed to new customers. The city has identified a new location for the dump site, and the transfer will be completed by the end of the year.

The new facility will be located on the outskirts of the city, and it is expected to be operational by the beginning of 2022.

FAIR HAVEN SEEKS MILLAGE

Huron County Clerk Dennis Lamber, in a letter to the Fair Haven Board of Education, has requested that the school district seek a millage increase. The request is in response to a report that the district is facing budget constraints.

The proposed millage increase would raise taxes for property owners in the district. The amount of the increase has not been determined, but it is expected to be in the range of 1-2 mills.

THE MOUNTAIN EXCHANGE LISTED

The Mountain Exchange, a local business in Fair Haven, has been added to the list of companies that can be purchased through the Mountain Exchange. The company has been in operation for over 20 years and offers a wide range of products and services.

The company's listing on the Mountain Exchange is expected to increase its visibility and attract new customers.
Airports questions up in the air...

As seen editorially

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Nearly everyone in the Western Thumb region has heard about the proposed airport near the ferries and oniche Airport, but few know that a proposal for an airport near the ferries and oniche Airport is also being considered.

The proposal, which was made by a local group, would create a small community airport that would be used primarily for private aircraft. The group has been working on the proposal for several years, and has received support from some local residents.

However, the proposal has also met with opposition from some who believe that an airport in the area would be detrimental to the environment and public health. Some have also expressed concern about the potential noise pollution that an airport could cause.

The proposal is currently in the planning stage, and it is not clear if it will be approved by local officials. However, the ongoing debate about the airport highlights the importance of considering the impact that development can have on the community and environment.
Parent Prep classes begin at Scheuer.

The Spring season of State Farm Life Insurance
Preparedness Classes begins with a
series of classes designed to
prepare you for the year ahead.

The first class is offered on
Wednesday, March 9, and
additional classes are scheduled
for the following weeks.

Stop by to learn more about
how to prepare for the
season.

Parent Prep classes begin
at Scheuer.

The early warm
and sunny
weather makes
life better.

Winona Arriaga
Pigeon

It's warmer, and
the birds wake me up in the
morning.

Greta Dunn
Pigeon

I saw a robin and
there are lots of
sunflowers.

The grass is getting
greener and the
days are getting
gray and longer.

Loraine Fluegge
Pigeon

Spring Has Arrived And
Lee's Landscaping is
Re-Opening

Monday March 30th

Carrying a complete line of
Europe garden needs, soil,
bulk fertilizer, and lawn
and garden supplies. www.laleeslandscaping.com

Lee's Landscaping
44 S. Bayport Road
443-3919

Lake-Chandler news items

Lakeside Elementary School

Library opens at Bayport

Pigeon, April 14th from 10-12:00 PM.

Parents are encouraged to
bring their child to the
library and learn about
the new services and
resources available.

For more information,
contact Mrs. Thompson
at (902) 555-1212.

Pigeon news

- DOROTHY DEREK

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HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOW AND SALE!

Here are just some of the displays and specials at our show & sale, Thurs., Fri. & Sat.

Oak Doors
- French Doors in Oak
- Six Panel Doors
- Other Beautiful Products
- Such as interior doors & more!

25% off list price 80 styles available!

Pease Doors

Need a new door?
FREE handles-set
With purchase of a Beveled Glass Door

225 Free drawings
**$100, $75, $50.

FRANTZ GARAGE DOORS
See the latest IN Vinyl Garage Doors Long Lasting, Affordable Beauty
SPECIAL! Buy a Frantz Garage Door Opener Model No. 375 with one control - and get the second control free!!

Armstrong Ceiling Tile
TILE SALE AND FREE BLACK & DECKER GIFTS!
* See details at show!

50% off all Pennville kitchen & vanities
- Units and kitchen cabinets of solid wood construction
- Available in oak, cherry and pecan woods
- All our Pennville products, including the new beautiful entertainment center - at the show!

40% off Pease doors

Pigeon Lumber & Supply Co., Inc.

FOR THE LADIES:
FLOWERS - for the first 100 ladies on Thursday!

WIN FREE PRIZES!

Pigeon Lumber: Supply

AT THE SHOW, TALK WITH:
MORRIS REPRESENTATIVE: REYNOLDS REPRESENTATIVE:
LEE STEVENS
GERALD SCHULZ

STOP AT THE SHOW AND SAY "Hi" TO OUR PIGEON LUMBER GANG!

CIRCLE TOP WINDOWS
ANDERSON'S NEWEST ADDITION TO THEIR WINDOW LINE
INSTRUCTION OFFER:
33% OFF

INTRODUCING:
REYNOLDS ALUMINUM SIDING
LIFETIME WARRANTY
* Every vinyl or aluminum siding job ordered at the show will receive a FREE Shutters for the front of your home!

ALL NEW!
Pease Awnings
ON DISPLAY!
* Add new beauty...
* And weather protection...
To your home or business

INTRODUCING:
30% off all Andersen windows
- Including:
Bows, Bays, Casements, Double Hung, Circle Top, Glider, Awning, Reel, Box, Basement Windows and Patio Doors.

10% off wall-text
Wallpaper books
10% off plus $2.00 rebate per double roll

Do-It-Yourself Clinics
* Fri 1000 a.m. 

40% off pease doors

Pigeon Lumber & Supply Co., Inc.
**Cold spells freeze Lakers in regional hoop contest**

By RICH SWARTZENZUBER

The Lakers basketball team played inside a 1584x1008.0

The Academy squad enjoyed a surprise big win over our rivals, the Lakers, in the regional semifinals of the tournament.

**Progress-Advance**

**Sports of the Week**

**Lakers spikers fall in state semi-finals**

By RICH SWARTZENDURER

The Lakers volleyball team played well in the state semi-finals, but were ultimately defeated by the Regional team. The Lakers finished the year with a record of 14-6, 6-2 in conference.

**LAST GAME: Lakers' two Bear Cubs four out in a big win over the conference leaders, Eagan.**

**Bowl-a-thon coming**

The Michigan Farm Justice Coalition will hold a Bowl-a-thon on Saturday, March 31, at the Threshers Community Center. There will be four rounds of bowls, with a chance to win a prize in each.

**Sensor Fire:** In her last volleyball game as a Lakers, Anyone downs a spike past Rogers City's Ronda Santucci, finishing her career with an impressive 18-2 record and 182.7 assists, 31.9 blocks and 1.9 aces.

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Pigeon news

By DOROTHY DIENER

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stubblefield of Averytown and Dr. and Mrs. Paul Leffler, who had surgery in Boston, were called to Averytown recently.

The Country Goose

Spring Fabric Arrival

GREAT CHOICES OF CHAMBRAY Fabrics

Jared Material

Hawaiian Prints

Puff Shirt Shorts

Country Goose

Bag A Six 269-7661

Wallpaper Sale

SAVE 25%

OTHER BASKETS & BOWNS

ALL BUTTERCUPS $1.00

Handmade Easter Baskets & Baskets

THUMB NATIONAL BANK

"To Better Serve You!"

BEGINNING MARCH 20, 1987

PHONE 453-2323

SOUND-OFF!!

"To the people of all ages, we wish you all happy national holidays. Let's all be kind to each other and spread love and joy."

Dr. and Mrs. Paul Leffler

To the people of Eclipse who think their neighbors are not nice, I say they grow up.

SOUND-OFF!!

"I want my children to know that the way they behave affects others. Let's all be kind to each other and spread love and joy."

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On Casiove hill roll

The following students have earned a letter at the Casiove hill roll, a Mortic, a marking period, and their names are:

Kristen Ackerman, Emily Baker, Sarah Smith, Michael Price, and Tim Peters.


SPEAKERS: Kimberly Duff, Kristina Hornsby, James Johnson, and Jordan Smith.

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Considerable damage was caused to the Pigeon Police car in a result of a two-car accident last Saturday morning at 12:27 a.m. Pigeon police officer Jeffrey R. Wiechert, 25, drove the patrol car into the side of a car driven by Janice M. Schmidt, 18, of Pigeon at the intersection of Bermuda and Charles Streets in Pigeon. According to State Police Troopers Daniel Koerner and Clifford Coughard, Schmidt was northbound on Bermuda Street at the T-intersection of Charles Street, when her vehicle struck the driver’s door of the patrol car.

Both drivers were treated and released at Scheurer Hospital in Pigeon. There were no passengers with the driver of either vehicle.

Pigeon Police troopers had been following several vehicles during the evening. They then noticed them and was parked between silos on Co-Op Elevator property. In an attempt to observe and then follow these cars.

The Pigeon police department is currently using a patrol car on loan from Huron County Sheriff Department.

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**Tornado**

Keep Your Eye on the Sky!

Most tornadoes occur in the months of April, May, June, and July. In the later afternoon or evening hours, usually between 3 and 7 p.m.

**When a Tornado Threatens**

- Stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls. Protect yourself.
- In homes and small buildings, go to the basement or an interior part on the lowest level.
- Get under something sturdy.
- In schools, hospitals, and public places, move to designated shelter areas. Interior hallways on lower floors are best.
- In mobile homes or vehicles, leave them and go to more substantial shelter.
- If outdoors, with no shelter available, lie flat in nearby ditch, and shield head with arms.

This page is presented as a Public Service

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**County Emergency Service**

Call 269-6435

Huron County Emergency Service to report any unusual weather conditions.

**Michael Gage, Director**

**You Have No Seconds to Spare**

**You Must Be Prepared**

**Knowing the Difference Between a Watch and Tornado**

(Weather conditions are favorable for a tornado or severe storm.)

**WARNING**

(A tornado has been detected either by radar or visible sighting and one should prepare to take cover.)

May Save Your Life!