

# No Rubber Stamps at Annual

Standing wearily after nearly 10 hours of delegate sessions at the MFB Annual Meeting, President Elton Smith said, "You can never tell what the controversial issues will be at a Farm Bureau meeting."

Smith was reflecting on the constant scrutiny of the delegates which lead Smith to Call the '73 assembly the best he ever chaired.

While resolutions concerning such well publicized issues as land use, land waste disposal and international trade passed easily, resolutions on lesser known issues came under heavy fire.

The most volatile issue revolved around a newly proposed Michigan Department of Agriculture requirement to put recording thermometers on Farm Bulk milk tanks.

A chorus of protest rang from the delegation asserting that the resolution drafted by the state Policy Development Committee could be read as an unquestioning support of the proposed MDA regulation.

Richard Wieland, MFB Board member and Dairy Committeeman, supported the idea of the regulation saying that it would curb quality problems and prevent the defection of milk customers to substitute products.

A number of delegates said, however, that under the present proposals the quality of the milk was not assured after it left the farm.

A reworked solution was sub-

mitted to the delegation after the debate and it was accepted.

It stated that IF recording thermometers will be required, they must be required in all segments of the industry and all imported dairy products must have been under the same quality controls.

Delegates did act on some well known issues of the day. Reacting to the announcement that the country would go on daylight savings time in January, the delegates resolved that Michigan should go into the Central Time Zone.

An MFB resolution on land waste disposal was easily adopted.

Many delegates had been helped in their decision by attending a standing-room-only seminar the day before which featured the pros and cons of land disposal.

The adopted resolution allowed that such disposal of wastewater could be beneficial to agriculture but insisted on voluntary, private participation of farmers and local governments with proper payments for crop and land damage as well as flexibility in application schedules.

The delegates also supported the formation of a central land use office and commission with agricultural representation. The resolution made preservation of prime farmland and assessment of farmland at agricultural value as the basis for land use planning and the maintenance of compensation to and appeal private landowners essential.



**HEAVY TRAFFIC.** During the height of the controversy of milk temperature regulations at the MFB delegate session last month, regional representative Don Atkinson (right) is kept busy controlling the flow of delegates to the microphone.

With large numbers of producers frustrated by overdue payment for produce from processors, the MFB delegates pushed a resolution through which called for legislation requiring that farmers be paid within 30 days of sale of fruits and vegetables and within 10 days of egg sales.

The delegation also ruled heavily to exclude floor amendments to a probate resolution that would support specific moves to set up a public means of settling estate matters through special county

offices and thereby avoid lawyer fees.

While delegates questioned the legality of such specific moves, they did come out in favor of more equitable and prompt settlements.

### Repeal OSHA Move

Rather than try to eradicate laws dealing with farm labor, the delegates chose to modify them in a positive manner.

A stand up vote soundly defeated a move to support the repeal of the Occupational safety and Health

(Continued on page 6)

## National Delegates Chosen

Five Michigan delegates are ready to head to Atlantic City to support Michigan viewpoints at the AFBF convention on Jan. 13-17.

The delegates, all selected from the MFB Board of Directors by fellow members, are; President Elton R. Smith, Dean Pridgeon, John Laurie, James Sayre and Larry DeVuyst.

The entire Board reviewed AFBF policy resolutions after President Smith returned from a state FB president's meeting in Chicago.

Smith traveled to the meeting shortly after the conclusion of the MFB Annual Meeting with national and international resolution passed by MFB delegates.

Among recommendations to the national committee were suggestions on the railroad crisis. The recommendation urged the blocking of automatic abandonment of trackage and discouraged complete nationalization of railroads.

Tax incentives for rail service were suggested and government loan guarantees were recommended for acquisition of rolling stock in order to avoid car shortages at harvest.

On the international front, countervailing duties were suggested as a weapon against subsidized products imported to the U.S. Export controls were condemned and government run grain reserves were opposed on either a national or international scale.

The delegates also prodded for a national program of brucellosis eradication and put out the idea of a national egg promotion for consideration.

## MFB Board has Two New Faces

Two new faces made their way on the MFB Board of Directors at the December annual meeting, but Board members and officers otherwise remained the same as Elton R. Smith was unanimously proclaimed president for his ninth year.

Gerald Elenbaum, 41, of Huron Co. became the new at-large director as he won a ballot election among delegates over David M. Diehl.

Diehl, 28, was named by the Board last September to fill the

seat upon the resignation of Calvin Lutz.

Wayne Wood, 30, of Sanilac Co. became the other new member of the Board when he was elected to replace William Spike, 30, who had reached his limit of service as the Young Farmer representative to the Board.

The Shiawassee resident Spike retained a seat on the Board, however, by gaining the district 5 directorship after David Morris, 46, of Clinton Co. decided not to run after 10 years at the post.

Elenbaum who was told of his election to the Board as he sat at the MFB Policy Development Committee table during the delegate session has been on the MFB Wheat Marketing Advisory Committee and was President of the Huron County Farm Bureau.

He conducts a diversified farm raising 400 acres of navy beans and lesser amounts of sugar beets, corn and other grains. He is presently on the Sebawaing Sugar Beet Growers Board and the Pigeon Co-op Elevator Board.

Like Elenbaum, Wayne Wood

served on the State PD Committee this year. Wood moved to the directorship from his position as first vice-chairman of the Young Farmer's Committee.

On his farm, Wood is predominately involved in dairying with minor interests in cash crops.



**NEW DIRECTOR GETS NEWS.** Gerald Elenbaum is left smiling at the news that he was elected to the MFB Board of Directors at the delegate session during the MFB Annual Meeting last month in Grand Rapids. Elenbaum who was serving with the state PD committee is flanked by Jan McMichael and Myron Kokx also the PD Committee.

Photo by Marcia Ditchie



Wayne Wood

# What We Face in 1974

The year 1973 provided issues that allowed our organization to flex its muscles. It started in January with consumers talking about rising food prices. Then came the historic meat boycott coupled with price controls, threats of price rollbacks, the energy situation and much more.

And at each point there was a blending of effort to react to the issues. A well-informed staff working with dedicated members got into the act—they answered the challenge of today.

But the past accomplishments of a person or organization are simply the benchmarks of where we've been and preparation for where we're going. Let me explore with you just a few of the major issues, as I see them.

## TAXES AND LAND USE

We must take leadership in bringing land use to the attention of the public. This is the ideal time. With short supplies of food we have the public's attention.

Urban sprawl is moving steadily across much of our most productive farmland. This sprawl causes problems to agriculture, such as permanent removal of prime farmland from production, unrealistic and confiscatory tax assessment of farmland, and a number of social and environmental conflicts.

We need a program coordinating broad statewide guidelines for land use. Local units do have the right to move on land use but only about 10 percent of these units have adopted a land use plan.

We must also recognize that local control does not always mean that agricultural rights will be protected. Sprawling suburbs influence local government agencies quickly. Just a few weeks ago, a Michigan farmer lost in his battle to keep a grain dryer in its present location because his township board said it was too noisy and unsightly.

## FOREIGN TRADE

Statistics show that one out of every four acres of production go into foreign markets. Foreign trade isn't a nice thing to have, it is a necessity.

Many people think the way to improve our supply situation would be to curtail exports and regulate our imports. Such action would be disastrous.

First, we need government action which does not sell out agriculture in the current international trade negotiations. We need foreign trade legislation which will allow American farmers to compete. Sales can be inhibited by short-sighted tariff and quota policies.

We cannot look at foreign markets as dumping grounds. They are stable customers and we must treat them as such.

## ALTERNATIVE FUELS

Energy is another major concern to farmers. Government regulations, taxation, restrictive pricing policies and poorly drawn environmental legislation have caused oil drillers to stop exploration.

Other sources of energy will have to be used more fully. Using more coal could free up natural gas which is used to dry grain but more importantly is a raw product used to make nitrogen fertilizers.

To expand food production, we need to greatly expand ammonia production. This will require about 3 percent of our domestic gas supplies but 18 percent of our supply is being used to generate electricity. We must make officials recognize that there is an alternative fuel.

## WHO TO SERVE

Another basic question we must ask ourselves is which way will agriculture go? We are all familiar with the trends—the decrease in the number of farms and processors of agricultural products, the increase in farm size, capital needed, investment, dollars per farm, and corporations entering agricultural production.

It becomes obvious that if these trends are to be modified, then we as farmers must ACT. Nothing less than the basic structure of agriculture is at stake. As farmers, we must decide what we want, how to get there and then work to make our plan come true. We must ACT in regards to our own Farm Bureau. We must know where we want it to go, what it should be, who it should serve. This perhaps is one of the biggest challenges facing us.

# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



## underlines: We Like the Anthem

The following is a response to editor Terry Canup's "Underlines" in the December issue in which he asked that the national anthem be changed because he considered the tune to be difficult and of bad origin.

Dear Mr. Canup,

I am a great champion for a free press and the right to dissent, but in this case I feel it is only fair to explain that the topic you chose is somewhat of a sacred cow.

About six years ago one of the noted singers with the Metropolitan Opera Company (his name escapes my memory just now) wrote an article for Life magazine similar to yours. It was later re-printed in the Readers Digest where I discovered it.

So I got busy and wrote an essay on his article, categorically discussing his suggestions for a possible substitute. He mentioned America; America the Beautiful; God Bless America and the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

I sent my manuscript to Life magazine and it was returned with a form letter rejection slip that they did not plan to give the subject any further coverage. I considered that a downright violation of the Bill of Rights (allowing one person the freedom to use their publication to express a viewpoint, but deny it to another on the same topic).

My wife is a member of the VFW Women's Auxiliary and gets their monthly National Bulletin so it occurred to me that perhaps a patriotic organization might be more inclined to give it some attention.

Again it was rejected, but this time the editors sent a personal letter explaining that the subject got kicked around at the national conventions in recent years and I believe it was 1965 or 1966 that they adopted a resolution that no more consideration would be given to suggested revision of Star Spangled Banner or a substitute anthem.

Star Spangled Banner, lyrics and music as originally written and introduced were to be recognized as the official National Anthem forever. I think you will find the other veterans' organizations have taken a similar stand.

I would like to devote a little space to commentary in my essay. (The manuscript should be in my files of "near misses" somewhere): America the Beautiful, by its lyrical message and musical composition would be the most suitable alternate.

Battle Hymn of the Republic, while having stirring music, the lyrics are more of an evangelical motive than descriptive of the reason for nationalism. And remember, it was written during and for a cause of a divisive war. Hardly a topic to inspire a feeling of unified patriotism. And the music was not composed to fit the lyrics. Rather, Julia Ward Howe parodied "John Brown's Body" when she wrote the words. Battle Hymn of the Republic is an easy song to parody.

Six years ago I was working in a plastics factory in Lansing. Towards the last, one of my daily jobs was to mix the chemicals to formulate a catalyst for one of the types of resin we used.

One of my final acts on the job was to write the lyrics (4 stanzas) for "The Battle Hymn of the Laminators."

In closing, I'd like to say I'm not a gifted musical performer, but I don't resent the musical difficulties in our anthem, in fact, I'm esteemed to sing it to the best of my ability at every opportunity.

Yours truly,  
Stanley R. Pierce  
Williamston

No!, no!, a thousand times NO, NO, NO, NO, NO.

I disagree with you as strongly as I can protest about your column on the National Anthem. I've heard that old rot before about the beer drinking song, but that was several years ago, and no one is around now who knew it that way. There are also several beloved hymns of the Church that had the same type origin, but I don't want to lose them either.

I get chills up and down my backbone every time I hear it like it is, and I want to continue to do so. I'm not much of a singer, but I love to sing it, and I love it most of all standing in a football stadium hearing 70,000 sing it together.

There are those who have taken a lot of things away from me that I

love... Don't try to take away a tune that is loved by millions just because a few folks find it hard to sing. That's the problem with a lot of folks... They want the easy way out and want to do away with the hard ones.

Sincerely,  
Murray Miles  
Director of Information  
Tennessee Farm Bureau

## MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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Farm Bureau

## DONNA

### Community Group Booster Club

I'm partial to Community Groups. In fact, I've been the unofficial president of the Community Group Booster Club for—well, let's just say—a long time.

Back in Farm Bureau B.C. (that's before computers), we had a system that worked remarkably well. No girl, regardless of her qualifications, started out as a secretary. She had to work her way up. At the bottom of the ladder was processing memberships—making green x's in the proper year and date-stamping the member's card.

If you proved yourself capable of handling that job, you graduated to Community Group records—and the really bright ones earned their degrees in Blue Cross. With this system, we seldom turned out a secretary who spelled Roll Call—role call, or Farm Bureau—farm bureau. She knew the difference between a new member and a renewal, and that when the boss said "B.S.," he was not abbreviating an oath, but rather was referring to Blue Shield.

It was while I was in Phase II of Farm Bureau orientation—Community Group records—that I became a C.G. Booster and learned what the organization was really all about.

Here were real people, talking to ME—and I listened. I heard their views on whatever topic was on the front-burner, drooled over their homemade refreshments, and laughed about their recreation.

This particular chapter of my Farm Bureau education left such an impression on me that later I

wrote my "thesis" on Community Groups, published in the widely-circulated Michigan Farm News with a bold-face type by-line. Community Groups, I dissertated, were the "backbone" of Farm Bureau.

But like many so-called "experts," I hadn't really been there. Just recently, that gap in the organization's continuing education course was filled when I visited a brand-new Community Group in Livingston Co. They're new in lots of ways—newly organized (not even a name yet)—some new to Farm Bureau, some new in member-involvement. Most of them are also newly-married, but there's one handsome, young bachelor to add an interesting balance to the group.

I learned that this group of young farmers organized mainly for two reasons: to learn what Farm Bureau is all about, and for its social benefits—a chance for neighbors to get together once a month, to gain something, to give something, to enjoy fellowship with those who have common problems and goals.

I also learned how to kill a skunk before it showers the hogs whose feed trough it is sharing, and what happens to city drivers who think sheer speed will take them through impassable country roads.

Most of all, I learned that I hadn't been wrong all these years. Daring the wrath of my English teacher, who would surely give me 20 lashes with her Strunk & White, I still say: "Community Groups are where it's at!"



The No-Name Group includes (left to right): Nancy Hartman, Kathi Peckens, Claude, Francis and Pat Palmerton, and Mike Hartman. Not present: Jim and Linda Duncan and David Peckens.

# CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith

## Where We've Been Where We're Going



**Super Sub**

MASA manager M.J. Buschlen got quite a reputation for being the fireman of the podium last month. When snow left Under Secretary of Agriculture Phillip Campbell stranded in Detroit, Buschlen filled in at the MFB Annual Banquet in Grand Rapids. A week before, Buschlen stepped in for Gerald Ford who was unable to attend the Michigan Horticulture show in the same city.

**JANUARY--A LOOK BACK AND AHEAD**

January was the first month of the Roman year; and the word is derived from Janus, a two-faced god with the ability to look both ways. So should we look back at some of the legislative accomplishments of the first half of the 77th Legislature and at the same time look forward to the issues that will be considered in the second half of the session beginning on Jan 9.

**TAXATION**

Major property tax reform was accomplished this year, the largest tax cut in Michigan's history. This has been reported in detail in previous issues.

The income tax exemptions were raised from \$1,200 to \$1,500 per person.

Intangibles taxes were reduced for individuals by increasing the exemption from \$100 to \$175.

Business inventory taxes were cut by allowing a credit against an income tax equal to 25 percent of the property tax on the inventory portion of their personal property. A provision was made, in some cases, for a credit equal to 20 percent of the Franchise Tax.

The major tax reduction involved property taxes, with tax relief equal to 60 percent of the excess of property taxes paid on a household over 3 1/2 percent of the household income, but not to exceed a total of \$500. As previously reported, the senior citizens' provision is more liberal, and also there are special provisions for disabled veterans and the blind.

The definition of the cash value in the tax statutes was changed to require, for assessment purposes, that consideration be given to "present economic income of land when the land is being farmed or otherwise put to an income producing use." This is an important amendment and could be helpful, but how much remains to be seen.

Other tax legislation included the creation of a "tax tribunal," providing a system for property tax appeals independent of the State Tax Commission.

There were also other assessment reforms. The House of Representatives passed a farmland assessment act (H. 4244) designed to provide a method of taxing farms only on their value for agriculture rather than some potential value, by a heavy bipartisan vote of 77 to 19. This issue will continue in the upcoming session. The Senate Taxation Committee has already written a substitute bill for H. 4244.

**ENVIRONMENT**

Several pieces of legislation were passed consistent with Farm Bureau policies, including the updating of water pollution standards laws to permit implementation of federal requirements by state agencies.

Amendments to the Air Pollution Act have been introduced for action next year to exempt "natural farm odors" from the act in order to prevent farmers from being sued because of farm odors.

One major legislative battle was the retention of farmers' drainage rights remaining under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture rather than being transferred to the newly created Land Use Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

Amendments were also made to the Horton Trespass Act including ATV's in the law, and more

stringent penalties were placed in the litter laws.

A great deal of effort has also been expended on the issue of city wastes and sewage being pumped on large areas of farmland for disposal. A bill ready for action next year has been introduced by Sen. DeGrow to require permission of local units of government before another unit of government can transport such waste products across the neighboring boundaries.

Legislation was passed to control serious erosion and sedimentation from highways, pipelines, and residential and commercial developments.

Agriculture has often been accused of being a major polluter through erosion. However, many other developments such as these have created many problems.

**Marketing Rights**

The passage of the Marketing Rights Legislation (P.A. 344) a year ago was the beginning of a long period of implementation. The board was finally appointed late in the spring, and the necessary rules and procedures were finally adopted in the fall. Immediately, MACMA's Asparagus Division applied for accreditation. Six other commodities have also made application.

A look ahead at future legislation indicates a need for other marketing rights legislation including requirements for prompt payment to farmers for their fruit and vegetables, legislation to require association fee collections when requested by the grower, and other legislation to require filing of contracts with an agency in order that fruit and vegetable farmers can be assured that contracts offered to them are uniform, fair, and equitable.

Other marketing legislation is needed such as amendments to extend the expiration date presently in the Marketing Rights Bill to assure an opportunity for a fair trial of this new concept.

**Education**

Major school finance legislation was passed, much of which was in line with Farm Bureau policy, especially the "equal yield" concept assuring school districts a \$38 yield per mill even though the valuation is much lower and would not normally yield that much. Provision is also made for a formula to assist in school capital outlay programs; and funding was provided for the new mandatory special education requirements, as well as other critical areas.

A look ahead, however, indicates that much more needs to be done in limiting the use of the property tax for school purposes.

**Energy Crisis**

Farm Bureau has been in the forefront during the past in the energy crisis with all-out efforts to do everything possible to assure the farmers of the necessary fuel for food production. Presentations were made before the Special Legislative Energy Committee, Public Service Commission, and the Special Task Force on Fuel Supply. Also, much work has been done in Washington, D.C., on obtaining fuel priorities for agriculture.

This will continue to be a major problem in the coming months. Presently, federal allocations are guaranteeing farmers 100 percent of their current needs for gasoline for food production. Farm Bureau is working to have this type of allocation extended to fuel oils, including diesel fuel.

**Other Legislation**

Included in this category are the passage by the Legislature just before recess of H. 5254, introduced by Rep. Young of Saginaw, changing the Gas Tax Refund Law to permit requests for refund up to one year instead of the present six months.

A statute was passed to require stores and restaurants to inform their customers whether their comminuted meats meet Michigan's high standards, which are much higher than federal requirements.

Dairy legislation was passed that was supported by Farm Bureau and dairy organizations bringing Michigan's cottage cheese laws into conformity with nationwide standards and also changing certain temperature requirements in the transportation of milk.

Farm Bureau supported programs for upgrading housing for seasonal workers was again funded. This program of matching funds has been most successful since its first passage three years ago.

Several other appropriations measure important to agriculture were also successfully funded including planning funds for a new MSU Plant Science Building; appropriations for agricultural research at the Experimental Station; and also funding of 4-H, FFA, and extension programs. Such appropriations must be strongly supported each year to assure initiation and continuation of research, etc., that is in the best interest of agriculture.

Michigan farm exports were given a shot in the arm by the creation of Michigan export offices in Brussels and Tokyo. The opportunities for overseas sales of farm commodities are unlimited.

Farm Bureau has also been a leader in promoting immediate dredging of the Saginaw Bay and the deepening of the Saginaw River in order to accommodate the larger oceangoing ships essential to the export of farm crops. This is a long term project that is progressing as rapidly as possible.

The foregoing is only a small portion of the issues that Farm Bureau has been involved with during the year. In addition to this, Michigan Farm Bureau's efforts in Washington expanded with especially successful efforts being made in the rejection of unrealistic regulations first promulgated by the EPA and other regulative agencies.

## Better Fuel Deal Sought

Agriculture has no real priority in the allocation of distillate fuels under rules that were put into effect Dec. 27 by the federal government, legislative counsel Robert E. Smith says.

The category two rating that agriculture was given for distillate fuels allows farmers 110 percent of the fuels they used in the base period of 1972, if available.

Agriculture is enjoying a category one status in regards to gasoline, propane and residual fuel oil allocation which allows farmers to use all they need for current needs, if available.

Robert Smith said Farm Bureau was currently contacting Washington in an attempt to extend the Category No. 1 to diesel fuels so that farmers may have a meaningful priority status for such fuels. AFBF President William Kuhfuss is chairing an agricultural advisory committee chosen by the Federal Energy Office which will inform the office of agricultural needs. The 22-man committee includes leaders from most major

commodity groups including the president of the Michigan Milk Producers Association, Glen Lake, who will be representing the National Milk Producers.

One proposed move that could pose shorter supply or higher costs of fertilizer for farmers is a tax on excess use of natural gas for commercial users. In this case, a tax could be imposed on anyone producing over 90 percent of last year's use of natural gas.

Natural gas is a prime ingredient in many fertilizers and an increase in fertilizer production is needed to fulfill the goal of increased food production in 1974.

Reassuring words are still coming out of Washington in regards to the fuel crisis. Assistant Agriculture Secretary Carroll Brunthaver said last month that he does not expect the US agriculture would be seriously hurt by the fuel shortage.

"If the oil problems do have a sharp economic impact," he said, "the US farmer's competition is likely to be hurt worse than he is."

## Rail Bill Compromise in Works

A joint Conference Committee is trying to resolve the differences between a House-passed bill and a Senate-passed bill for reorganization of the bankrupt Northeast Railways.

The senate last month rejected two provisions of the House bill and added 20 amendments when they passed their version of the bill. An effort to exclude what have been called extravagant provisions for displaced worker compensation failed in the Senate.

An amendment was added, however, which would put a moratorium on rail abandonments within two years of passage of the bill.

Michigan Elevator Exchange Traffic Manager, Gilbert Seely thinks a bill will be passed soon since pressures are building on the monetary situation of the Penn Central and Federal Court Judge John Fullam holds the power to liquidate the bankrupt railroads at any time.

In other railways developments, the East, West and South district railroads of the US have filed for a 10 percent increase in rail rates for export grain and a 5 percent general rate increase to become effective Feb. 1.

These increases would be beyond those that are attributed to direct increases in fuel costs which can now be passed on with 10 days notice.

Gilbert Seely thinks that some increase will be allowed though not the entire amount requested.

"I think they will justify increases on the basis of labor costs, fuel costs, and so forth," Seely said.

The fuel shortage has not only increased the cost of fuel for railroads but has increased their business, as railways are being chosen over truck traffic in many cases. It is projected that the increase will soon reach about 15 percent of this factor.

## Task Force Likes New York Land Use Bill

Governor William Milliken promised Dec 5 that the state would act on proposals from the state Agriculture Task Force including a suggestion for land use legislation that would designate special agricultural districts to be protected from urban expansion.

The task force presented a copy of a New York land use bill as a prototype for Michigan legislation. The bill provided for county governments to draw up plans for agricultural districts and set up public hearings about the plans. The county would submit the plan to the state environmental commissioner who would assure that the district fell within state planning guidelines.

Farmland within districts would

retain agricultural land tax assessment regardless of conditions of land surrounding it. The environmental commissioner has to be given notice of non-farm improvements on land by public agencies and, under the legislation, the commissioner can ask the state attorney general to halt any violations of the agricultural district agreement.

Other land use proposals by the task force headed by former MFB Secretary Manager Dan Reed included a suggestion that farmers be allowed to sell land for subdivision in parcels smaller than the presently stipulated 10-acre minimum. The force also supported the principal of prior rights

zoning to assure that farmers' operations aren't damaged because they offend new suburbanites in an area.

The force tackled the immediate problems of fuel and fertilizer shortages by asking for some assurances of the amounts of fuel and fertilizer that will be available so farmers can plan accordingly.

It also suggested that agriculture be on top of the list of priorities when making fuel available.

In regards to business practices, the force recommended that buyers who buy agricultural goods on any basis but cash be required to be bonded by legislation and therefore assure farmers that they will be paid.

# FBS Jenison Egg Facility In Ashes



MERRY CHRISTMAS. These fire fighters are spending Christmas Eve battling a blaze that completely destroyed the FBS Egg Processing Plant despite the fact that they arrived only minutes after the blaze was discovered.

Photo Courtesy of Grand Rapids Press

The Farm Bureau Services' Egg Processing Plant at Jenison, Mich., was destroyed by fire Monday, Dec. 24.

Clyde Springer, Vice President of Farm Bureau Services' Egg Marketing Division reported there were no injuries to employees. "The distribution of eggs to customers and picking up eggs from farmers will continue with a minimum of interruption," he said. "The egg industry has stepped in immediately to assist Farm Bureau Services. All of Services' retail stores will receive full order of eggs.

"Perhaps some delays will occur for about 10 days on certain grades, sizes, and types of packages. But, there will be no back up of eggs of farmers as they will be picked up promptly and processed. Farm Bureau Services greatly appreciates the positive and prompt assistance from processors and the many offers of help from producers who have

processing facilities. Patience and understanding for a short while will be appreciated," he concluded.

About 360,000 eggs in 1,000 cases, processing machinery, including two egg candling machines said to be worth \$72,000 each, and other equipment not yet evaluated were all lost. The total estimated loss is \$450,000 to \$550,000 worth of damage.

The fire was believed to have started in the furnace room and investigators are studying the details. The fire was discovered about 2:30 p.m. and firemen came from the Georgetown station only half-a-block away. The weather was not so bad as to hamper firefighters and adjacent Farm Bureau buildings were saved. At one point, office personnel fled the 14-year old, one story building. A close call was reported when the roof of the plant sagged six feet under the weight of firemen, but none were injured.

## Accredited Bargaining Possible Before Spring

Farm Bureau's dream of having a united farm front bargain for prices with processors may be only weeks from reality. Petitions concerning the issue are presently resting with the state's newly formed Agricultural Marketing Bargaining Board even while processors are negotiating contracts for potatoes.

Harry Foster of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association thinks a state accredited bargaining association representing the majority of all sizeable potato growers could possibly get into these negotiations. This would obviously enhance the bargaining power of growers and of MACMA negotiators who are presently bargaining for their own members.

Hearing regarding the definition of a potato bargaining unit were held Dec. 19 in Lansing and MACMA officials are hoping for an early decision by the marketing bargaining board upon the area to be covered by such a bargaining unit and the size of operations to be included.

Earlier in the month six MACMA affiliated associations petitioned the Board for bargaining unit definitions in their commodity groups. These groups included potatoes for freezing, kraut cabbage and pickling cucumbers bearing out MACMA intentions to have accredited bargainers for the early crops.

The large MACMA fruit groups representing apple, and red tart cherry growers also filed petitions along with the MACMA representatives of plum growers who were victims of low prices last season.

On the same day The Michigan

Asparagus Growers of MACMA applied for accreditation as the bargaining association for the asparagus growers unit that was announced. The group must now be able to show signed agreements with over half of the asparagus growers who produce 12,825 lbs. or more per year. The agreements must also represent over half the volume of these growers production. After fulfilling this requirement a hearing will be held and if no substantial opposition arises, they will be granted accreditation.

January hearings concerning the definition of five commodity bargaining units will be held as follows.

Commodity	Date	Location
Plums	Jan. 7, 9 a.m.	Lewis Cass Bldg., Lansing
Red Tart Cherries	Jan. 8, 9 a.m.	Watervliet High School
Apples	Jan. 9, 9 a.m.	Sparta Civic Center
	Jan. 10, 9 a.m.	State St. High School Gym, Hart
	Jan. 11, 9 a.m.	Park Place Inn, Traverse City
Cabbage	Jan. 4, 10 a.m.	Lewis Cass Bldg., Lansing
Cucumbers	Jan. 4, 1 p.m.	Lewis Cass Bldg., Lansing

## Marketing



## Picture

### Demand to Control Soybean Market

Prices of over \$6.00/bu. for soybeans next year are not compatible with projected market trends, says the vice president of Mid-states Terminals of which the Michigan Elevator Exchange is a member.

The Vice President, Clayton Johnson, said that just as demand controlled the price trends in the bullish market of last year, supply will be the dominating factor this year.

Johnson, who spoke to Farm Bureau members and delegates at the MFB annual meeting last month pointed to a possible carry out of 240 million bu. Johnson bases his predictions on the facts that exports are slipping and production is outstripping former estimates.

The executive said that overseas protein production is cutting into the US soybean markets. Brazilian soybean production is up, the Russians have good sunflower crops, ground nut production is good and Peruvian fishing prospects are showing signs of recovery. (Late reports indicate a possible doubling of last years take). Add to this the fact that energy shortages could cause a cutback in soybean crushing programs all over the world and it seems apparent to Johnson that the heavy supply factor that began to come through in August will continue.

"Demand wasn't satisfied until last August when supply finally became apparent and began to weigh on prices," Johnson said. "A bear market developed and while there has been periodic tightness and price corrections of significant proportions, such have to be labeled as 'jiggles' with the primary trend pointed lower."

Though Johnson feels sure that the trends point to lower prices, he stops short of actually predicting market reaction to situations.

"I know full well the market is an entity unto itself," he said, "and it will behave as it alone determines."

### Control of Futures Market Considered

A bill has been introduced in the US House of Representatives which would set up a new commodity futures trading commission. For control of all futures trading.

Sugar and propane gas are among the now unregulated commodities that would come under government controls through the bill which was introduced by Rep. M.R. Poage (D-Tex.).

The legislation which is directed at stabilizing erratic future prices has a provision which requires that all future contracts serve an economic purpose. This de-emphasizes the speculative role in the market.

The new agency would be given powers to prevent any trader from manipulating the market and would have special emergency authority to intervene in market activities. The agency would, however, be prohibited from setting margin levels for contracts.

A commodity investor protection corporation would also be set up under the bill to insure customers accounts and a grievance procedure for customers would be established.

The Secretary of Agriculture would serve as the chairman of the commission with two Democrats and two Republicans chosen from the general public by the president to fill the other posts.

MFB legislative counsel Al Almy reports that the AFBF has no set policy on the proposed bill but will be considering recommendations on it at their annual convention in Atlantic City this month.

## Supply

### Hardware

All steel products are very short including steel posts, nails, roofing, augers, feed bins, sheeting gates and siding. These products are on an allocation basis and supplies are expected to remain tight through June 1974. Aluminum supplies appear to be sufficient but will also be tight through June. Augers are on a 8-15 week delivery basis. Farmers are advised to plan their hardware needs three months in advance.

### Fuel

Farmers Petroleum finds oil products such as diesel fuel, heating oils and other middle distillates will be extremely tight. Farmers Petroleum has contacted the United States Department of the Interior as well as the Oil and Gas Departments in Chicago to strive for additional gallonage of middle distillates.



Gasoline is just plain short without much help in sight. Steel tanks, gas tanks, truck tanks are available but very short in supply with 3.5 - 4 months lead time. Farmers will have to be conservative in every way possible in order to have supplies for spring planting.

### Feeds

Extreme shortages of dicalcium phosphate and feed grade urea have developed across the United States, and we can see no relief in sight for the next six months. Other feed ingredients, although higher in price, appear to be adequate. Liquid protein supplement (LPS) appears to be adequate.

### Fertilizer

All anhydrous ammonia, urea and other nitrogen products continue extremely tight, and it appears they will stay that way

## Report

through the spring of '74 season. Phosphate continues tight, but there is some available because of Farm Bureau's CF Industry ties. While the potash supply is adequate, rail transportation is causing great problems on delivery.

### Seeds

In December there appeared to be an adequate supply of most grain seeds and soybeans. Field seeds, clover, alfalfa and grasses appear to be sufficient, but no surpluses are around and prices are higher.

### Chemicals

Now it seems chemicals are to be added to the shortage. Many chemicals such as Atrazine 80W, Aatrex 4L, and Lasso herbicides will be in great demand. Fruit chemicals will be in tight supply but should be sufficient and somewhat higher in price.

# Michigan Marketing Outlook

By Greg Sheffield  
Manager Marketing  
Services

## Wheat

Wheat supplies available to cash buyers are very tight in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. This situation is expected to continue through June with erratic future prices in Chicago.

The US crop was estimated at the end of November to be 360 million tons which is almost 10 percent more than the 1972-73 crop. There's a boost, too, predicted for 1973-74 of over 5 percent above the record 1972 season. While it was known that weather conditions improved, the large increase in grain production was not expected.

World wheat estimates are up according to AFBF reports. Apparently only Argentina has depressed wheat crop figures that are significantly lower for the 1972-73 crop. Party Secretary Brezhnev said USSR will have a bigger crop than last year to the tune of 10-20 million metric tons (2204 lbs. per metric ton). There are huge increases reported also in Australia and Canada.

In fact, the USSR is expected to be an exporter this year, while last year its imports surpassed exports by 12 million metric tons. The downward drift in prices from summer highs has been the result of this worldwide picture.

A narrowing of the price gap between wheat and feed grains has exporters concerned.

## Corn

Both corn and soybean producers are almost united in their holding of ownership of their producers. Selling is expected to pick up at the beginning of 1974, a new tax year.

In Michigan, shelled and ear corn totaled 15,398 million bu. in 1972 compared to 15,643 million bu. for 1973.

Nationally, old crop corn at the start of October totaled 707 million bu. and 37 percent less than a year earlier. Corn stocks on farms at nearly 403 million bu. were 46 percent less than October of last year. Stocks in off-farm facilities were down 19 percent to 304 million bu.

Exports are expected to be reduced even if shipping problems are overcome. The total exports may be less than one billion bushels. Hogs and cattle have not been expanding fast and the carryover of corn this fall may be substantial, but prices are not expected to fall drastically.

The US supply including the carryover from last year is around 6.4 billion bu., 4 percent less than last year. Domestic use for oats is expected to decline for the fourth consecutive year to around 746 million bu. Michigan's oats for 1973 were 13,793 million bu., down from 16,854 million bu. in 1972.

## Soybeans

During the first part of December export demands for soybeans were strong in both futures and cash. The energy crisis lent some confusion with a possibility of hexane shortages.

Hexane is a petroleum derivative essential in extracting soybean oil and its shortage would disrupt the production of oil and

meal. The president of a large grain company said that with the increasing numbers of livestock in Western Europe and Japan there will be continued demand for US feed. Despite the record soybean crop of nearly 25 percent more than last year's record, the domestic feeding of high-protein in 1973-74 will make about a 6 percent gain to around 19.7 million tons, according to the USDA. The USDA forecasts an 8 percent increase in US feeding of soybean meal. Prices are forecast at about a third lower than last season's \$230 per ton, Decatur.

## Cattle, Hogs, Lambs

Price rises are expected for fed cattle during the 1974 first quarter

because of fewer cattle numbers going to market. Later, the effects of the 6 percent larger calf crop should be felt. Consumer demand is down and job cutbacks plus recession bugaboos may cause workers to be more cautious in their purchases. Later, by June, short supplies will be increased by almost 10 percent according to one source. Pork demand continues good and hog prices should hold for some time. Heavy slaughter into December is not expected to blunt even heavier slaughter later on. Lamb supplies are to be reduced by 10 percent according to a reliable source, and this will have effects well into March.

Michigan eggs produced during

last October were 127 million or 2 percent less than during the same month a year earlier. The layers on hand were slightly less than 6.5 million, or down 2 percent from a year earlier. The egg-type chick hatch during October totaled 900,000 and down from 685,000 a year earlier.

The accumulated January through October hatch of nearly 7.8 million was only up slightly from the 7.7 million hatched last year says the Michigan Crop Reporting Service. Farm Bureau Services, Egg Marketing Division, quotations for eggs F.O.B. farm for eggs picked up on December 3, 4, 5, 6, 1973 were 60.5 cents doz. for AA quality.

# Here's the Facts on the Fertilizer Supply

In the past few years, Farm Bureau Services has encouraged farmer patrons to take their fertilizer early to avoid seasonal supply problems. This year it has become even more critical with the energy shortages and thus contributing to the shortage of raw materials for fertilizer.

Additional land that has been put into farming in the last year has increased the demand for fertilizer. This, coupled with governmental price controls instituted 2 years ago, has discouraged sales of fertilizer domestically. Canada, the major source of potash for the U.S., has also put restrictions on exports and a recent Canadian rail strike has kept the supply of potash away from the U.S. market.

## FARM BUREAU SERVICES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CF INDUSTRIES

Farm Bureau Services and 17 other regional farm cooperatives jointly own CF Industries, a multi-million dollar fertilizer corporation. Even during the last two years' when foreign prices were more favorable, all of CF's annual 5 million tons of fertilizer was sold to its members. In fact, CF Industries have been taking steps to increase production capacity the past two years. A new phosphate plant with a capacity of 500,000 tons will be operating in the fall of next year. A 1,000 ton per day urea plant will also be producing in the fall of '74, and over 60,000 tons of additional urea warehouse capacity have been added. Farm Bureau also added two additional bulk plants at Carson City and Gagetown to better serve our patrons.

## HERE'S SOME HELPFUL TIPS FOR SPRING

1. Have you land soil tested if it has been more than 3 years.
2. Follow the recommendations of your Farm Bureau dealer. He is knowledgeable in the types and amounts of fertilizer that will work best.
3. Plow in crop residues where possible.
4. Be careful of your crop rotation schedule.
5. Remember, proper timing of fertilizer application will reduce leaching problems.
6. Finally ... take your Farm Bureau fertilizer in December and January, the slower season for you and the dealer.

Through expansion of present and the building of new facilities, Farm Bureau Services will continue to be a leader in the Michigan market. We are proud of the confidence you have placed in us and we will continue to do everything possible to live-up to this trust.

Where Your Farm Comes First

**Farm Bureau**  
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC



## Reachin' Back

Ray Price stands in the spotlight and winds up one of his popular ballads for those attending the Farm Bureau "ACT" evening. The evening was part of the activities during the MFB Annual Meeting last month.

## Butz Vows Against Subsidies

US Secretary of Agriculture, Earl Butz, said last month that he had made it clear that America would "fight to prevent dumping of subsidized dairy products in the US" in his meeting with European agricultural leaders.

Butz asked American dairymen to support a policy of countervailing duties to avoid dumping.

"We must have some companion mechanism that protects our farmers against the threat of subsidized competition," Butz said.

The Secretary is advocating a policy in which the US could impose tariffs on subsidized products, such as European butter, so that prices would at least reflect true costs of production.

Farm Bureau, while not advocating protectionist policies, supports tariffs that bring about fair competition. Procedures for bringing about such tariffs are already established by law.

Along with proposals on duties, Butz advocated free export of agricultural products upon his return from Europe.

"If we were to restrict American agriculture from selling to the world economy," he said, "the shock waves would destroy our domestic economy."

## Wheat Supply-demand Balance

Amidst talk of acute shortages of grain in the 1973-74 crop year, the International Wheat Council



Earl Butz

## Two Bills Set Aside

## Export Controls Shelved

A bill designed to give the president more power to impose export controls was scrapped in the Senate Banking Committee, last month.

The bill, which was strongly opposed by Farm Bureau, had already been passed by the House. It was shelved when the Banking Committee claimed that present legislation gave adequate power for export control.

## Food Embargo Ruled Out

Leverage available to the Arabs through their oil boycott far exceeds any leverage that might be available to the United States through a food embargo, a Congressional study revealed last month.

It said \$5-a-bushel wheat can easily be purchased by Arabs with \$5-a-barrel oil. The report added that other grain supplies are available in sufficient quantities even though the Arabs might have to pay more dearly for them.

Experts have noted that it is unlikely that Western Europe or Japan would join such an embargo since they would only fear the crisis would be prolonged.

forecast a world balance of supply and demand for wheat this year.

After a meeting in London last month, the Wheat Council made public their expectations that record crops and reduced stockpiles among exporting nations would accomplish the balance.

The Council, however, warned that a continuance of the oil shortage could hamper ship movement and therefore the level of trade.

The USDA concurred with this view by estimating that American grain exports could be cut 20 percent by fuel shortages during this fiscal year. But Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz termed the projection an example of over-reaction to the fuel crisis.

"It would take a serious curtailment of fuel supplies for the current year to fall below last year," Butz said.

He added that agricultural fuel needs will be given top priority.

## MFB Delegates Say "No"

## Europe Wants Grain Control

Shaken by a year of protein shortages in which America holds the only world food surpluses and stands to receive high prices, Europeans are clamoring for world price and distribution controls.

On his return from trade talks in Europe, US Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz echoed the sentiments of many agricultural leaders when he said the US would oppose such moves. Butz said past commodity

agreements which set maximum and minimum prices have been unworkable and would only serve to freeze production patterns and limit trade growth.

Farm Bureau views such agreements in much the same way. Don Kunz of the Michigan Elevator Exchange claims that international agreements allow non-signers to take advantage of the situation and have never been in the interest of the United States.

"The US is the only country with sizable reserves, and when the price goes down we're left holding the bag," he said. "The only time commodity agreements are asked for is when the price goes up, other countries already have liquidated their stocks and again we're left holding the bag."

Concerning distribution control, Secretary Butz said the US would balk at giving an international agency control over any American

food production through a world food reserve, as French representatives suggest.

MFB delegates passed a resolution against such reserves last month.

Meanwhile, the US State Department took the initiative on the world food situation when Secretary of State Henry Kissinger proposed a special world food conference for next November.

This fall, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization approved the plan for the conference on securing adequate world food supplies.

An FAO conference report said the world food situation had seriously deteriorated over the past year, and a FAO department head added that a world food security policy would fill a gap in the world's institutions that had up to now been filled by the generosity of the US and Canada who made surpluses available to developing nations.



## Export Values Soaring

The USDA apparently doesn't believe fertilizer and fuel shortages are going to cramp agricultural production before July as they have forecast a huge jump in US agriculture exports.

The agency has projected a \$6 billion increase over 1972 figure to bring exports to \$19 billion dollars. This is a far cry from 1968 when AFBF delegates made what they considered a bold resolution when they set a goal of \$10 billion in agricultural exports.

Grain and feed exports alone are expected to equal that figure in the 1973 business year ending this June 30.

It is likely that the government will try to assure that the USDA prophecy is fulfilled since such exports should finally put the US on the plus side in its trade balance. Last year when US trade was \$3.5 billion in the red, the US exported \$5.6 billion more in agricultural goods than it imported. This year the figure is projected to be \$10 billion.

The agricultural trade surplus corresponds very closely to projected increases in dollar sales of grains and feeds which are to jump from \$5.7 to \$10 billion.

Fruit and vegetable exports are to be up slightly as are meat products, but dairy exports are to experience a slight decline.

Dollar figures don't imply a great increase of quantities of goods sold overseas, but rather reflect price increases, the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) reports.

The FAS cited tight world grain supplies, improved world economic conditions and realigned world currencies as major factors in the price hikes.

More trade with the USSR and mainland China has also been a great factor in recent trade. Though good crops in Russia may cause a \$300 million drop in exports, the Chinese may well take up the slack with purchases of over \$1 billion this year.

Japan, our top market, is expected to take a new high of \$3 billion this year and rumors in Washington have it that the USDA has counseled the Japanese to contract grain up to three years in advance to assure supplies.

October and November figures seem to bear out trade surplus trends but Arthur Burns of the Federal Reserve Board warns that the decline of oil imports due to Arab embargoes hides the true picture.

## Delegation Heard

(Continued from page 1)

Act which has been the source of numerous regulations for farm employers.

The motion, made by George Stofer of Berrien Co. was opposed by Mike Pridgeon of Branch Co. Pridgeon pledged support to fruit and vegetable growers, but said that asking that OSHA be repealed, would only erode Farm Bureau's political position in matters of farm labor.

A resolution was passed urging the lowering of the \$2,500 minimum wage base for workmen's compensation.

Unemployment insurance, (UI) for agricultural workers was opposed as a state program through delegate action. A resolution stated that Unemployment Insurance legislation should include all states in a federal program to assure that Michigan farmers would not be left with costs that farmers in other states don't have.

It was urged that labor housing be inspected by Department of Health inspectors rather than

Labor Department personnel and state funding for such housing was encouraged to continue.

Finally, it was stated that farmers should not be held responsible for illegal aliens employed by them as is being suggested by some legislators.

### Meat Packers Considered

Despite dissension, the delegates came out strongly against proposed federal requirements that meat packers be bonded. Gerald Elenbaum of the PD committee said that such bonding could put packers out of business.

Larry Klein of Kent countered, saying that if packers were that shaky financially, they were a risk to sell to. But the issue was resolved with a resounding vocal vote.

A study of the livestock packing industry was also urged by the delegates to look into the ever narrowing alternative markets to take livestock in Michigan.

## Ireland Typical of World Trend

The boom in feed grain prices isn't entirely a short-term effect. Higher standards of living creating a higher demand for meat and more modern agricultural methods are creating long-run upward demand for feed grains from exporting countries.

Ireland is fast becoming a classic example of the reason for this trend. The pastoral lands of Ireland have made it a livestock oriented country with exports of beef, mutton and hogs comprising close to two-thirds of its agricultural exports.

But Ireland's entry into the European Economic Community has brought about a movement towards increased livestock production and economists hope for increases between a third and 100 percent.

Expansion of livestock numbers has always been dependent of amounts of grass in Ireland, depending on feed grains only as winter supplements.

But traditional types of production and cattle breeds are rapidly changing in Ireland. Where once it was considered unprofitable to feed grain to cattle, a strong demand for

meat at unprecedented prices is bringing more farmers around to intensive feeding programs that give quicker turnover of stock.

A few American-style feedlot operations are even beginning to appear in Ireland—some with a capacity of 5,000 head per year.

Intensive operations are also being encouraged to help small pig and poultry producers who are restricted by acreage.

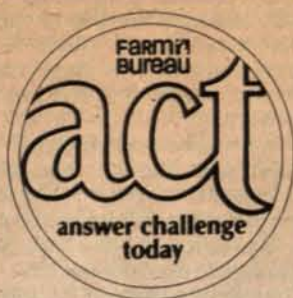
A million of Ireland's 2.3 million hogs now come from operations of 500 or more hogs and a .25 million are produced by a mere 28 cooperatives.

The US Feed Grains Council is presently pushing intensive fattening of sheep in Ireland. Though sheep intensification is the most difficult operation among livestock, it has demonstrated that returns per acre eclipse intensive beef programs.

Obviously, the higher numbers of livestock, increased milk production and the types of operations are increasing feedgrain demand in Ireland. Yet, cereal production in Ireland is on the decline.

By 1978, economists claim, Ireland will need 1.5 million tons of imported feed grains—triple current levels.

# MFB's 1974



# Resolutions

Every Farm Bureau member has an opportunity to take part in Policy Development. This can be done through county committees, community groups, county annual meetings, etc.

This year, recommendations for policies were sent in record number by the counties to the State Policy Development Committee, made up of farmers throughout the state. Many of these policies can be carried out through legislation and many in other ways at the local level.

The recommendations on national Farm Bureau policies passed by the delegates will assist Michigan's voting delegates in helping determine policies on national and international affairs at the AFBF Convention on Jan 13 - 17.

### PURPOSE OF FARM BUREAU

Farm Bureau is a free, independent, nongovernmental, voluntary organization of farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement and, thereby, to promote the national well-being. Farm Bureau is local, statewide, national, and international in its scope and influence and is nonpartisan, nonsectarian, and nonsecret in character.

### RECOMMENDATIONS ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The recommendations on National and International Affairs adopted by the voting delegates have been forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for use by the national Resolutions Committee, which is made up of representatives of every State Farm Bureau. Michigan's recommendations will also serve as a guide for our voting delegates to the forthcoming Annual Convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The National and International Policies adopted at our National Convention will serve as the policy for all State Farm Bureaus.

This is essential in order that there may be effective harmony and unanimity among Farm Bureau organizations throughout the Nation.

Michigan's recommendations on National and International Affairs are available to County Farm Bureaus and others upon request.

### FOREWORD

Farm Bureau members have experienced a most unusual year. Few of us could have foretold the price improvement, the hectic meat boycott, the price freeze with its market distortions, an energy crisis that is changing our lives, and the battle to prevent oppressive and unrealistic regulations on farmers at a time when the world faces a critical need for food. These are only a few of the issues that challenged our organization. Farm Bureau members, united as never before, met the challenges with integrity. Farmers, I believe, have gained a new respect and importance from the rest of our society.

Farmers must face and respond to new challenges every year. We will respond to the need for food by our country and the world with increased production in spite of shortages of many of the tools of food production such as seeds, fertilizers, equipment, and energy. Farmers, however, need assurance that our markets will remain open and not be subject to political embargoes. The best thing U.S. consumers have going for them is a profitable agriculture geared to production.

Farm people traditionally have attained high social standards in their communities. They are noted for honesty, assuming community responsibility, involvement in local government and schools and support of local churches. The strength of any nation is no greater than the moral fiber of its people. Farmers' contribution to the greatness of America, with their attitudes, beliefs, and skills is outstanding.

As we reflect on the achievements of this past year, we must give great credit to the women in Farm Bureau. They met the challenges and made use of the opportunities. With the image of farming at stake, they set out to communicate with the consuming public. They presented the farmers' story through public speaking teams, demonstrations, and other activities throughout the entire state. The united efforts of Farm Bureau women in behalf of agriculture make us realize that Farm Bureau is a family organization with men, women, and young farmers working together to build a better farm life and a better community.

Because of these goals, we put great effort into establishing policy for our organization. We know that policy only has meaning when it truly reflects the opinions and concerns of our farmer-members. For this reason, we put more effort into policy development than any other organization. Nearly 1,100 community groups, 69 county or regional Farm Bureau annual meetings representing 77 counties, and ten statewide advisory committees contribute recommendations to our Policy Development Committee.

The committee, to better recommend policy, goes to great lengths to inform itself, using over 50 resource people in addition to all the resources available in our Farm Bureau and affiliate companies.

The committee, after spending six days in deliberation, presents to the delegate body this, our annual report.

After consideration and adoption, this becomes the policy for 1974. Through the strength that comes from unity, we pledge to achieve our goals. Together, let's answer today's challenges.

Dean Pridgeon, Chairman

MFB Policy Development Committee

### APPRECIATION

During the past year the Michigan Legislature acted favorably on much legislation consistent with Farm Bureau policies, including:

1. Passage of marketing rights legislation (P.A. 344) enabling growers of fruit and vegetables to bargain with processors.
2. Major tax reforms including limiting property tax to a percentage of household income, raising income tax exemptions, and assessment reforms.
3. Major changes in school finance including passage of the "equal yield" concept.
4. Legislation controlling serious erosion and sedimentation from highways, pipelines, and residential and commercial developments.
5. Requirement that food stores and restaurants inform consumers if comminuted meats do not meet Michigan's high standards.
6. Livestock, dairy, and crop measures.
7. Continued appropriations for agricultural research programs at Michigan State University and "planning funds" for a new M.S.U. Plant Science Building.
8. Matching funds for upgrading housing for seasonal workers.
9. Maintenance of agricultural drainage rights.
10. Amendments to Horton Trespass Act and litter laws.
11. Continued support of 4-H and FFA programs.
12. Legislation and appropriations to encourage Michigan exports, including export offices in Brussels and Tokyo.

We commend the Governor and the Legislature on enactment of these and several other measures we have supported which are important to agriculture and to the economy of the State of Michigan. We also appreciate the fact that much proposed legislation not in the best interest of agriculture has not been adopted.

## Taxation

### TAX REFORM

The 1973 Legislature has made major progress in basic tax reform. These changes include increased income tax exemptions and adoption of the "circuit breaker" concept. For the first time property taxes are based, to some degree, on household income. The adoption of this basic reform measure along with others leads toward a better balanced tax structure for Michigan. We believe the following will continue the trend toward greater equity of taxation:

- New sources of revenue for local units of government in order to relieve property taxes.
- Continued improvement of assessment and equalization procedures.
- Permit assessment and taxation of new property for school purposes the first year it is built.
- Further limitations on property taxes for educational purposes.
- Use of the income tax as a major source of funds to finance schools.
- Assessment of agricultural land as farmland as long as it is so used instead of other possible potential value.
- Prevention of inequities arising from special assessments on property that receives no benefit from the project.

The balancing of Michigan's tax structure should result in every citizen paying his fair share toward the support of his schools and other local and state government services.

### ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY

Legislation was enacted that required all counties to have Equalization Departments by 1969. That same year legislation was passed requiring training programs for local assessors with certification necessary in order for a local person to assess property. Both programs have been only partially successful. Some Equalization Directors are doing a good job, while others have not been allowed to function. Some counties have all their supervisors certified to assess, while other counties only have a small percentage certified. We believe that property should be assessed by qualified, trained people working through a qualified County Equalization Director with the goal of having all property assessed fairly in a county and between neighboring counties.

We believe that well-qualified County Equalization Directors can assist properly certified local assessors whenever specialized knowledge is required. This will maintain local control and help assure equitable procedures. The new updated Assessor's Manual should aid local assessors to achieve more equitable and uniform assessments.

### AGRICULTURAL LAND ASSESSMENT

Confiscatory taxation and assessment of agricultural land has reached critical proportions. Latest published USDA data show that farm property taxes as a percentage of net income are now over 23 percent—four to five times higher than taxes paid by other segments of the economy! Open land, while being taxed to support services, creates no cost. It requires no services such as sewage, water, or schools and actually helps moderate a service load to the community. Agriculture—the basic

industry—is easily forgotten in land use planning, as it cannot be nucleated into great plants like steel and autos. It creates no commuting traffic jams and no parking problems. Farmers are the victims of an insidious "real estate roulette." Inability to pay the taxes forces selling, often to a developer with large financial resources who can afford to hold it for huge speculative profits.

Such tax confiscation of the value of land is no more acceptable than would be the confiscation of the value of other types of investment.

A proper tax structure can be an effective method of preserving the better farmland for future food needs. Such "green acres" and "open space" will also conserve water, help purify polluted air, and provide for esthetic and recreational values.

Many progressive states have recognized this problem. At least 32 states have taken action to allow assessment of farmland on the basis of its value for agriculture rather than potential nonfarm uses. For instance, Maryland law states that it is "in the general public interest... to maintain a readily available source of food and dairy products close to the metropolitan areas of the state, to encourage the preservation of open spaces as an amenity necessary to human welfare, and to prevent the forced conversion of such open space to more intensive uses as a result of economic pressures caused by the assessment of land at a rate or level incompatible with the practical use of such land for farming."

In other industrial states, urban interests, agricultural groups, environmental groups, government officials, and others have strongly supported such laws.

We shall continue to strongly support such legislation in the interest of tax equity and the present and future needs of our environment and exploding population.

### LAND USE

Land is a necessary resource to those who make their living from the soil. It is also a vital resource to the economy of Michigan and to the well-being of every citizen. The production of food and fiber on our agricultural lands contributes over \$1 billion annually to the economy of our state. Although only one out of 100 Michigan citizens operates a farm, 27 percent derive some part of their income from agriculture.

Less than 30 percent of Michigan's 36.3 million acres is agricultural land. Over eight million acres of Michigan's nearly 11 million acres of agricultural land are located in the 38 counties below the Bay City-Muskegon line. These southern counties have an average of 55 percent of their land areas devoted to agricultural uses, and much of it is productive farmland.

Urban sprawl is moving steadily across much of our most productive farmland. Each year, over 50,000 acres of farmland are converted to urban use. Without intelligently planned growth, the fertile land in no less than 20 counties could virtually disappear in less than 30 years. This sprawl creates a number of conflicts to agriculture, such as permanent removal of productive farmland from production, unrealistic and confiscatory tax assessment of farmland, and a number of social and environmental problems. Current land use programs within our state foster the continuation of such conflicts.

We support formation of a centralized state land use office and a land use commission, with agricultural representation and geographic consideration, with responsibility for coordinating the development and implementation of broad statewide land use guidelines to include such areas as agricultural land, urban development, recreational land, unique areas, forestlands, and utility and transportation corridors. Any statewide land use program should identify and encourage the preservation of productive agricultural land. Our state ranks fifth or higher in 17 farm products grown on a wide range of soils. Productive agricultural land should not be based solely on soil capability for one or two major crops.

The State should provide necessary guidelines and financial assistance to local governments to assure the implementation of adequate land use programs. The guidelines should be used to coordinate land use programs of local units of government. State land use programs should be instituted only if local land use programs cannot meet established guidelines. Protection against the taking of individual property rights without compensation and the right of individual appeal must be preserved.

Assessment of farmland at its agricultural value rather than potential use should be implemented to begin intelligent land use. Thousands of acres of productive agricultural land have been taken because accelerating urban pressures have caused assessments to skyrocket beyond the capability of returns from agricultural use. This must not continue while a statewide land use program is being developed. We strongly support legislation requiring the assessment of farmland based on agricultural use and urge that it be given immediate attention.

We urge Farm Bureau members to take an active part in land use planning at all government levels. If local land use control is to be maintained, it is imperative that local people accept the responsibility to plan the use of their land resources.

### MICHIGAN TAX COMMISSION

This agency of government has many responsibilities, many of which must be carried out without adequate staff. It must carry out the constitutional requirements and state laws on property taxation. The property tax, with its numerous inherent faults, complicates the Commission's job.

One of the major areas of responsibility is proper state equalization of the value of each county within the state. This is the third step in the assessment and equalization process, beginning with the local assessor and Board of Review.

The Commission also has the responsibility of judging appeals from individual taxpayers, townships, and counties. This is a difficult situation, as appeals often result from rules and regulations promulgated by the Commission.

We support:

- Legislation creating an appeals procedure assuring individual taxpayers and local governments an efficient and impartial procedure, thereby freeing the Tax Commission for other essential duties such as the equalization function.
- Legislation requiring the Tax Commission and all units of government involved in the assessment process to adhere to a strict timetable in order to assure the taxpayer his rights of appeal.

#### TAXATION OF MOBILE HOMES

Presently, mobile homes in trailer parks pay, in lieu of property taxes, a fee of \$3 per month. Two dollars of this amount goes to the school, 50 cents to the township, and 50 cents to the county. This fee system, enacted in 1959, is no longer realistic. The increased value of trailer homes is not reflected, nor do they contribute a proper share of the cost of schools and local government.

We support legislative action to increase the fee to a level in relation to the property taxes paid by other homeowners.

#### GAS TAX REFUND

We support legislation to amend the law so a farmer may apply for a refund on his state gas tax at any period of time up to one year.

#### FISH FARMING

Fish farming is developing as a food production industry in Michigan. Presently, fish farming is recognized as a farming operation for tax purposes by the Internal Revenue Service as well as a number of other states. We support legislation which would give similar recognition to fish farming in Michigan.

## Education and State Affairs

#### EDUCATIONAL FINANCE

Major changes in the financing of education were made during the 1973 legislative session resulting in a "new equity in Michigan school finance." Reforms included the initiation of the "equal yield" concept guaranteeing a specific dollar yield for each mill of taxation, a new formula for funding intermediate districts, and a formula for assistance for bonding millage.

While these and other changes are highly commendable, the property tax remains the major source of local school finance. Continued voter rejection of millage proposals throughout the state clearly indicates the need for further efforts in school finance and for educational reforms. Property taxes for this purpose are obsolete and do not have the capability to expand to meet increasing needs, nor are they a good measure of ability to pay.

We recommend:

- Continued efforts to reduce and limit property taxes for school purposes.
- Increased use of the income tax as a major source of funds.
- Expanded aid to assist in the cost of needed facilities.
- Sufficient funds appropriated to pay in full all state aid formulas.
- Legislation to require each taxpayer to identify his school district on his income tax form.

We believe it is possible to achieve further educational finance reform without eroding the fundamental right of the local community to determine educational goals within broad general guidelines provided by law.

#### EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

We believe that additional reforms should be made in our educational system.

We recommend:

- The present State Board of Education should be replaced by a bipartisan, odd-numbered Education Commission appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Commission should employ the Director of Education.
- Intermediate school district reorganization should be voluntary. However, if reorganized, the policymaking board should be representative of all local boards of education and all areas of the district.
- Statewide testing and assessment of student progress and total evaluation of education should be continued and expanded.
- Reorganization of K-12 districts should continue to be voluntary. Required reorganization should be delayed until such time as assessment and evaluation tests provide factual information as to quality education programs for students.
- State funding for public schools should be sufficient to provide, as nearly as possible, equal educational opportunities within the local school concept for all students.
- In-service training for teachers be encouraged.
- Local school facilities be used to their fullest potential for educational purposes for both youth and adults. Year-round school would be feasible in many areas.
- Vocational-technical programs for both youth and adults be made available to all areas of the state. Existing educational facilities should be used wherever possible. The "World of Work" demands salable skills.

- The use of performance contracting be encouraged.
- Full implementation and funding of special education programs for handicapped children. It has been proven beyond a doubt that these children can be educated to lead productive lives with dignity and contribute to society.
- New and innovative instructional methods be researched and used wherever possible.
- Educational programs be constantly re-evaluated to determine the priorities and needs of our economy and work force. Education at all levels must meet the constantly changing needs of society.
- State aid bill be passed early in the legislative session to permit proper planning by the school districts.

#### SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND DISCIPLINE

Many parents are concerned about the subjects being taught, the materials used in teaching, some of the suggested reading lists, and discipline in our schools.

School curriculum and discipline are primarily the responsibility of the local school board and should so remain. However, parents should be interested and should work with local school board members in developing a curriculum that upgrades educational training in our schools.

The problems that schools have with children can best be solved with parents. This can be done by:

- Reviewing present curricula
- Volunteering to serve on any review committees
- Helping to elect the best qualified people to serve on local school boards.

We urge greater effort on the part of all institutions of public instruction to promote patriotic Americanism.

#### TEACHER TENURE

The inflexibility of the present Teacher Tenure Law makes it unreasonably difficult for school boards to discharge incompetent personnel. We believe the Tenure Act should be amended to require that all tenure positions be subject to a re-evaluation of performance after a reasonable period of time, not to exceed each five years of service.

#### STRIKES BY PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

In recent years, there have been many strikes by public employees such as teachers, policemen, and firemen. These actions can be a threat to the well-being of communities affected by the strikes.

We believe that laws outlawing strikes by public employees should be strictly enforced.

#### SCHOOL BOARDS' COOPERATION

We believe that it is imperative that school boards work together in areas in an effort to effectively deal with the increasing problems of school districts, including the rising cost of education, teacher and employee contract negotiations, curriculum, etc.

We commend the Michigan Association of School Boards in its efforts to correlate the attitudes and positions of all school boards.

#### VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Occupational education should be an integral part of the total education process. An integrated program can develop positive attitudes about work, create awareness of the vast occupational opportunities, and provide knowledge and skills to meet the demands of a constantly changing society.

Vocational centers are rapidly developing, many through existing local educational units including community colleges, intermediate school districts, and high school districts. We fully support these programs and believe that the ultimate goal should be to develop and implement effective occupational programs in all areas of the state. Such training should, wherever feasible, include "on the job" training in cooperation with local businesses. Skilled people should be permitted to become instructors even though they may not meet the present certification requirements.

Where necessary, state minimum wage and child labor laws should be revised to permit the greatest possible opportunity for individuals to become trained for the world of work.

The Legislature should adequately finance the construction of vocational education centers, the operation of all such programs, and also the transportation of students. Local property cannot be expected to assume the total additional burden. The control of the center should remain in the hands of the local intermediate school district.

#### AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The demand for more teachers of vocational and technical agriculture continues with the advent of specialized programs on both secondary and post-secondary levels in vocational centers and community colleges. We urge capable students to consider this career opportunity.

The Institute of Agricultural Technology, MSU, reports a constantly increasing enrollment and demand in many occupational fields for employees with agricultural background and training. The Federal Vocational Act of 1963, and 1968 amendments, finally recognized the urgent need for technical training in agriculture. Nationally, the number of students involved in technical training in agriculture has doubled in the past three years and is expected to double again in the next five years. A study by the National Academy of Science indicates that three technicians are needed for every college graduate in the agricultural-related fields.

We strongly urge that teachers of vocational agriculture continue to be employed on a 12-month basis. Summer months provide the opportunity for students to put into practice much of the vocational agricultural instruction provided during the school year. Providing this on-the-farm instruction to students is an important part of the vocational agriculture teacher's responsibilities. Vocational agriculture and FFA are unmatched in teaching "individual enterprise" through practical application of classroom training.

We continue to support these programs and urge that greater emphasis be given to the increasing opportunities in technical agriculture and agri-business.

#### MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

This pioneer land grant college has become a great university and has not lost sight of the fact that agriculture and agri-business is the foundation stone of nearly 30 percent of the economic base of our state and that the benefits of research of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Agricultural Experiment Station, along with the Cooperative Extension Service, have resulted in better living for all our people, rural and urban.

The greatness of a university lies in its dedication to a search for truth and in serving all people regardless of race, creed, or background. If Michigan State University sacrifices principles because of political pressure, then its greatness would diminish.

We believe that Michigan State University must continue to give prime consideration to those disciplines and recognize the great need for specialized training for agricultural-related occupations which may or may not lead to a degree, but can be met through the course work offered by the Institute of Agricultural Technology.

We believe that scholarships and loans should continue to be available to qualified students needing assistance.

It is obvious that there will be increasing further needs for emphasis in the areas covered by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the School of Veterinary Medicine, the Experiment Station, the Extension Service, the Institute of Agricultural Technology, and the world renowned Pesticide Research Center, as well as all other areas of agricultural studies.

Through the years, we have supported the expansion of many of the services of Michigan State University. We are now concerned with the critical shortage of medically trained personnel and will continue to support the development of a complete College of Human and Osteopathic Medicine.

We would oppose the shifting of funds from research and education programs administered through the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources to new programs in other units in the University.

We shall continue to support research and educational programs in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, recognizing that the benefits accrue to the entire economy.

#### MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

The Agricultural Experiment Stations have played a valuable role in our society. Historically, research done in these facilities has helped to increase efficiency in food production. Both farmers and consumers have benefitted from developments by this system.

In this time of short supply of food and fiber, additional research is needed if demand is to be met. New techniques must be applied to farming to aid in solving environmental concerns and conservation of energy and natural resources. Such research aids all people, both farm and nonfarm.

The Agricultural Experiment Station at Michigan State University is one of the finest in the country. It serves eight colleges, including Agriculture and Natural Resources, Engineering, Human Ecology, Human Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Social Science, and Veterinary Medicine.

We are proud of the work done by the Experiment Station. We commend the Legislature for providing funds for its operation and ask that additional funds be provided to seek solutions to calf mortality and pollution control, in addition to current projects.

#### EXTENSION SERVICE

The Cooperative Extension Service has played a vital and successful role in the development of American agriculture. With the help of the Extension Service, American farmers have developed their operations into the most efficient industry in the world. This development has definitely been a financial benefit to individual farmers, but more so has helped make it possible for the American consumer to spend a lower percent of his net income for food than any other consumer in the world.

Recent studies and so-called exposes have raised a good deal of criticism of the Extension Service in regard to its positions of equally serving not only all segments of agriculture, but also all segments of our total society, especially minority groups.

These criticisms have a marked effect on the direction of future programs of the Service and on who shall be served.

We, as agriculture, believe that every effort should be made to use successful Extension Service methods for all people in our society who desire them; however, at the same time we are concerned that this will be at the expense of Agricultural Extension Service and research programs.

In light of these considerations we recommend:

1. That any appropriations for nonagricultural programs be in addition to, not in place of, already existing appropriations.
2. That Agricultural Extension Service and research be continued at or in excess of the present rate.
3. That any requirement for special reports put upon the Extension Service be financed by the necessary appropriation, not by siphoning off a part of the already overtaxed budget.
4. That efforts be made to develop Extension-type programs for urban people where they are needed under the jurisdiction of the Extension Service with special appropriations being made for these programs.
5. That the Cooperative Extension program continue to be administered through a Director within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.



**SPECIALIZED EXTENSION AGENTS**

Due to the transition from general farming to more specialized agriculture, we feel the movement in the Cooperative Extension Service to specialized multi-county Extension Agents will provide better service to all farmers.

We support this concept and urge the Cooperative Extension Service to continue to create these positions whenever feasible.

We encourage County Boards of Commissioners to cooperate with the Extension Service in providing funds for these agents.

**MSU PLANT SCIENCE BUILDING**

The basis for all agriculture is in the ability to efficiently produce crops for food and fiber. Michigan State University is well known for outstanding research work in the area of plant science. Presently, the Plant Science and Horticultural divisions are scattered in several locations. There is a serious need for a Plant Science Building for greater efficiency.

We appreciate the legislation appropriating the planning monies for a new Plant Science Building at Michigan State University. We support further necessary appropriations to complete the project.

We are pleased that Michigan State University has given the Plant Science Building number one priority. We strongly urge that this priority be continued.

**UNIVERSITY BOARDS OF CONTROL**

Michigan's three major state-supported universities have boards of control nominated and elected through the political system. We believe this system could be improved. Too often, the nominations at political conventions for these positions are based on political reasons rather than ability or dedication.

We believe that the State Constitution should be amended to provide that the boards of control of Michigan State University, University of Michigan, and Wayne State University be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. We believe this system has worked well for the other colleges in the state.

**OPTOMETRY COLLEGE FOR MICHIGAN**

At the present time, there is a severe shortage of optometrists in Michigan. Currently, there are 966 licensed optometrists in Michigan, of which about 860 are practicing. This means that there is about one optometrist to each 10,000 population in our state. If this ratio is to be lowered to one per each 7,000 population in the next ten years, another 866 practitioners are needed.

Currently, there is no optometry college in Michigan. Students wishing to enter this profession must enroll in colleges outside of our state. Since, on the average, there are seven applicants for each opening in an optometry college, students from out-of-state are not given top priority.

We urge the Michigan Legislature to take action necessary to create a college of optometry in Michigan.

**4-H**

We compliment the Michigan Cooperative Extension Service for its role in the development of the 4-H Program. This program has proven valuable by providing educational opportunities to both rural and urban youth.

We urge that competition be an integral part of the program. Society demands competition every day of one's life.

We also commend the 4-H leadership for the new and exciting projects developed to gain interest and participation on the part of Michigan youth.

**ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY**

The St. Lawrence Seaway was a dream of imaginative men nearly 100 years ago, and its accomplishment has turned the shores of the Great Lakes into the fourth coast of the United States. It brings to Michigan an opportunity for export trade direct to foreign customers. Michigan has become the second largest exporter of manufactured goods. It is a major shipper of agricultural produce, and yet less than ten percent of our exports are shipped via the Seaway. Much of this is due to the need for port improvement in the City of Saginaw. The Saginaw River is not deep enough for oceangoing vessels.

We believe that this valuable economic asset should be used to its fullest and we vigorously support the deepening and widening of the Saginaw Bay and River channels to accommodate oceangoing ships.

**COURT REFORM**

In 1971, the Legislature appointed a 36-member committee to study the judicial system in Michigan. That committee has now reported its findings to the Legislature.

The report contains sections on selection of judges, financing of courts, functions of courts, tenure for some judges, and establishment of several new Circuit Courts.

The report contains a version of Supreme Court Justice selection known as a variation of the Missouri Non-partisan Court Plan. More than 21 other states have adopted various versions. Presently, Michigan's Supreme Court is called nonpartisan, but the method of nominating candidates at political conventions is far from non-partisan.

The recommendation of the committee provides for appointment of Supreme Court Justices and Court of Appeals Judges; it preserves the right of the people to have a voice in the selection of judges, as the judge is required to run solely on his record and not against other opponents in a general election. The people decide whether he should be retained.

Circuit Judges, on the other hand, would continue to be nominated and elected at nonpartisan elections.

Further provision is made for justices and judges of all courts to retire at 65 years of age.

We believe these and other reforms should help lead to a better court system resulting in prompt and equitable justice to the citizens of Michigan.

**ESTATE SETTLEMENT**

Past experience has proven that the settlement of estates in Michigan can be a time consuming, costly, and demoralizing process. We recommend that:

1. The Legislature give a priority position to legislation changing the probate code to provide for a uniform, prompt, and equitable method of estate settlement.
2. Legislation be passed to update Michigan's Inheritance Tax laws. Present exemptions are unrealistic and should be increased consistent with inflationary pressures.

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**

Daylight Saving Time in Michigan is, in reality, "Double Daylight Saving Time" as geographically, Michigan is in the Central Time Zone.

We believe that Michigan should be returned to the Central Time Zone.

**PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

We support retention of the open primary election system we now have. This system works well and does not infringe on a person's individual rights.

**ELECTRICAL ENERGY**

Electricity is an essential source of energy for agricultural production. We are concerned about the direction that necessary rate increases are taking. For example, since 1969 farmers have had a 35 percent or more increase in electrical energy unit costs while some low use consumers have had little or none, or in some cases decreases.

Energy is a major cost in farm production, and it adds to other escalating costs. We will study the new rate structure concepts now under consideration to determine whether farmers and other similar users are paying an unfair share.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

A special commission on local government presented its final report in 1972. The report was broad and comprehensive, recommending more than 70 changes in local government ranging from the townships to the cities, counties, and regions.

Many of the recommendations are progressive and can lead to better local government. However, we strongly question the recommendations on state and local fiscal policy. For example, the short range tax recommendation for townships is an automatic authorization for five mills of property tax—five times more than the present. The long range recommendation for townships is a 20-mill property tax. It is further recommended that counties be authorized to levy a maximum of 15 mills of property tax. These two recommendations total 35 mills! In addition, it is recommended that they be imposed without voter approval.

While we have always supported progressive changes and modernization of government at all levels, we will oppose any efforts to impose such unrealistic tax burdens or other changes that deprive the public of voter control of governmental policies.

**Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**RODENTS, BLACKBIRDS, AND STARLINGS**

Rodents, blackbirds, starlings, and monk parakeets are causing serious damage to crops and property in many areas. They are also a potential carrier of disease to humans and livestock. This problem is increasing over a wide geographic area.

We recommend continued intensive research efforts by state and federal agencies to find an effective method of control of these pests.

**BREEDING STOCK VACCINATION**

Michigan presently requires calfood vaccination for brucellosis of female beef and dairy breeding stock imported into the state or sold from one farm to another within the state.

Since Michigan is brucellosis free and one of only three states with this strict regulation, we believe we should maintain our present calfood vaccination program.

**ANIMAL HEALTH**

The income from livestock and livestock products represents the largest segment of Michigan agriculture. We are concerned about the increasing incidence of diseases such as fatal diseases of newborn calves, IBR, BVD, PI3, and shipping fever in feeder cattle.

We support research at the MSU Agricultural Experiment Station on these diseases and ask the Legislature to continue appropriations for this needed research.

**SOYBEAN RESEARCH AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT**

Soybean acreage is increasing in our state. This crop is an important part of Michigan's farm income. We believe the research on this crop should be intensified at Michigan State University. We support a checkoff for soybean market development and research. Monies collected could be used to promote the sales of soybeans overseas and for the testing of new varieties adaptable to Michigan soils and climatic conditions and for soybean disease, weed, and insect control research.

**MILK TEMPERATURE REQUIREMENT**

The dairy industry has taken a leadership position to insure the consumer a high quality product. Michigan dairy producers have been instrumental in this positive effort.

A proposal by the Dairy Division of the Michigan Department of Agriculture would require recording thermometers on farm bulk tanks. The intent of this proposal is to further assure the consumer of the highest quality product.

Not all quality problems affecting dairy products

originate on the farm. We believe that if recording thermometers are necessary, all segments of the industry including transportation, processing, and retailing must be required to install a recording thermometer on all milk storage equipment and maintain milk temperatures below the legal maximum; and these regulations must apply to all dairy products coming into the state. Any such requirement should include a realistic time period for compliance.

We urge the Dairy Division of the Michigan Department of Agriculture to continue soliciting comments from interested producer organizations. Farm Bureau should continue to work with various dairy organizations to evaluate and comment on the proposal.

**DAIRY INSPECTION**

We commend the Dairy Division of the Michigan Department of Agriculture for an outstanding job of maintaining and assuring the public of high quality milk products.

We believe valuable assistance could be provided to the producer in the event his milk is rejected. For example, information on the rejection notice should include the reasons for rejection, alternative markets, at least two names and telephone numbers of persons to contact, and any other information and assistance helpful to the producer at such a critical time.

**MILK HANDLING STANDARDS**

We recommend that the Department of Agriculture conduct a thorough study of milk cooling facilities and practices as they relate to handling, storage, and sales facilities. A review and updating of regulations on insulating standards for milk transport tanks is also needed, as there are no apparent standards at this time.

The study and analysis should be completed by the Department of Agriculture before recommending changes in the current regulations.

**LOW-FAT DAIRY SPREAD**

Due to consumer interest in "low-fat" foods, we recommend that a study be made on current regulations at both state and national levels to determine the possibilities of marketing a low-fat dairy spread.

We would also encourage Michigan State University to conduct additional research on low-fat dairy spreads and the possibilities of incorporating flavors into these spreads.

**ENERGY CRISIS**

Our nation is facing a difficult and serious energy situation. The crisis is real and can be expected to last for many years.

Farmers are in the energy business in a big way—converting solar energy into food energy. Agriculture and all other segments of the economy have experienced a rapid increase in the need for energy. However, agriculture accounts for only about three percent of all petroleum fuels used. Although the fuel needs of agriculture are small as a percentage of total use, its needs are critical if food and fiber are to be provided during this period of shortages.

Since World War II, there have been 11 interruptions in the flow of oil from foreign countries. The current interruption in supplies from the Middle East is convincing evidence that imported oil will not always be readily available.

Impractical environmental standards at all levels of the economy have contributed to the energy crisis. The standards were implemented despite knowledge that the United States has limited energy reserves, and the result has been a sharp increase in the consumption of energy. Environmental standards must be predicated on more than a popular cause if our economy is to remain strong and consumers are to be supplied with abundant supplies of food at reasonable prices.

In view of the serious energy crisis, we recommend:

1. The nation assign top priority to efforts to resolve the energy crisis. Prompt and vigorous actions are needed to prevent an already serious situation from becoming worse.
2. Research for alternate and new sources of energy such as solar energy, conversion of animal and other wastes to fuel, greater use of our vast coal resources, etc. A coordinated research program should be developed.
3. Environmental standards and controls must be re-evaluated to reflect the current energy situation with emphasis on the efficient use of energy.
4. Assignment of high priorities for food production, processing, and transportation under all fuel allocation or rationing programs. If farmers are to meet the challenge of increasing food needs and continue to convert solar energy to food energy, they must have other energy sources available in the right place and at the right time. For example, timing is critical in the production, processing, and transportation of food. Fuel shortages creating delays at planting and harvest time can cause a heavy loss in yields. Trucks carrying perishable food cannot be delayed without great loss.
5. Removal of government regulations that have restricted the exploration and development of domestic energy sources.
6. A ban on exports of petroleum products and equipment to countries withholding oil products from the United States until the current energy shortage is relieved.
7. Complete cooperation among all citizens in abiding by mandatory or voluntary controls to conserve energy now and in the future. All citizens must do their part if serious disruption to our economy is to be avoided.

**ANIMAL WASTE RECYCLING**

Utilization of processed animal wastes as a feed source has been demonstrated by land grant universities to be feasible. We urge appropriate agencies to authorize the use of properly processed animal wastes as feed for livestock and poultry when handled in a sanitary manner.

**LAND DISPOSAL OF WASTEWATER**

The use of land to dispose of industrial and municipal wastewater is receiving much attention due to national water pollution abatement goals established by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The supply of nutrients in the wastewater could be beneficial to agriculture. There are also several potential problem areas of concern to farmers. We believe any proposal to use productive farmland for wastewater disposal should:

1. Permit private enterprise agriculture with voluntary participation.
2. Require that the disposal of wastewater from any city, county, village, or township may not be transferred to another without the consent of the affected units of government.
3. Provide flexibility in amount and timing of wastewater application according to agricultural needs.
4. Provide indemnity payments for unsaleable crops due to Food and Drug Administration regulations or crop losses caused by wastewater components.
5. Provide indemnity for land should it become unfit for use because of wastewater components.

**AIR POLLUTION**

We support an amendment to the Air Pollution Act that will exclude from the definition of air pollution those natural odors associated with agricultural pursuits exercising recommended management practices. Producers need this amendment to the Act to prevent legal harassment in the name of environmental quality. Farmers will, however, continue to be subject to common nuisance laws.

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL**

The Water Resources Commission has made rapid progress in the water pollution control effort. The WRC has developed a good program to protect and improve our abundant water resources.

We appreciate the efforts of WRC personnel to work with agriculture in advising and informing farmers on water pollution issues. We will continue efforts to maintain this working relationship.

We support authority for water pollution control in Michigan by the WRC and will work to protect this authority.

We oppose federal programs that threaten to reduce state water pollution control to a custodial level.

**ENVIRONMENT**

Public concern for the environment continues to be a powerful force. This concern poses serious implications to agriculture. The future of agriculture is dependent on air, water, and land as natural tools of production. Agriculture has an important responsibility to improve the quality of our environment.

All persons engaged in agriculture should become informed of pollution sources and discipline themselves so as not to add to the problem. Good housekeeping and a good neighbor policy can do much to prevent environmental problems from occurring. We urge that agricultural representatives be consulted during the development of pollution regulations and such regulations, when implemented, should be realistic and consistent with good food production practices.

Continued research is necessary to find adequate answers to agricultural waste disposal problems. Continued emphasis should be placed on developing recycling systems for agricultural wastes.

We believe that wherever an environmental impact study is required, an economic study should also be required to inform the public of the probable consequences of the proposal.

Agriculture should continue to be a voting member of the Air Pollution Control Commission and Water Resources Commission.

**SOIL CONSERVATION AND SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

Good soil conservation practices, minimizing erosion and conserving water, is one of agriculture's most important contributions to a clean environment. However, responsibility for the use and improvement of land and water resources rests on all citizens, urban as well as rural. The unprecedented world and domestic demand for food places a tremendous responsibility on all segments of society to safeguard our land resources from soil erosion.

Recent enactment of the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act requires that earth changes be accomplished in a way that will prevent accelerated erosion and sedimentation. Agricultural practices must be in compliance with the Act by January 1, 1979. The Act states that agricultural practices shall be in compliance when normal tilling, planting, and harvesting of agricultural and horticultural crops are carried on in accordance with a conservation plan developed and approved by the appropriate Soil Conservation District.

If all Michigan farmers are to be in compliance by January 1, 1979, the Soil Conservation Districts must be more adequately funded and staffed. We support adequate funding to permit Soil Conservation Districts and counties to fulfill their responsibility under the Act.

The Soil Conservation Districts, now organized in every Michigan county, are operated by elected directors serving without salary and are effective units of soil-saving activity. We pledge our support to work with Soil Conservation Districts to conserve soil and water through sound conservation practices. We believe Soil Conservation Districts should remain within the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

**SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE**

Soil Conservation Service personnel provide valuable technical assistance to farmers in planning and implementing conservation and pollution abatement programs. SCS assistance must be continued if farmers

are to comply with increasing environmental regulations and continue their effective conservation practices. We support adequate funding and additional personnel authorizations for the SCS.

**FEEDLOT STANDARDS**

Federal standards of performance and effluent guidelines for the feedlot industry have been proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency. The proposed standards would require that all runoff from feedlots be contained by 1977, except for that caused by highly improbable rainfall events.

The feedlot industry should not be required to meet a no-discharge standard until 1985, which Congress has established as the nation's goal to eliminate all discharges of pollutants into navigable waters. Feedlot standards should be based on accurate data concerning local conditions, total feedlot management factors, and be concise in every aspect.

**AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

The Agricultural Environmental Committee, composed of producers representing major commodity interests and agricultural groups, has conducted many activities to assist Michigan agriculture in meeting some of its environmental challenges. We commend the members of this committee for their involvement in this important issue to Michigan agriculture and strongly support their activities.

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

Many actions of the Department of Natural Resources have tremendous effects on Michigan agriculture. We urge that a person with an active involvement in agriculture be appointed to the Natural Resources Commission.

**PESTICIDES**

Agricultural chemicals are one of the major reasons for agriculture's phenomenal ability to produce abundant and high quality food. New laws and regulations governing pesticides are placing more emphasis on user responsibility. Farmers have and must continue to use pesticides judiciously and only in the quantity necessary to assure control of disease and pests that affect agricultural products. Pesticides should not be banned unless complete proof to support such action is available.

We urge the state and federal governments to fully fund programs for intensified control research and further development of alternative chemicals and other control methods.

We will support necessary legislation to allow the Michigan Department of Agriculture to administer requirements of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

**WILDLIFE PRESERVATION AND AGRICULTURE**

Wildlife is important to the economy of Michigan and its public recreational opportunities. Federal and state game refuge areas contribute much to the preservation of wildlife and migratory waterfowl.

Establishing new and expanding existing game refuge areas often creates serious local problems. These include acquisition of good farmlands, increased crop damage to surrounding farmlands, and loss of local tax base. An example is the proposed Hayward Lake Goose Refuge in the Upper Peninsula.

We urge that practical safeguards, including advance notification to landowners in the affected and surrounding areas, be established to provide equitable protection to farmers against unreasonable land acquisition for federal-state game refuge areas and from damage caused by protected wildlife using these areas. Alternative site locations and compensation for crop damage caused by protected wildlife should be considered when establishing new or expanding present refuge areas.

**DEER HERD**

We support the deer habitat improvement program in the Department of Natural Resources. The Department should consider the opinion of the local people when establishing its policy regarding the shooting of antlerless deer in its overall deer management program. The possession of firearms should be banned at all times while shining deer.

**MINT FARMING**

Michigan mint farmers use boilers in the production of mint oils. Recently, they have been brought under the stringent safety and inspection regulations which also require that repairs be made by a specially licensed person.

These boilers are used only a short period of time, and growers have experienced difficulty in getting a repairman when necessary. Growers are capable at repair work and have done so in the past.

We support changes in regulations to permit growers to repair boilers that are used as part of their production process.

## Highways, Safety, and Welfare

**HIGHWAYS**

Considerable progress has been made in more equitable funding of Michigan highways. The legislation increasing the Gasoline Tax by two cents also changed funding formulas. The state highway system now receives 44.5 percent, down from 46 percent; cities and villages receive 19.8 percent, down from 20 percent; and counties receive an increase up from 34 percent to 35.7 percent. In addition, federal matching has been increased for county roads from 50-50 to 70-30. Additional funding has also been granted to local units of government for bridge construction. Local participation has been cut from 50 percent to 25 percent. One-half cent of the two-cent increase is put into a "discretionary fund" to be used for alternate transportation systems in cities throughout the state.

These new revenues will help road agencies keep pace with the spiraling cost of construction and maintenance. It is estimated, however, that approximately \$30 billion would be needed to fully meet the needs by 1990 of Michigan's 115,000 miles of highways, roads, and streets. It is indicated that projected revenues from existing sources will be approximately half of what is needed.

While the interstate system in Michigan is near completion, counties have the additional costly job of fitting county roads into that system to accommodate the increased traffic on local roads caused by small industry, recreational users, etc., which create added stress on such roads and structures. Proper development of rural areas including agricultural transportation needs and industrial expansion is dependent on an adequate road system. For instance, Class A, or frost-free highway system, permits trucks to carry the same weight the year around; but to service country areas, they must often reload.

We recommend:

- Any needed increase in revenues be met through "user taxes" rather than a return to the old system of taxing property to build roads.
- Support for the Constitutional amendment to be voted on in 1974 limiting diversion of the Gas Tax to 1/18 of the tax.
- Present local matching requirements for local roads should continue to be decreased. (Most local units of government are financially unable to increase their contributions.)
- Local bridge replacement and reconstruction matching should be eliminated as they represent a specific problem and are extremely costly.
- Local roads serving recreational areas should be maintained without local matching funds.
- Consideration be given to counties with large areas of public recreation lands, not only because of the heavy financial burden placed on such counties, but adequate roads can also be a part of an effective safety program.
- There should be no further increases in gross weight, width, and length limitation of trucks using any road system in the near future. Most systems are inadequate to carry even the existing loads.
- Routes be chosen to avoid diagonal highways and the use of productive agricultural lands where feasible.
- Multiple use of highway rights-of-way for pipelines and other utilities where feasible.

The recently completed Highway Needs Study shows that 44.5 percent of all highway needs are within the county road system. Good local roads are essential if rural areas are to be developed to their fullest potential.

**HIGHWAY VIOLATION FINES**

Currently, no money raised from fines levied for weight and size violations on motor vehicles goes into highway funds. If the premise on which these fines are levied is that such violations cause damage to the roads, then fines from this source should be returned to road funds.

We urge legislative action be taken to return revenue received from fines levied on overweight, overlength, or overwidth vehicles be returned to the county road fund in which the infraction occurred, with the exception that revenue derived from permanently installed state owned weigh stations should be returned to the State Highway Fund.

**HIGHWAY SAFETY**

Accidents on highways take many lives each year; many people are injured, and much property damage occurs. To help reduce auto accidents, we recommend that:

1. Motorcycles be required to operate with headlight and identifying light on, making them clearly visible to oncoming vehicles on all public roads.
2. Hard-top roads should be marked with center lines and side lines as an aid to safer nighttime driving.
3. STOP AHEAD signs should be placed an appropriate distance from every STOP sign where a particular hazard exists.
4. County Road Commissions clear roadsides and intersections of hazards within road rights-of-way that obstruct the view of motorists.
5. Signs within the travelled lanes of any highway be the flexible or breakaway type.
6. School buses be equipped with distinctive markings on front and rear clearly visible during hours of darkness.
7. Red and amber reflectors be banned as mailbox and driveway markers and only blue or green markers be used.
8. Slow-moving vehicle signs be used only on vehicles as intended by law, with stricter enforcement and penalties for violators.
9. The State make greater efforts to remove intoxicated drivers from our highways.
10. Bumpers on cars should be a standard distance from the ground.
11. The checklane system be continued, instead of the proposed mandatory annual vehicle inspection.
12. Roads not be used as headlands, because it is dangerous to farmers and hazardous to traffic.

**RIGHTS-OF-WAY**

In the exercise of "Eminent Domain" and obtaining rights-of-way for utilities, highways, and other uses we urge that procedures be as nearly uniform as possible. This would enable property owners to better understand and use the provisions to obtain fair and equitable settlements.

**LAND ACQUISITION**

Private ownership and operation of land resources is in the best interests of our nation. Acquisition of fee title or interest in land by government for a public use should require individual state legislation or congressional approval following clear demonstration of the need for such use. In these cases, every effort should be made to select less valuable land. We urge that state and federal government consider leasing of needed land or taking easements rather than outright purchases.

**RAILROAD CAR REFLECTORS**

Many serious traffic accidents resulting in death, injuries, and great monetary loss are occurring at unprotected railroad crossings. Most of these accidents are happening during the night hours. We believe that luminous paint or reflectors should be required on the sides of new or repainted railroad cars as a safety measure.

**LITTERING**

Littering is a costly nuisance, and much of it is thrown on Michigan's farmlands. Cleanup of litter along highways is costly to taxpayers. Thousands of truckloads of bottles, cans, paper, and other litter will be picked up by hand along state highways this year alone.

The current Anti-Litter Law can help in curbing littering. The judge may levy a fine and costs and require the offender to pick up litter along a specified mileage of highway.

It is difficult to apprehend and identify litterers. Citizens must be willing to aid police officers in this difficult job. Local political influence must not be permitted to hamper enforcement.

We urge the use of signs posted along state and county roads and in parks stating the maximum fine for littering.

Farmers are urged to prevent agricultural wastes from littering when farm equipment and trucks are driven on highways.

We will support legislation to make the owner of a vehicle responsible for litter thrown from his vehicle.

We commend television and radio stations and other media for their efforts to help "Keep Michigan Beautiful."

**GLASS AND METAL BEVERAGE CONTAINERS**

Glass and metal beverage containers are a nuisance and a hazard. They are more than just "litter."

Farm implement tires, auto and truck tires, livestock, and crops have been damaged or destroyed by such containers, much of it in the form of throw-away bottles.

Time lost as a result of damage to a tire can mean many dollars of crop loss.

The seriousness of the problem has been recognized throughout the state.

Glass and metal beverage containers are thrown away where emptied and are not picked up for salvage because they have little or no return value. Our county and local roads and adjoining fields and woodlots are favored spots for beer parties and rubbish dumps.

Legislation has been introduced to establish a mandatory return value on certain beverage containers, but has not yet been adopted.

We will continue to seek relief through:

1. Use of plastic-type decomposable containers; or
2. A required return value on beverage containers; or
3. A tax being placed on the manufacturers of these containers to help cover the cost of cleaning them up from our roadsides.

**TRESPASS**

Farmers are concerned with the increasing disregard for private property rights by trespassers and the inability or unwillingness of local authorities to protect such rights. Local prosecuting attorneys should provide strict enforcement of the Horton Trespass Act. We support the Department of Natural Resources in implementing its new policy of arresting trespassers in the presence of the landowner without requiring a complaint or warrant.

**SNOWMOBILES AND ATV'S**

Many property owners report that the rapidly increasing number of snowmobiles is causing damage to crops, young trees, and fences on private property. We should be aware of the fact that the Horton Trespass Act has been amended to include snowmobiles.

The all-terrain vehicle, trail bikes, and similar machines are also very popular. We support legislation to include these vehicles under the Horton Trespass Act and other statutes presently applying to snowmobiles.

We also support legislation to limit the noise levels of these types of machines.

Snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, trail bikes, and similar machines should be covered by mandatory liability and property damage insurance when operating on property other than that of the owner.

We commend the Department of Natural Resources for its efforts to develop more trails for these machines on public lands.

**BICYCLES**

We recommend that Michigan bicycle laws be updated and mandatory safety flags be required on all bicycles.

**WELFARE**

Welfare costs in our state are rising to a worrisome point in our economy.

Welfare handouts to strikers are expected to exceed \$329 million this year—almost a million dollars a day. The dubious use of public funds makes for more and longer strikes and costlier settlements. It weakens management's ability to resist union demands and strengthens labor's ability to force wage increases.

We suggest that instead of direct welfare payments, work projects be set up to let the welfare recipient earn at least part of the aid and that these projects be used to combat pollution and conserve our natural resources.

We support welfare benefits to those who are really in need, but urge all members of society to sustain their self-respect and self esteem by earning as much of their livelihood as possible.

We urge that a realistic re-evaluation be conducted on the total welfare program.

**FOOD STAMPS**

We support the food stamp programs as a means of helping those persons who are really in need of assistance. However, we believe that there should be a complete investigation of the present procedures for distributing food stamps and that the procedures be revised so that equitable rules can be enforced. We further believe that college students, persons on strike, or persons who refuse to work when offered employment should not be eligible for food stamps or surplus food commodities.

**LAW AND ORDER**

It is obvious that there is a lack of respect for law enforcement agencies in our society. We recognize the rights of citizens to dissent, but condemn acts of violence.

We urge:

1. The restoration of authority and respect for our enforcement agencies in our society.
2. Courts to support law enforcement agencies through prompt trial and after due process of law to administer realistic justice.
3. Citizens to carry out their responsibilities in helping law enforcement officers by offering pertinent information and assistance.

**FIREARMS CONTROL**

We believe our laws should place more emphasis on the crime and the criminal rather than on the gun.

1. We oppose further expansion of registration of firearms.
2. We would support mandatory imprisonment of any person convicted of a felony involving use of firearms.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE**

We support the special legislative committee that has been created to study Michigan's system of juvenile justice and are pleased that Michigan Farm Bureau is represented on the committee. Such comprehensive studies can, we believe, lead to better and more coordinated legislation. We will analyze the final report of this committee in terms of its effect on the residents of rural Michigan.

**HEALTH CARE**

We continue to be concerned over the increasing high cost of hospital and medical care. We recommend that all citizens be encouraged to participate in private health care plans through the use of federal income tax credits for premiums on such plans. Government assistance should be available to persons who do not have sufficient income to take full advantage of such credits. This approach would be preferable to a national health insurance program.

We urge County Farm Bureaus to establish and promote a closer working relationship with medical and other agencies interested in developing better health care.

**MEDICAL TRAINING**

Many communities are faced with a shortage of physicians to provide needed medical services. Rural communities are especially affected by the shortage of physicians. Ample financial support must be given to training programs at our teaching hospitals to encourage Michigan medical students to take their internship and residencies in Michigan.

We commend the Michigan Health Council for their efforts to place medical physicians into service in our state.

We encourage the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine to develop a Physician's Assistant Program to provide more readily available medical service.

**NARCOTICS AND HARMFUL DRUGS**

The rapidly growing use of narcotics and harmful drugs must be stopped. We encourage massive, direct, and realistic educational efforts to inform youth, parents, and others concerning the harmful effects of drug abuse. We oppose legalization of marijuana.

Courts should continue to strengthen penalties imposed on drug pushers.

Rehabilitation centers and drug information programs are now available to drug users in most parts of Michigan. Drug users should be encouraged to use these programs.

We support enforcement of laws to tighten the importation, manufacture, and distribution of narcotics and harmful drugs.

# Marketing and Bargaining

**MARKETING AND BARGAINING**

**MILK PROMOTION AND DAIRY STANDARDS**

In order to help continue the strong demand for dairy products, we support the UDIA concept of advertising and promotion for dairy products. However, dairy product promotion cannot be totally effective unless all quality standards are strictly enforced from the producers to the consumer.

We insist on strict enforcement of minimum butterfat and solids standards to assure consumers the highest quality dairy products.

**ENABLING LEGISLATION FOR STATE MARKETING PROGRAMS**

The Michigan Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act, passed in 1965, has been utilized by producers of apples and cherries in cooperation with the Michigan

Department of Agriculture. Producers of other commodities are also considering programs. However, various provisions of the Act have been recently challenged in court. Experience with this enabling legislation indicates a need for amendment and updating.

We will work with the Michigan Department of Agriculture to initiate legislative amendments to the enabling act in order that its provisions will continue to be available to producers wishing to establish a program.

**STATE MARKETING RIGHTS**

The Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act was enacted by the Michigan Legislature in 1972 and signed into law by Governor William Milliken in January, 1973. The law, designated as Public Act 344 of 1972, is the first comprehensive agricultural bargaining law enacted in the U.S.

The Legislation has been implemented as rapidly as possible under Michigan law. The bipartisan, five-member board was appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate in May. The necessary regulations and administrative procedures were finalized in October, 1973. The first application from an association was received November 5, 1973, and the necessary hearings have been held. This has taken nearly a year since the passage of the legislation.

We believe consideration should be given to extending the Act beyond the 1976 expiration date to assure sufficient time for a fair trial.

We urge the fruit and vegetable industry to use this important marketing tool.

We urge all parties to support P.A. 344 during its infancy. A sincere effort is required to improve the status of the fruit and vegetable industry in Michigan.

**FILING PRODUCTION CONTRACTS**

Michigan ranks high as a producer of processing vegetables. This important segment of Michigan agriculture should be expanded. Two of our major competitors, Wisconsin and North Carolina, have legislation which requires processors to file proof of financial responsibility and contract terms with the Department of Agriculture. In both states farmers, processors, and the industry have benefited from this requirement, and the industry has grown.

We recommend that all processors and handlers offering contracts to producers for the production of vegetables be required to file a copy of the contract offered, including contract terms and financial rating of the contractor with the Michigan Department of Agriculture before offering contracts to producers.

**PAYMENT FOR PRODUCE**

We deplore the practice by some fruit and vegetable processors and handlers of operating on growers' money due to delayed payment for produce delivered. Sometimes this period extends for as long as a year or more. Growers must pay farm workers immediately after work is performed and are required to pay for other costs of production within a set period of time in accordance with normal business practices.

We support legislation that would require processors and handlers purchasing fruits and vegetables from growers to make full payment within thirty days of the date of purchase, unless other provisions are made by written contract.

**MARKETING ASSOCIATION FEE COLLECTION**

Farmers are joining cooperative marketing associations to improve their income and become better informed about marketing. With the expansion of marketing activities into previously unorganized commodities, there is need for a system of marketing service fee payment that will provide adequate and sound financing of the association.

Some processors have recognized the value of marketing services and the information provided and have cooperated in the collection of members' marketing service fees upon the association's and members' request. Other processors have refused this accommodation even though they purchase members' commodities.

We favor legislation requiring processors and other buyers to deduct marketing service fees from cooperative marketing association members' receipts upon official notification by the association verifying that such growers are members of the association and have voluntarily consented to the deduction.

A uniform system of collecting marketing service fees at the time of sale could provide a simple, efficient procedure that would benefit the association, the members, and the processors. These deductions need to be made promptly and then forwarded to the association within a reasonable length of time. The legislation should be similar to legislation in force in New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Idaho.

**STATE EGG PROMOTION**

Marketing conditions over the years have caused financial hardships for egg producers. The Michigan Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act of 1965 provides a means of developing a state egg promotion program to help alleviate some of these problems.

Farm Bureau has a long-standing policy of encouraging self-help programs. We support the development of an education and marketing program, and urge producer participation in a referendum to implement a state egg promotion program under the current enabling legislation.

**PROMPT PAYMENT FOR EGGS**

Instances occur in Michigan where egg producers are not paid for their eggs for up to 30 days after the buyer has taken delivery.

We support state legislation that will require buyers of eggs to make full payment within ten days of the date of purchase unless other provisions are made by written contract.

**PRICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

At times, fruit and vegetable growers have had to deliver produce to processors without the benefit of knowing what price the processor is going to pay and later find that the prices paid by the processor are unrealistic. We urge the Michigan Legislature to enact legislation that would require fruit and vegetable processors to post prices to be paid for fruit and vegetables a reasonable length of time prior to the beginning of the delivery date of the products for which the price would apply. The posted prices should include the date on which the prices are effective. If new prices are subsequently posted which are lower than the previous prices, the new prices should not apply to any produce delivered or contracted before the posting of the new prices.

**MINIMUM CONTRACT PRICE**

We support legislation that would require handlers or processors producing 10 percent or more of their own raw product requirements to pay all growers from whom they purchase that particular commodity a minimum price at least equal to the cost of production on the company's own acreage.

## Labor

### FARM LABOR

We are encouraged by the current arousing of social conscience and public awareness with regard to special problems related to seasonal farm workers. In the past, these special problems have been recognized only by farmer-employers. Farmers have, for years, carried the burden of providing not only jobs for these people, but have also tried to provide housing and improve living conditions during the work period. They have increased farm wages at a faster rate than most other wage rates. In addition to increased wages, many farmers pay transportation costs for workers from their home states to the work state and provide loans and pay advances to support workers who reach the work area during times of a work shortage.

Even with the recent gains farm employers have provided for these seasonal employees, there are still problems inherent in migrating from state to state each year, particularly for those with a low general educational level and when a language barrier is sometimes present.

1. We commend leaders in government and civic organizations for realizing the presence of these special problems.
2. We encourage members of the Congress and the Legislature and leaders in agencies of the federal and state government to be informed of the true agricultural labor situation so that understanding, reason, and knowledge of the farm labor system and the agricultural situation will guide the development of legislation and implementation of programs dealing with farming and farm labor.
3. We caution these leaders against reactionary approaches to emotion-packed allegations by certain pressure groups that would lead to the establishment of costly and unwise programs that would be of little value to our seasonal farm workers while causing hardships on farm families.
4. We encourage state and federal regulatory agencies to work toward simplified interstate recruitment procedures so that workers will be encouraged to have employment arranged before they leave their home states.

**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT**

Michigan farmers share the national concern to provide safe working conditions for farm employees. We urge that Congress make it known to the administrators of OSHA,

1. That the intent of the occupational Safety and Health Act was to provide, so far as possible, working men and women in the nation safe and healthful working conditions.
2. That the education of employers and employees to avoid and prevent accidents is being almost entirely ignored.
3. That "enforcement only" as now being conducted is forcing small business to curtail or close up, resulting in the loss of employment.
4. That education, training, and consultation service be provided to employers to prevent accidents and injuries.
5. We believe that there should be realistic regulations dealing with agriculture and the OSHA act.

We believe the State of Michigan should assume the responsibility for development and enforcement of Occupational Safety and Health Standards relating to agriculture and that a special Agricultural Safety Advisory Board should be appointed to assist the Department of Labor in establishing and administering safety standards for agriculture.

We oppose any provision of MI-OSHA that would be more stringent or restrictive than the present federal Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act.

While we recognize that the employer has a responsibility to his employees and must meet the safety standards, we believe that the employee also has a responsibility and should be subject to penalty for failure to observe the safety standards.

We believe that the general duty clause of the Act should be eliminated or substantially modified.

A basic premise of the Act is that employers know what is required of them. We believe this to be a faulty premise.

Violations discovered at the first inspection of the operations of a farm should not ordinarily be subject to penalty. A summary of the violations should be supplied the employer with an opportunity for the employer to correct the situation within a reasonable period of time. It is imperative that judgement be exercised, particularly in those instances where capital expenditures are required to eliminate violations.

We recommend that informational and educational materials be prepared and distributed to all farmers.

We recommend continued consideration and development of educational programs related to OSHA. We ask that the distribution of this information be given high priority by Michigan Farm Bureau.

We encourage all farmers to become aware of the occupational hazards and voluntarily adopt safety programs.

**OSHA-EPA**

We recognize the leadership of Michigan Farm Bureau and MASA for their vigorous response in opposition to the Emergency Pesticide Re-entry Standards proposed by OSHA and the EPA hearings related to re-entry standards.

We urge continued surveillance and opposition to all actions by OSHA and EPA which could cause severe economic hardship to producers, the loss of agricultural employment, and unnecessarily increased food costs without providing significant benefits to anyone.

**EMPLOYMENT OF MINORS IN AGRICULTURE**

We believe that minors should not be deprived of education opportunities. However, during the time when regular schools are not in session, we believe that it is desirable that minors be allowed to work in agriculture, except those occupations which have been declared hazardous by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor is acceptable. We oppose any further restrictions upon the employment of youth in agriculture.

The programs administered by the Agricultural Extension Service and vocational agricultural teachers for young workers have demonstrated that workers 14 and 15 years of age can be trained successfully in the safe operation of tractors and farm machinery. We recommend continuation of these training programs.

We believe that work experience is an essential part of the educational process and develops self-reliance and self respect.

We oppose any attempt to bring agriculture under the Michigan Juvenile Employment Act.

**WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION**

Employers of farm workers in Michigan are having difficulty in adjusting to the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act as it applies to agricultural workers. It imposes a financial hardship upon farm employers who must meet competition from producers in other states where such coverage is not required.

It is recognized that workmen's compensation programs are essential in today's society; however, we believe that the base is too high. The rates and minimum premiums are established by the Insurance Rating Bureau, and the minimum wage base of \$2,500 is set at a level far above many farms' payrolls. We urge that the base for establishing minimum premiums be lowered.

We urge all farm employers to adopt safety programs on their farms in an effort to reduce injuries which would result in a reduction of claims and could lower insurance premiums for all farm employers.

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

Unemployment insurance is a Social Insurance Program to compensate employees for their loss of earnings at times of involuntary unemployment.

An unemployment insurance program which would include agricultural workers should be nationwide in scope. Michigan farmers must compete in U.S. and world markets. Therefore, we would oppose a state program to include agricultural workers under the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Program if other states were not compelled by federal legislation to adopt similar unemployment insurance programs covering agricultural workers.

Administration of unemployment insurance programs should be subject to continuous review and scrutiny to prevent abuses, particularly the payment of benefits to those who can and should obtain employment.

**BOYCOTTS OF FOOD PRODUCTS**

We are opposed to food boycott techniques which result in the removal of products from the marketplace.

We would emphasize that these methods of coercion and harassment were successfully employed on California produce and that the same tactic could be extended to any and every identifiable agricultural product.

No form of combat against a nation seems as misguided as the use of the secondary boycott when applied to food production, processing, and distribution. It is rarely employed to insure justice to mistreated workers. It has been used by some labor leaders to force union membership upon farm workers who have repeatedly rejected voluntary unionism.

We urge that proper authorities be apprised of any such situation so that such proper legislative and legal action may be taken to protect the rights of producers, farm workers, and consumers.

**LABOR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS**

Farm employers are concerned over the lack of laws and procedures to deal effectively with the problems associated with farm-labor unionization.

We favor federal legislation which would provide for farm workers to decide questions of representation or rejection of a union by secret ballot procedure.

We favor effective remedies to prevent secondary boycotts of farm products and processors of farm produce as a means to force the compulsory unionization of farm workers.

Boycotts of agricultural products by labor unions effectively close markets for entire commodities whether or not individual producers may be involved in a labor dispute or hire any labor at all and whether or not workers want to join the union.

We urge that proper authorities be apprised of the present situation so that proper legislative and legal action may be taken to protect the rights of producers, farm workers, and consumers.

**MINIMUM WAGE**

Minimum wages should not be increased during a time of high unemployment when so many people are looking for work and our welfare rolls are bulging. Increasing wages discourages those employers who have work available from hiring employees.

Increasing state minimum wage rates will, no doubt, hasten mechanization. Mechanization often reduces employment opportunities for unskilled farm workers.

It would appear that the use of successive increases in minimum wage rates as a tool for alleviating poverty among farm workers may have some undesirable side effects. Used alone, these may result in increased, rather than reduced, incidence of poverty among the people they are intended to help. Alternative methods for relieving poverty among farm workers should be considered.

Minimum wage provisions must be flexible to fit the variable situations found in agricultural employment. Piece rates as a method of payment are essential to provide employment opportunities for family groups, retirees, and workers who have handicaps which may prevent them from obtaining other employment, and at the same time provide proficient workers much higher earning opportunities than hourly rates provide.

We believe the present Michigan piece rate system is fair and equitable. We urge the U.S. Department of Labor to recognize the value of a piece rate system for agriculture.

Farm commodities produced in Michigan must compete with commodities produced in other areas of the United States and the world. Michigan minimum wage rates should not exceed the federal minimum wage rate for agricultural workers.

**SEASONAL LABOR HOUSING**

We recommend that all migrant labor camps be inspected by trained employees of the State Health Department, so that all camps will be licensed according to the same interpretation of the rules and regulations as provided by Public Act 289.

We commend the Michigan Legislature and the Governor of the State of Michigan for recognizing that there are special problems with respect to housing for seasonal farm workers. The passage of Public Act 197, Public Acts of 1970, has provided much-needed assistance to farmers who provide housing for seasonal workers.

We commend the State Health Department for the efficient manner in which they administered this grant program.

We urge continued funding of this Act until all seasonal labor camps can be brought to the standard of the State Health Department.

At the present time, Public Act 289 places the full responsibility of maintaining a migrant labor camp upon the employer. We urge that Public Act 289 be amended to require the occupants of a farm labor camp to assume the responsibility for the misuse of a housing unit during their occupancy.

We favor faster tax write-off of investments in farm labor housing. Obsolete, unused, and abandoned farm labor housing should be removed from sight.

We recommend that regulations be adopted which would require workers to leave a camp within a reasonable time (one week) after the work on the farm is completed.

We recommend that the provisions of Public Act 289 be adopted as the safety standard for farm labor housing when and if the MI-OSHA plan is approved by the Michigan Legislature.

**ILLEGAL ALIENS**

We do not approve of the employment of illegal aliens. Farm employers do not have access to the scientific technology necessary to determine the validity of passports, work permits, or other evidence often presented as proof of legal entry. Therefore, agricultural employers should not be held liable or responsible for the burden of proof of the legal status of their employees.

## Farm Bureau

**MEMBER INVOLVEMENT IN FARM BUREAU**

To receive the full value of an organization, members must become involved in it. They must have input into its policies, develop action programs, and reap benefits from being organized.

In the past, Community Farm Bureaus provided these opportunities as well as social activities. Community groups provided a training ground for leadership development as well as a structure within the County Farm Bureau.

As communities change, agriculture changes, too. The needs of farmers are different from the past and will be different in the future.

We ask that new programs within Farm Bureau be explored to involve members in addition to, as well as in place of, the Community Group Program.

**MEMBERSHIP GOAL**

As a result of dedicated work on the part of hundreds of Farm Bureau members, membership in Michigan Farm Bureau has increased for six consecutive years. Growth in membership is fundamental to the strength and well-being of our organization. Even though the responsibility for membership growth lies primarily with County Farm Bureaus, we encourage Farm Bureau leadership at all levels to keep the importance of membership work on a first priority basis.

We approve the 1974 membership goal of one-member increase for each County Farm Bureau, as well as a one-member increase for Michigan Farm Bureau.

**INSURING THE FUTURE GROWTH OF OUR FARM BUREAU**

The success of any organization is determined by how well it serves its members. Over the years, our Farm Bureau has built effective service-to-member programs. It has grown in prestige and strength and now holds a

position of eminence in our State. For this we are very proud!

We must recognize that change is continually taking place. Our present programs may become obsolete or need to be modified to meet tomorrow's conditions. Possible new programs will need to be researched and developed.

Our Farm Bureau is currently in a sound financial condition, a condition it must stay in to effectively serve its members. In our evaluation and assessing of programs, both present and future, we must remember that Farm Bureau, too, is caught up in this period of severe inflation. As we have done periodically in the past, it is now time to look and plan ahead.

We, therefore, request the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors to appoint a special study committee to:

1. Review programs and recommend adjustments.
2. Analyze membership make-up of Farm Bureau and chart future membership goals.
3. Develop a financial plan that will assure a strong viable Farm Bureau.

**MEMBER INFORMATION**

Farm operators have a vital concern in the regulations relating to farm production which are currently in effect. Michigan Farm Bureau and MASA are to be commended for the effort expended to keep farm operators abreast of such regulations. In many cases, regulations become burdensome and costly. Detailed record keeping and additional features on farm machines increase the cost of food production, thus adding to the cost of the food item to the consumer. We urge that all regulations be practical and reasonable.

**SERVICE-TO-MEMBER PROGRAMS**

It is important for Michigan Farm Bureau to promote specific new programs which will provide services for Farm Bureau members only. We appreciate the extra effort by our Michigan Farm Bureau Board in seeking and evaluating potential new programs. We commend Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company for developing the new Farm Bureau Member Group Life program soon to be offered to members.

We must also preserve to the fullest degree possible those service-to-member programs which fulfill the present and future needs of our members.

**SERVICE TO FARMERS**

In this changing agriculture, our affiliate service companies are constantly challenged to provide new and improved service to farmers. Our companies have long demonstrated an ability to provide innovative approaches to the service needs of farmers.

We urge Farmers Petroleum and Farm Bureau Services to provide, where possible, on-the-farm tire service, bulk feed delivery, and terminal marketing of grain direct from the farm. We recommend that Farmers Petroleum and Farm Bureau Services:

- Maintain outlet business hours in line with local business practices. Special consideration should be given to planting and harvest needs of the area.
- Make safety equipment available to farmers, such as fire extinguishers, first aid kits, sound protective ear muffs and ear plugs, steel-toed shoes, hard hats, gas masks, oxygen breathing equipment, etc.

**MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY**

Farm Bureau is a democratic organization with every member having the right to participate in making recommendations and decisions. This opportunity to participate is available to members by attending Community Group Meetings, County Annual Meetings, and the State Annual Meeting. We are pleased that our members take this responsibility seriously.

We point out that this right to participate carries with it the responsibility to support the decisions of the majority. This requires a sense of organization discipline which can only be self-imposed by the member.

We encourage our members to discuss, disagree, and recommend changes in the policy when these actions are appropriate. **WE ALSO REQUEST THAT MEMBERS GIVE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT TO ALL MATTERS OF FARM BUREAU POLICY AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN PROPERLY APPROVED.**

**FARM BUREAU WOMEN & OPERATION UNDERSTANDING**

Farm Bureau members constitute the largest consumer group in the state. Farm Bureau members probably have much more at stake in the consumer movement than any other group. They buy great quantities of steel, rubber, and many products for their farm businesses and are most concerned with the quality of these products. They are acutely aware of the cost-price squeeze that farmers find themselves in because of spiraling production costs and the great fluctuation of farm product prices. Farm Bureau women have made progress in discussing this with urban counterparts through a Speakers' Bureau, shopping mall displays, and being active in the consumer movement. We commend the Farm Bureau Women for these efforts and urge them to expand their activities to help gain a better understanding of the economics of agriculture.

We urge County Women's Committees to provide the opportunity for participation of women of all member families in action-type projects to resolve these issues and further the total program of the Farm Bureau at the local, county, and state levels.

**CITIZENSHIP**

Good citizenship means more than voting, oratory, and displaying patriotic symbols. It encourages being informed on issues, willingness to defend and to explain our system of government, and courage to act within our political system.

We, in Farm Bureau, have conducted many activities to equip persons to meet their citizenship responsibilities. We will continue to do so. These include activities such as Legislative Seminars, Meet and Measure the Candidate



**Stepping Down**

Richard Wieland retreats from the microphone after giving his views during the controversy on the milk temperature resolution.

Meetings, Young People's Citizenship Seminars, Heritage Tours, and Freedom Conferences.

We are increasingly concerned with the apathy and unanchored individualism that is developing in our citizenry. "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." We, in Farm Bureau, cannot solve all of our problems through legislative efforts; but each individual Farm Bureau member should and must become politically active in local government and join civic organizations to put forth sound ideas for the betterment of the entire society.

The year 1976 is a Bicentennial Anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. We urge every Farm Bureau member to join in preparing to make this celebration a success and reawaken the pride, patriotism, and love of country which has been so sadly lacking the past few years.

**FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMER PROGRAM**

The Young Farmer Program is a proven method of surfacing and developing effective leaders. Effective leadership development programs will continue to grow in importance as the demand for skilled leaders in our organization grows.

Young farmers are eager for meaningful involvement in the vital issues confronting agriculture. We must seek to satisfy that desire through involvement of qualified young farmers in all Farm Bureau activities.

A Young Farmer Program can only be successful if given the strong and active support of county leaders. This support can best be shown by taking an active interest in the appointing and guiding of a Young Farmer Committee which is advisory and responsible to the County Farm Bureau Board. Steps should be taken to provide young farmers easy access to participation in ALL Farm Bureau programs.

**AFFILIATE COMPANY AGREEMENTS**

Agreements signed between County Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau affiliate companies have been used to clearly define the responsibilities of parties involved. It is of the utmost importance that every County Farm Bureau Board review these agreements yearly. This will create a better understanding of the duties of both parties and lessen the chance of misunderstanding.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAMS**

Because of our concern for the welfare of our families and employees, we encourage Farm Bureau Women to conduct action projects regarding safety and health. We urge their continued cooperation with the Michigan Agricultural Services Association to inform and assist members to meet the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. We believe the efforts of Farm Bureau Women in preparing farm families to meet emergency situations through First Aid Training, the promotion of preventive health care, farm First Aid Kits on every farm, and their goals of safety on the farm, in the home, and on the highways deserve the full support of all members.

We commend Farm Bureau Women for the fact that many Farm Bureau Women leaders are now serving on various state, regional, and local commissions and committees regarding health and safety.

**MEMBER-TO-MEMBER MARKETING**

The sale of Michigan cherries, apples, Florida citrus, citrus juice, and other products has pioneered a new member-to-member marketing concept. These programs have received good support from Farm Bureau members throughout the state and nation.

We appreciate the MACMA efforts to expand the direct sale of top quality products to Farm Bureau members through the cooperation of its newest division, Michigan Certified Farm Markets.

We urge the sales program of Michigan products to Farm Bureau members in other states be expanded.

Member-to-member marketing holds a great future potential as a market for our products and as a service to our members, but we must never forget that high quality control is vital to success.

**COMMODITY DIVISION APPROACH**

Agricultural production and marketing is becoming more specialized. Farmers' problems are often commodity oriented. Farm Bureau, although defined as a

general farm organization, serves the specific commodity interests of members in many ways. We must provide additional opportunities for more members to become active in their commodity interest areas within our organization.

To meet this goal, the American Farm Bureau Federation has developed the commodity division approach. Operating commodity divisions are now being developed for several commodities, including soybeans, cotton, rice, and dairy. Other commodity divisions are now under study.

The purpose of a commodity division is to provide new, more effective organizational tools within Farm Bureau. By means of this new method a system is provided within Farm Bureau through which members may direct special emphasis to, and establish identity for, commodity problems and programs as a coordinated part of the overall Farm Bureau program. One initial function of a commodity division is to inform the County Farm Bureau through policy recommendations about problems of, and programs needed to better serve, the particular commodity interests of Farm Bureau members.

Since commodity divisions are organized within the Farm Bureau structure, their activities must be separate from the marketing-bargaining functions of our affiliated Farm Bureau marketing associations. As commodity programs and activities are developed by the commodity division, they must be financed by division members in addition to regular Farm Bureau dues.

The Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors has adopted the commodity division approach for soybeans and dairy. The first commodity division of the Michigan Farm Bureau, in soybeans, has now been established. County Farm Bureaus in the major soybean-producing areas of Michigan have established County Soybean Divisions. State and County Soybean Action Committees have been named and are functioning.

We believe the commodity division approach is an effective organizational method to serve the specialized needs of members. We ask that this approach be utilized and expanded within the Michigan Farm Bureau.

**COMMUNICATIONS STUDY**

We request Michigan Farm Bureau to study the feasibility of establishing a communication system with County Farm Bureaus in order that current market information and analysis can be obtained by members.

**FARM BUREAU LIVESTOCK PACKING STUDY**

The Michigan livestock industry continues to expand. Reasons for expansion include a large amount of available feed that can be utilized efficiently through feeding livestock and a good local demand for choice meat.

Recently, we have seen a decline in the number of livestock slaughterers and processors in our state. Government price controls increased the costs of operation and caused some Michigan packers to curtail or close their slaughtering operations.

Currently, many slaughter cattle are being purchased in Michigan and slaughtered in other areas.

Livestock feeders are concerned about losing buying power and slaughtering capacity, particularly if livestock feeding in Michigan continues to expand and slaughtering operations continue to decline.

There appears to be a need for expanded slaughtering and processing capacity in this state.

Therefore, we request that Michigan State University and the Michigan Department of Agriculture conduct a joint study as to the current and future needs of livestock slaughtering in Michigan and, further, that the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors charge the Michigan Farm Bureau Livestock Committee to make use of the study to make recommendations to implement the study.

**FARM BUREAU MARKETING STUDIES**

Farm Bureau affiliates are engaged in many successful marketing programs. Part of the reason for success has been that these programs were called for by members. Another reason has been that proper research has been done prior to establishing the service. This research includes the need, economic feasibility, and alternative methods of operation.

We ask the Board of Directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau to authorize the conduct of marketing studies as needs arise and resources permit. We believe that the following areas are worthy of research.

- Soybean Marketing. In order to encourage more orderly marketing and expand exports, the feasibility of establishing a Soybean Marketing Program modeled after the Farm Bureau Wheat Marketing Program should be studied. If possible, this marketing program should be established on a multi-state basis.
- Processing and Handling Facilities. Modern, efficient fruit and vegetable processing facilities are needed in several strategic locations in Michigan. A study of the problems of the processing industry and the feasibility of establishing needed facilities would be valuable.
- Wine Grape Industry. Wine laws and regulations are complicated and should be studied to ascertain if they are in the best interests of the wine grape producers.
- Poultry Marketing. The Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act (P.A. 344) exempts the poultry industry from its provisions. We request a study be made by Farm Bureau to determine the feasibility of including poultry under this act.

**FARM BUREAU MARKETING PROGRAMS**

Agricultural marketing is of major concern to farmers. We recognize the need to improve our present marketing methods if we are to receive a more equitable income. Farm Bureau-county, state, and national-must assist and support the development and early operational phase of marketing programs so that they can be financially sound. These marketing programs should be given our highest priority. We should continue to expand marketing

activities in commodity areas when requested by members and where programs are economically feasible.

Members producing commodities for which Farm Bureau affiliates have marketing programs should become informed of these producer-owned-and-operated marketing services and participate in these programs. Members must be willing to commit the commodities they produce through contracts with their marketing organizations so that our affiliate marketing organizations can work to sell members' products through full supply contracts.

#### GRAIN AND BEAN MARKETING

We commend the Michigan Elevator Exchange Division of Farm Bureau Services for the development of programs to improve markets for Michigan farm products, including the Cooperative Bean Marketing Agreement and operation of Farm Bureau's Wheat Marketing Program.

We especially note their effective efforts in the development of a container terminal at Saginaw, use of 100-car trains, and promotion of export sales through participation in trade missions and the Saginaw Valley Bean and Beet Research Farm.

We congratulate company personnel for their success in opening up a market for Michigan navy beans in Yugoslavia, Belgium, and Czechoslovakia and in moving grain into South Africa.

#### PLUM INDUSTRY

Michigan ranks first or second in the production of purple plums in the U.S., depending upon the year. Tree count has gradually increased. Plums rank second in Michigan only to apples in numbers of fruit growers producing the crop. The plum industry needs additional direction and effort in promoting plums as is witnessed by the relatively poor price received by growers for their crop in the last ten years and again in 1973. Farm Bureau and MACMA should push further a diversification of market options by encouraging processors in canned, dried, and frozen packs. Ways should be found to promote plums for both fresh and processed markets.

#### TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Michigan Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Services should conduct a joint comprehensive study of the total transportation storage and physical handling and delivery system for field crops. This study should make recommendations in the following areas:

1. What should be done to solve the physical handling problems.
2. How can the handling system be made to mesh more smoothly.
3. Recommend some of the alternatives which would be the best from an economic standpoint for Michigan agriculture.

The study should be statistically documented and the findings made available by January 1, 1975.

#### MARKETING PROGRESS

We commend MACMA for effectively marketing its members' commodities in 1973.

Dedicated marketing committeemen and staff have effectively used current market analysis information to vigorously seek and obtain substantially higher prices—prices that reflect the full marketing value of the commodity in 1973.

We further commend the MACMA Board of Directors for adopting a preferred stock financing plan to raise equity capital that will provide adequate funds to finance our growing marketing affiliate.

We urge all MACMA members to insure the financial strength and stability of their organization by purchasing MACMA preferred stock.

#### FARM LABOR MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Michigan farmers are concerned with the problems of hiring and retaining capable employees. Each year, the competition for skilled workers from outside of agriculture has become more severe.

The manager of today's farm business needs assistance in avoiding labor problems and preparing to meet and deal with problems if they arise.

We commend MASA for recruiting labor, representing farmers' interest at legislative labor hearings, and a labor management newsletter service.

We appreciate the leadership MASA is providing in the Farm Bureau "Save Our Food" program designed to move agricultural products to market when circumstances prevent normal access to markets.

#### WE COMMEND FOR UNSELFISH SERVICE

Many of our fellow farmers are serving agriculture and our State as members of boards, commissions, committees, and advisory groups on which agricultural representation is important to all of us.

Often this service is rendered without any reimbursement for time and expenses involved.

We commend these people and recognize them for their unselfish service to agriculture.

We especially commend our dedicated County Farm Bureau leaders and dedicated staff members for their efforts, many times beyond the call of duty. An excellent example was the service rendered during the recent meat boycott. Their assistance and guidance has helped make the Michigan Farm Bureau the effective voice of farmers.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE

Recent surveys show that farmers have a favorable image with most people; as population increases, however, we must increase our efforts to create a better understanding among our nonfarm people. They must understand that as population increases, they have a stake in the farmers' ability to efficiently produce ever-increasing quantities of food and fiber.

The year of 1973 provided many issues affecting far-

mers. These included the so-called high food prices, the meat boycott, price freezes, and food shortages. These were opportunities to present the farmers' story to the nonfarm population.

We are pleased that the Michigan Farm Bureau had reorganized its staff to take advantage of these opportunities. With the expansion of the Information Division to include Public Relations, the organization carried on many activities. There were 11 news conferences held in addition to 17 television filmings. These films were duplicated and sent to television stations throughout the state. Personal appearances on television were also utilized effectively. These included two one-half hour appearances on a Saturday night program in Detroit, with similar appearances on stations in Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Jackson. Additional speeches were given to outside groups on the economics of agriculture.

Other activities were expanded also. "Farm News Today" is now carried by 20 radio stations each day, in addition to a daily program entitled "Farm News In Depth" and a weekly program entitled "Accent Agriculture" 161 papers throughout the state carry the "Ag In Action" column—this is an increase of 27 over the previous year. Many of the columns have been featured as editorials in papers throughout the state.

The most effective public relations for agriculture, however, is done by farmers themselves. The visits to supermarkets by farmers during the meat boycott are examples of this fact. This year we are proud that the Farm Bureau Women have started the Speakers Bureau project. We congratulate many counties for carrying on activities such as Rural-Urban meetings, farm visits, and participating in local projects.

We urge County Farm Bureaus to utilize Information Committees more effectively and urge Farm Bureau members to utilize every opportunity to tell the farm story to both nonfarmers and farmers.

#### HEALTH CARE

Due to the high cost of prescription drugs and other health care costs that are not covered by our present Blue Cross-Blue Shield contract, we urge a study be made of the possibility of providing a Master Medical coverage which would pay for a major portion of the additional costs. The study should also include the possibility of deductible contracts up to \$500.

#### ESTATE PLANNING

It is estimated that more than 60 percent of the population has not even taken the basic step of preparing a will for the transfer of their property at death. State and federal laws are such that a large percentage of the estate can be devoured by taxes without proper planning. We recommend that Michigan Farm Bureau continue its program of information to the members on estate planning problems and point out the many techniques of transferring property to heirs at the least possible tax obligation. It is becoming increasingly difficult to transfer farms from one generation to another.

#### CATTLE RUSTLING

Incidents of cattle rustling are becoming numerous, with substantial losses to Michigan farmers. The Michigan State Police and Michigan Farm Bureau worked together closely on various programs to help prevent rustling. A reward program has been most successful in some counties.

We urge that Michigan Farm Bureau consider and explore the possibility of rewarding individuals for information leading to the arrest and conviction of rustlers. This could be offered as a service-to-member program.

#### ORIENTATION OF EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS

The employed representatives of the Michigan Farm Bureau and all of its affiliated companies represent Farm Bureau in general when contacting members around the state and the public at large.

Uninformed or misinformed employees or agents may contribute to a poor or weak image of Farm Bureau, either in answers given to questions or statements made to other people when the information involves companies other than their own. A lack of information shows a weak interest on their part toward Farm Bureau when inquiries are made.

We recognize that efforts are being made to inform all employees about the programs of Farm Bureau and all affiliates through a regular liaison program. In addition, new employee orientation programs are being held regularly to create an understanding of the objectives and philosophies of our Farm Bureau family.

#### BYLAW AMENDMENT I

Article IV, Section 2 of the Bylaws presently reads as follows:

Section 2. Family Membership. Membership in this association shall be a family membership which includes the husband and wife and minor children; provided, that an unmarried minor reaching the age of 21 shall be included in his or her family membership for the balance of the calendar year; and provided further, that married minors must qualify as a family membership. (As amended November 13, 1954)

Resolved, that Article IV, Section 2 of the Bylaws of this association shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 2. Family Membership. Membership in this association shall be a family membership comprised of the husband and wife and shall include all unmarried children until the end of the calendar year in which any such child reaches the age of 21 years.

#### BYLAW AMENDMENT II

Article IV, Section 6 of the Bylaws presently reads as follows:

Section 6. Transfer of Membership. Each member shall be entitled to a certificate of membership signed by the Secretary of Michigan Farm Bureau. Membership shall not be transferrable by assignment or

sale or be transferred to heirs or assigns. Resolved, that Article IV, Section 6 of the Bylaws of this association shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 6. Transfer of Membership. Each member shall be entitled to a certificate of membership signed by the President of Michigan Farm Bureau. Membership shall not be transferrable by assignment, sale or inheritance.

#### BYLAW AMENDMENT III

Article VIII, Section 1 title presently reads as follows:

Section 1. Number Resolved, that Article VIII, Section 1 title of the Bylaws of this association shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Number and Qualifications

#### BYLAW AMENDMENT IV

Article VIII, Section 1, beginning with the words "no member" on line 4, page 5, and ending with the words "annual meeting" on line 13, page 5, presently reads as follows:

No member shall be elected as a director who is a full-time employee paid by salary or commission by this organization, or any organization associated or affiliated with it, a county Farm Bureau, or any insurance company or organization sponsored by the Michigan Farm Bureau; or a full-time employee of any nonfarming business organization or a municipal organization; or any person elected to and serving in a county, state or national elective office, provided, however, that a member of this association elected and serving on a county board of commissioners shall not be disqualified from serving as a member of the board of directors of this association or a delegate to its annual meeting.

Resolved, that Article VIII, Section 1, beginning with the words "no member" on line 4, page 5 and ending with the words "annual meeting" on line 13, page 5 by the Bylaws of this association shall be amended to read as follows:

No member shall be elected as a director who is employed fulltime in an occupation other than farming or who is actively engaged as an owner of a non-farming business or nonfarming profession or who is serving in a chartered township, county, state or national elective office; provided, however, that this provision shall not apply to a member of this association elected and serving as a trustee of a chartered township.

#### BYLAW AMENDMENT V

Article VI, Section 1 of the Bylaws presently reads as follows:

Section 1. Voting Delegates. For the purpose of holding annual and special meetings of the members of this association, there are hereby created voting delegates to represent the members at meetings of the association. Such voting delegates, when duly accredited, shall have and exercise, as the representatives of the members, all the powers, rights and privileges of the members by whom they have been elected. A voting delegate must be a member in good standing of this association, and of the local unit which he represents, and shall fulfill the qualifications required of directors as set forth in Article VIII, Section 1 by these bylaws. (As amended November 11, 1964)

Article VI, Section 1 shall read identical except the additional words shall be added as follows:

provided, however, that a member of this association elected and serving on a County Board of Commissioners shall not be disqualified from serving as a voting delegate.

#### STATUS OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

The policies adopted at the four previous annual meetings are hereby reaffirmed except insofar as they have been modified or supplemented by later policies, including those adopted at this annual meeting. All other policies shall be deemed to have lapsed except insofar as the Board of Directors may specifically find that such a prior policy provides the only basis for action on a current problem.



### Women Heard

Though at times the order of the day appeared to be parliamentary gymnastics, the procedure left no one slighted by the chairman.

# ENERGY HANDLE WITH CARE

This year's fuel shortage has brought great uncertainty for rural Michigan. During both the spring and fall seasons, farmers faced a short supply of fuel for farming.

As long as wasteful fuel practices continue in non-farm activities, such as — unnecessary trips, poor use of public transportation by urban population, tourist travel, inefficient office building heating etc., how can the American farmer be expected to produce food and fiber for the United States and the world? Let's get our priorities straight. If we are going to eat, the farmer will have to have fuel ... not an allocation of part of his needs, but a PRIORITY on all his essential farm needs.

### PRIORITY FOR FARMERS

Farmers Petroleum has been, and will continue to work hard to gain top priorities for farming activities. In fact, just recently the government did give agriculture some Priority Status in the distribution of petroleum supplies.

As a farmer owned and operated co-op, we are dedicated to helping farming in Michigan grow. During the heavy farming season of '73 Farmers Petroleum shut down its retail pumps in order to assure adequate fuel to its farmer customers. As a member of the newly formed Energy Action Committee of the National Council of Farmers Cooperatives, Farmers Petroleum will actively work for larger fuel allocations and ever higher priorities.

### HANDLE WITH CARE

Rationing and other conservation measures will not increase the supply of fuel. Hopefully, through cut backs of non-farm, non-essential fuel consumption, there will be enough for the planting season next spring.

### HERE'S SOME HOT TIPS FROM YOUR WARM WINTER MEN...

Do you know that, simply by insulating your attic floor, you can cut your fuel consumption by 20%. Wall insulation will result in additional savings. Putting up storm doors and windows can cut fuel usage by 15 to 20%.

Set your thermostat at 68° and leave it alone. Turn your thermostat to 65° when you retire at night or 55° if you are going to be gone a day or more. Maintain a humidity level of 45% to 50%, you will be comfortable at a lower temperature and healthier too. Close-off unused rooms, and close the curtains at night to keep heat in and open in the day to let in warming sunlight.

Remember, that a clean efficient heating plant will burn less fuel, and save you money. Get your furnace checked now and change the filters. Don't forget your hot water system, too. A leaky faucet or uninsulated pipes will cost you dollars as well as waste precious fuel.

### SAVING POWER FOR TOMORROW

In an effort to cut fuel consumption, your cooperative has instituted 8 conservation measures at all locations. Some of these include: A 50 MPH speed limit on company cars, reduction of thermostats to 68° in buildings, elimination of non-essential lighting in buildings during after business hours, and studies on further fuel conservation measures at all plants.

The present demand for heating fuel, is between 10% to 17% greater than the supply.

It is important that non-farm, wasteful uses of fuel be curtailed at once. Only through stringent fuel conservation of non-essential uses, will there be enough fuel for farming this spring.

You don't like it and we don't either. Fact is fact, there just isn't enough heating oil to go around. This could result in some chilly temperatures in our homes.

It's up to all of us ... to do all we can to ease this energy shortage situation.

Where Your Farm Comes First

**Farm Bureau**  
FARMERS PETROLEUM

Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc.  
Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904

Help us to help others to think about fuel conservation. Send for free decals.



# 1974 MFB Queen - Judy Larson

As Judy Larson stood in the spotlight and was announced as the 1974 Michigan Farm Bureau Queen, a look swept over her face as if to say, "Oh, you've got to be kidding."

It was all too believable to the crowd that the lovely blonde-haired co-ed would be representing Michigan in the national pageant. Moments before undoubtedly impressed the judges with her apparent nonchalance as she answered Dave Cook's casual questions before 1,200 on-lookers.

It was her nonchalance through the entire day and actually since her entry into the contest that made Judy think that she would never become queen.

"After I left my first interview on the day of the pageant, I said to myself, 'Judy you really blew it' ". Judy recalled later. She was afraid the judge wouldn't have liked her frank answer as to why she had entered the pageant.

She admits that she was pushed into it a little by her brother-in-law who after seeing Judy serve in the Michigan State University Homecoming Court decided she was going to represent The Ionia Farm Bureau in Grand Rapids.

As it turned out, Judy almost didn't make it to the pageant. A friend driving her toward Grand Rapids through the same snow that kept many speakers and guests

away from the Annual Meeting, finally turned to her and asked, "Does it really mean that much that you get there?"

She told him if she didn't make it, he would have to face all the fellas in Ionia that were counting on her. Fortunately, the driver preferred to face the snow.

Judy thought the day was worth the trip. Rather than face the interviews and rehearsals with nervous anticipation, Judy said she had a great time meeting all the girls from all over the state.

Apparently, the judges saw something in Judy's attitude that indicated she would be a good representative for agriculture throughout Michigan and possibly through the country.

Judy certainly will carry good credentials with her to Atlantic City on Jan. 13. Living on a dairy farm, Judy has shown cattle since she was nine years old. Presently she is a junior at Michigan State University and majoring in history which should prepare her for the volumes of book work that will be necessary to study criminal law as she hopes to do.

With that sort of a future planned, Judy's father wondered what good being a Farm Bureau Queen would be to her. But as Judy said, "He was smiling as big as anyone when I was chosen."



A POPULAR CHOICE. Runner up Linda Bloss (left) and the other contestants look as happy as Judy Larson (center) as she is announced as the 1974 Michigan Farm Bureau Queen. The Ionia queen was chosen at the MFB Queen Pageant which was a highlight of the Annual Banquet in Grand Rapids last month.

Photo by Marcia Ditchie

## Four Star Counties Good Examples

A four-star county in Farm Bureau is one that can be looked to as an example of a county organization that makes almost full use of its capabilities and which has its presence felt on many fronts in the community.

This year two County Farm Bureaus rated four stars -- receiving one for reaching their membership goal and one for each award winning program.

Both Chippewa and Newago County Farm Bureaus received laurels for their information and policy development programs with Chippewa also standing out in community group work and Newago in its Young Farmer activities.

Chippewa, under President Edwin DeWitt has an information program that is geared to both the member and toward public opinion. A concise and regular newsletter keeps members informed of their part in FB activities.

On the public front the information committee is ready to contact two area radio stations to set up interviews with FB members whenever an issue they think warrants special comment comes up. Through regular association with the news media FB news is well accepted.

Another form of public relations takes over through community groups that carry on commodity promotions and get involved in local issues that affect farmers.

Remembering where all FB stands begin, Chippewa members are extremely active in policy development. To assure even-handed decision making, all major commodity groups are represented on the County PD Committee and the organization has learned to accept ideas for recommendations from several different levels -- community groups, commodity advisory committees, the women's committees and the Young Farmers committees.

The result was 24 well written resolutions covering both state and national affairs, that were submitted to the state PD Committee.

Newago County F.B., under the direction of Myron Kokx, Jr. can show anyone how to take full advantage of local newspapers. Eloise Kunnen puts the information program into action and writes a weekly column which is included in the county's public newspaper. Mrs. Kunnen also uses

(Continued on page 19)

## Triple DSA Honors

The Michigan Farm Bureau honored a college dean, a farmer, and the first woman to chair the Michigan Agriculture Commission, at the annual banquet Dec. 13, in Grand Rapids.

Recipients of the coveted "Distinguished Service to Agriculture" awards were: Dr. Lawrence L. Boger, Dean of College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University; Basil McKenzie, Breckenridge farmer and Gratiot County community leader, and Mrs. Rebecca Tompkins, Traverse City, chairman of the Michigan Agriculture Commission and member of the Governor's Task Force on Michigan Agriculture.

Michigan Farm Bureau's distinguished service to agriculture awards have been presented since 1965 to outstanding leaders for dedicated service and leadership to the industry.

Dr. Boger, cited for "dedication to agriculture and leadership at Michigan State University," has been affiliated with MSU since 1948. He has been Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources since 1969, and currently serves on the Governor's Special Commission on Land Use.

Agricultural credit, its use, management and supply, have been a part of Dr. Boger's efforts as he has worked with bankers and other credit agencies to create understanding of this resource. He was among the first to do research projects on computer science to credit analysis and projections.

A former educator and school administrator, Basil McKenzie farms 400 acres in Gratiot County with his son.

McKenzie was instrumental in getting interest aroused for Michigan State University's Bean and Beet Experimental Farm and served as its first advisory board chairman. He also worked for the creation of the Michigan Bean Commission.

Mrs. Seth Tompkins was honored for her "voice, energy and actions prompting and protecting Michigan agriculture." She was first appointed to the Michigan Agriculture Commission in 1966 and was elected chairman in 1968 and again in 1972. Appointed by the Governor to serve on a Task Force on Michigan Agriculture, she has travelled throughout the state seeking opinions on the future direction of Michigan agriculture.

Mrs. Tompkins was a member of the Public Health Service Review Committee for the Federal

Migrant Health Act and served as an observer and consultant in several states. In presenting the award to "Becky," President Elton R. Smith called her "one of the finest ambassadors agriculture has ever had."



Dr. Lawrence Boger



Basil McKenzie



Rebecca Tompkins



McDONALD'S CHOICE. A successful family on a successful family farm, is what McDonald's Dairy saw when the awarded Roger and Linda Bloss the Outstanding Young Cooperators award. The Bloss' have three children - Ricky and Tammy, (above) as well as two month-old Julie Ann.

## FB Claims Top Cooperators

Farm Bureau thinks it can prove that forward thinking farmers are Farm Bureau members. Another piece of evidence has just been secured with the announcement that Roger and Linda Bloss of Swartz Creek are McDonald Dairy's outstanding young cooperators for 1973.

Roger and Linda, who are in a dairy farm partnership with Roger's father, F. D. Bloss, have shown that it pays to take full advantage of today's farm technology. The couple keep farm business records under computer analysis through Tel-farm as well as maintaining D.H.I.A. computerized production records on their cows.

"We believe if we are to produce milk we should take all the advantages possible from our cows," Roger says.

Obviously, the couple believes it is worthwhile being involved in governmental policy through Farm Bureau, too. Both Linda and Roger are members of the Genesee County Farm Bureau Board and Linda was recently chosen County Farm Bureau Queen. The mother of three also finds time to be the secretary of the Women's Committee.

Despite adding the chairmanship of FB Young Farmers Activities to his schedule, Roger manages to run a modern efficient operation.

The farm is a mixture of old and new. There is the old loose-housing barn which now houses the young cattle, the old parlor which has been converted into a calf barn with 14 individual stalls and one group pen for four to six calves.

The new includes a double-six herringbone parlor with dribble feeders and a newly installed Zero milking system with a 1,000 gallon tank.

The cow barn has a bunker silo covered by a 50' free span rafter with a conveyor system suspended from the lower cord by "I" beams. These conveyors allow the Bloss' to fill the bunker without packing--eliminating a one-man job. The entire system was designed and installed by the owners.

Looking at the Bloss operation from the Farm Bureau or McDonald Dairy point of view leaves the same conclusion -- Roger and Linda are outstanding young farmers.



# PRESENT ISSUES:

The following are not expressions of Farm Bureau policy

## Dairy Industry Dumped Upon

by Don VerWest  
Economist, McDonald's Dairy  
Cooperative

Dairy farmers are concerned about greater imports of dairy products and they're concerned about expanded import quotas which the administration has allowed in 1973. Dairy farmers are suspicious and critical of government actions which operate contrary to their interests and consumers insofar as these policies deprive us as a nation of US produced dairy products which meet our sanitation requirements.

Dairy farmers are concerned about the Flanigan report that is supposed to be a study of what might take place with liberalized trade policies over the next 7 years.

The Flanigan report suggests that the US negotiate for freer trade particularly in grains in exchange for allowing much greater import of dairy products—particularly nonfat dry milk, butter and cheese. The report suggests that US milk production which was 120 billion lb. in 1972 could be cut to 104 billion lb. This would certainly be disruptive in Wisconsin and Minnesota where these commodities are produced.



Don VerWest - Slams Washington for two-faced policy.

But just because Michigan is a fluid milk state doesn't mean we'd be immune. Because there is interstate movement of milk and people in Wisconsin wouldn't give up their markets that easily. There would be pressure on our market that would tend to lower prices.

Dairy farmers are afraid that administration actions indicate that they have accepted the Flanigan recommendations and are putting them into practice.

It is up to the Secretary of Agriculture to find a support level necessary to produce adequate supplies of milk. He determined the minimum of 75 percent parity last April and within a week the administration allowed millions of lbs. of foreign non-fat dry milk solids into this country with the argument that we were short of supply. These two actions are completely contradictory.

Dairymen are concerned and consumers should be concerned about the cost of these supplies.

Butter prices in the EEC have ranged from \$1.12 to \$1.98 per lb. Right now they have millions of lbs. of surplus. Up to now when they have had surpluses they use export subsidies to get rid of it.

Butter is coming into the US now at port of entry at 69 cents lb. This was the cause of our butter markets

dropping from 87 cents lb. to 72 cents two months ago. But certainly if we become regular customers I doubt these countries would subsidize their butter and make it available at 69 cents lb.

I would also question the efficiency argument behind dairy imports. The argument is that we can send our grain to Europe have the European dairymen use it in their production to produce cheese, non-fat dry milk solids and ship it back to the US and do it more efficiently than we can use the same grain and produce dairy products here.

Dairymen are also concerned about the quality of imported dairy products and consumers should be too. We have high standards of sanitation that work against contamination of dairy products. I acknowledge that some of these imported products are excellent but during the last nine or ten months we have denied entry or sale of hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of imported dairy products. The reasons for this were mold, decomposed materials, mislabeling and unsafe additives. The most prevalent additive was benzene hexachloride which of course has been prohibited here for many years.

An here's a wierd twist. We're being warned that this imported

non-fat dry milk is not be fed to your calves. Outside of imports from Canada about half of these imports have come from countries where they have hoof and mouth disease. It's alright to feed it to your children but don't feed it to your calves.

The president of the French Association of Dairy Manufacturers said, "It is difficult, except in the area of adjusting supply and demand to promote over a long period, durable and sizable export of dairy fat and not-fat solids (to the US) for the simple reason that the two economic bodies are self-sufficient."

Dairymen look at the president's policy of making the US self-sufficient in fuels but at the same time appear headed toward making ourselves more dependent on other countries for essential food.

Europe which went hungry during two world wars is much more conscious of the need for adequate food supply within their own countries.

Editor's note: MFB delegates passed a recommendation to the national AFBF resolutions committee to use countervailing duties against subsidized agricultural imports. It is currently AFBF policy to ban dairy imports from countries that have rinderpest and foot and mouth disease.

## Oil and Gas Leases to be Feared

by Robert T. Mish  
Blueberry Lane Plantation  
Otter Lake

The interview with Duane Cohoon "Oil and Gas Leases: What to Know" as published in the November issue was quite good. There are some points I would like to comment and expand on.

First I disagree with the statement "The oil and gas lease is nothing to be afraid of." This lease is written by the oil industry and for the oil industry and thus is certainly in their favor. I believe the lease is something to be afraid of.

It may well be that there is some protection under Michigan law but how many of us can afford an attorney and time to go to court to interpret the lease. Also, oil law is a specialized subject in itself and most attorneys do not have the necessary experience in the details of oil law. It is doubtful that for one or two cases that the attorney can afford to acquire the necessary knowledge.

Mr. Cohoon presented several excellent points to be considered by the farmer in looking at a lease. I would like to add the following to his list:

1) That the oil company be required to have at least \$500,000 liability insurance during drilling operations and \$100,000 during the producing phase. Right now there is no protection to the farmer in case of blowout such as happened at Williamsburg.

2) There should be a clause added that would require the operator to keep the lease in a clean, orderly manner and kept free of debris and unnecessary or abandoned equipment. This should include periodic painting of equipment. We farmers are proud of our farms and like to keep them looking nice.

3) As Mr. Cohoon points out, a lease "may be assigned two or three times before it gets to the people doing the drilling." The farmer should have the right to approve each assignment. Most oil companies are reputable and the farmer would not have any problems. However, the assignment could be made to a company that the farmer does not want to deal with.

4) There are cases where the royalty does not cover the value of the land used by the oil company. It would seem that in addition to the royalty the farmer should receive an annual rental equal to the value

of the crop that could be raised on the land used by the oil company.

5) After the initial term of the lease the land retained by the producing well should be limited to either 40 acres per well or as approved by governmental spacing orders. Thus a 40-acre well could not hold a 600-acre lease for extended periods of time.

I feel that an in-depth study would raise additional points that should be considered by the farmer. It is recommended that the Farm Bureau establish a committee to develop an oil and gas lease form that is more suited to the farmer.

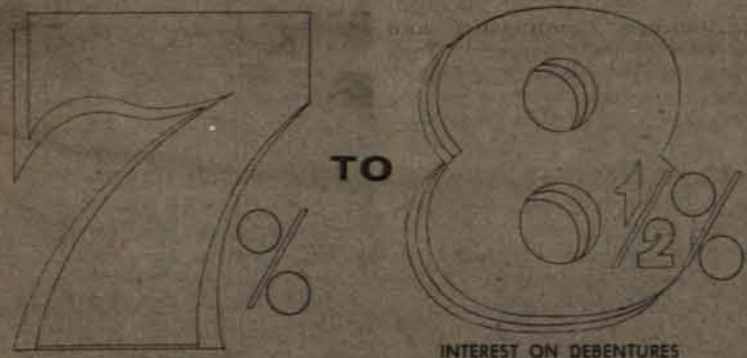


Outspoken

"There's no such thing as marginal farmland, just marginal farmers," was one of the uninhibited statements that marked Tom Seman's comments on "Land Use and Traditional Property Rights." Seman took the honors in the Young Farmer discussion meet with his views on that subject at the MFB Annual Meeting last month in Grand Rapids.

Photo by Marcia Ditchie

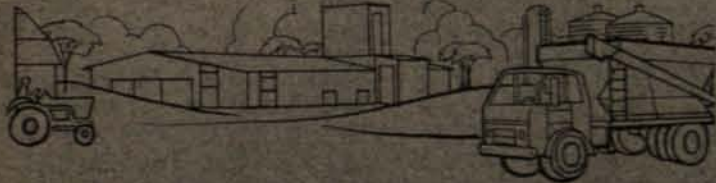
### DEBENTURES



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# A Fate After Death - Probate

## DISCUSSION TOPIC

by KEN WILES

Manager Member Relations

Many people are becoming aware of the increasing difficulty to transfer farms from one generation to another. Yet it is estimated that less than 40 percent of the population has not even taken the basic step of preparing a will for the transfer of their property at death.

State and federal laws are such that a large percentage of the estate can be devoured by taxes without proper planning. Inflationary pressures have increased values of farmlands to the point where present federal estate taxes and practices can force an agricultural enterprise out of business and prevent it from being passed on to members of the family.

Past experience has proven that the settlement of estates in Michigan can be a time-consuming, costly, and demoralizing process. Realizing this, the voting delegates at Michigan Farm Bureau's annual meeting last month adopted a policy recommending that:

"The legislature give a priority position to legislation charging the probate courts to provide for a uniform, prompt, and equitable method of estate settlement.

"Legislation be passed to update Michigan's Inheritance Tax laws. Present exemptions are unrealistic and should be increased consistent with inflationary pressures."

To better understand the need for a change in settling estates in Michigan, let's look at the procedures involved in handling an estate when there is a will. Remember that when there is no will the procedure is still more complicated and time-consuming.

### Probating a Will

The first step in handling an estate after the testator's (a person who makes a will) death is the probating (or proving) of the will. All this means is that the executor (the one named in the will to settle the estate) or the attorney representing the executor proves that the document offered before the court is, in fact, the last will and testament of the deceased, that it was properly executed, and that the testator was mentally competent at the time the will was written.

A will is probated in the county and state where the testator lived or had his chief residence at the time of death. If he had his home and business in Michigan but died in Arizona, the will is probated in Michigan. If he sold his home and business and retired to Arizona, intending to remain there for the rest of his life, and died in Arizona, the will be probated according to the laws of Arizona.

A will is probated by petition to a court concerned with the administration of estates. In the petition certain declarations are made:

1. That the testator died on a certain date and at a given place.
2. That he lived in the county or

city in which the will is offered for probate.

3. That the names and addresses are listed of all persons who are entitled to share in the estate if the decedent had died without a will, as well as those who are beneficiaries under the will.

4. That the petitioner requests that he be appointed the personal representative or executor of the testator's estate.

If there is no objection to the contents of the will, witnesses need not appear. This is known as probate without objection. If there is an objection, the executor, or attorney acting on his behalf, files what is known as a caveat to the will. This is a formal warning to the court to have will set aside or, if the will has already been probated, to have the approval vacated.

The usual reasons for filing to have a will set aside or to have the approval vacated are:

1. That the will is a forgery, either in whole or in part.

2. That the will was improperly executed.

3. That the will was written while the testator was subject to undue influence or fraud.

4. That the will offered was revoked, either by another will or modification or by operation of law.

To be effective, a caveat must be filed within the time prescribed by law. Whether it is filed before or after probate, the court appoints an administrator pending litigation to handle the estate while the court determines the validity of the will in question.

No matter what the will stipulates, interested parties can get together and by agreement redistribute the estate in a way agreeable to all of them.

"The settlement by compromise," said one court, "of will contests and family disputes, being calculated to avert contentions, adjust doubtful rights, contribute to peace and harmony, protect the honor of the family, and avoid litigation, is not in contravention of public policy; and, when finally and fairly arrived at, is favored both in law and in equity."

When a caveat to a will is filed and there is no compromise, a hearing is held on the issues raised. The usual issues are:

1. Whether the will was procured by undue influence.

2. Whether the will was actually read by the testator.

3. Whether the will was signed by the testator.

4. Whether the testator was mentally able to execute the will and understand its contents.

5. Whether the will was properly witnessed.

6. Whether there was fraud in the procurement of the will.

7. Whether the will was revoked by the testator.

Once the issues have been framed, either side to a caveat has the right to a jury trial. A decision

is made by the jury or by the judge sitting as a jury, and the will is returned to the probate court, which is bound by the verdict. The loser, of course, has the right to appeal to a higher court.

### Second Step

The second step after a will has been probated or approved and letters testamentary granted (certificate of the probate court that the executor named in the will has qualified and is authorized to proceed with the settlement of the estate according to the terms of the will) is the collection of assets.

The executor or his attorney makes an inventory including all personal and real property owned by the testator at the time of his death. Corporate stocks, debts owned by the testator, bonds, notes, bank or saving and loan accounts may be appraised by the personal representative. Other property must be valued by a court appointed appraiser.

The personal representative must file a certificate that within a specified time he has mailed or delivered notice of such filing to all interested persons.

A separate inventory must be made of the debts due the decedent. These include mortgages and rents which became due before the testator's death as well as those which became due after the testator's death. They are usually divided into hopeful, desperate, and doubtful or some similar classification. Action must be taken by the personal representative to recover all debts which, in his opinion or in the opinion of the court, as thought collectible.

The executor or his attorney is required to reduce all assets to possession. Like a trustee he must notify all tenants to pay rents to him, have all bank or savings and loan accounts as well as safe deposit boxes transferred into his name, and file and defend suits whenever necessary. Unless expressly granted the right to do so under the will, an executor has no right to invest the assets of the estate without the written authority of the court. An executor may not profit from the estate he is administering.

An executor may continue the business of the decedent, if he is instructed to do so under the will or if all the interested parties give him written permission. Without such consent he has no right to continue the business and must personally stand any losses by reason of his unauthorized act.

An executor, however, has the right to use his discretion in the compromise of any debts due to the estate; he may also sell personal property ahead of real estate. Before property can be sold it must be appraised. At a private sale property cannot be sold for less than its appraised value. At a public sale property is sold to the highest bidder, after notice of the prospective sale has been

published in a newspaper for a required number of weeks. All sales must be reported and ratified by the court and any may be contested for cause. The court has a right to determine whether the sale was properly advertised and fairly conducted, whether the buyer was acting as an agent of the executor, whether the prices were fair and reasonable, and whether the sales were to someone other than the highest bidder.

### Third Step

The third step in the settlement of an estate is the payment of debts.

To accomplish this the executor or attorney handling the estate publishes a notice in the local legal newspaper advising all creditors of the estate to file their claims. The notice must be published within a specified time giving the name and address of the personal representative handling the estate. If a creditor does not file his claim within the required period, the personal representative is safe in making distribution.

Many people have the notion that within a few days or weeks after the testator's death they can claim their share of the estate. All too often it is a shock when they learn this is not so.

The executor has a certain number of months in which to pay the claims of creditors, but he is allowed additional time if the probate court thinks it is necessary. This may prolong the final settlement of the estate.

If the estate is solvent, creditors are all paid out of the assets of the estate. If the assets are not sufficient to pay all claims, a certain priority must be followed.

### Final Step

The fourth and final step in the handling of an estate is the distribution of the surplus to those entitled to receive it. If there is a will, distribution is made according to the instructions contained within it. However, it should be repeated that if all the beneficiaries are of age and mentally competent and no third parties are injured, the beneficiaries may make a distribution different from that contained in the will.

When an estate is completely wound up, it is said to be "plene administravit," fully administered, at which time there is nothing for the heirs to do but enjoy the fruits of the vineyard.

### Probate Cost

Many people believe that a will avoids probate. This is not true. Wills must be probated. However, a written will makes the process a great deal easier, quicker, and often avoids legal controversy among heirs. Also, without a will there are many circumstances which might cause the property to be placed in other hands than originally desired.

The law does set fees for fiduciaries unless the will provides

for the compensation of the administrator and the administrator accepts the provisions of the will. Fees set in the law are 5 percent for the first \$1,000 2½ percent for the next \$4,000 (up to and including \$5,000) and 2 percent for all above \$5,000. The judge of probate has considerable authority in this area, in that he can, at his discretion, allow further compensation for "extraordinary" services. In each case, however, the expenses of the administrator, including legal fees, must be reported and approved by the probate judge.

Until recently the Bar Association had standard fees which they expected lawyers to charge. Because of a great deal of public criticism, the Bar Association has now dropped its recommended fees system, which apparently means that lawyers can charge as they please. There are a great many court cases that involve the fee system.

To reduce the cost of probating estates in Michigan, many advocate the adoption of a probate code similar to the one adopted by the State of Idaho in the spring of 1971. This legislation has been called the most thorough probate-reform legislation ever devised in the United States as it provides for estates to be settled simply and inexpensively.

### Legal Revisions

A bill to revise and consolidate the laws of this state relating to probate was introduced in the state Senate in January 1973 by Senator Richardson and others.

The proposed legislation would:

1. Simplify, clarify, and modernize the law concerning the affairs of decedents, missing persons, disabled persons, and minors.

2. Make effective the intent of a decedent in distribution of his property.

3. Promote, unless the decedent provides otherwise, a speedy and efficient system for liquidating the estate of the decedent and distributing it to his successors.

The Senate Committee on Judiciary has held public hearings on the proposed legislation and it appears at this time that the bill may move out of committee in the early part of 1974.

What can the average citizen do to get a new probate code adopted?

The most effective means would appear to be to let elected state legislators know that it is wanted. It took the British 20 years to accomplish their probate reform. We should be able to do it in much less time if the voters let their state legislators know how much they want it.

(Note: The material in this article concerns general principles only. It is in no way intended as legal advice or as specific recommendations. Any legal question involving your estate should be directed to an attorney of your choice.)

## Topic Summary

The November Discussion Topic "There is not such a thing as a free lunch," from all reports received, provided some lively discussion. Groups' responses to the questions were:

1. The basic formula for determining net income is quantity times price less cost. Over which of these do you feel farmers have the most control in order to increase their net income.

Quantity: 90 percent Price: 3 percent Cost: 7 percent

2. To what degree do members of your group feel the condition of agriculture affects the country's economic stability?

A great deal: 92 percent Some: 7 percent Not at all: 1 percent

3. If every able bodied adult in this country had provided for himself and his family during the "good times" we've had over the past decade, do you feel our inflation situation would be as grave as it is today?

Yes: 23 percent No: 77 percent

4. Comments: Nothing is free; a limit on percentage of profit would help; we've over done our poverty and welfare programs; every one is pushed to buy; there is little encouragement to save; re-education is the real need.

# Oh No! Mac-Luce Again?

The secret is out. When Mac-Luce roll call chairman, Otto Flatt, reported to Lansing on Dec. 6 that they were the first to reach goal for the fourth year in a row, the home office would no longer allow Mac-Luce to keep secret its method for bringing in their 130 member goal.

Faye Gribbell, women's district chairman from the area told FB members gathered at the annual meeting banquet that it took a lot of workers to pull members in quickly. "You need 10 percent of your goal for workers," she said. "If you have a goal of 1,000 you need to get 100 workers."

She then looked over the auditorium filled with Farm Bureau leaders and admonished, "You haven't been doing that have you?"

Not only how many workers you have but how they work is important Mrs Gribbell pointed out. Workers don't have to feel uncomfortable about their job.

Mac-Luce workers all work in pairs and they only get in touch with people they feel comfortable contacting.

"We get together at the kick-off breakfast and talk about prospects," she said. "We say to workers how about taking this

person and they might say, "no they owe me a bill, I'd better not." With enough workers, they can usually pick out people they think they can bring in.

The other part of being the first across the goal line is consistent reporting. Membership captains from the different townships reported in to Roll Call chairman, Otto Flatt, nightly, and records were kept so that Flatt knew exactly when Mac-Luce reached goal.

"When goal is reached Otto picks up the phone, no matter what time of day or night and calls Chuck Burkett in Lansing," Mrs. Gribbell said. "And that's how it's done."

..... We are on our way to another successful membership campaign. Over 1,200 Farm Bureau members attended the Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids and received a folder containing a Farm Bureau Membership application form. If every member who received a brochure and application form would sign up a new member, we would have over 25 percent of our new member goal obtained.

Let's Answer The Challenge of making this another successful membership campaign by using these membership applications

and signing up a new member. Help make the job easier for your Membership workers.

**DO IT NOW--SUCCESS WILL BE ASSURED.**

The Farm Bureau League Standings

(Percentage of goal attained Dec. 20)

No. 1 Packers	78.8%
Mac-Luce	100.8
Menominee	85.6
Iron Range	82.1
Chippewa	80.2
Copper Country	71.4
Hiawathaland	65.3
No. 2 Bears	75.6%
Cheboygan	91.9
Montmorency	84.6
Iosco	78.2
Alcona	76.6
Presque Isle	74.9
Alpena	72.5
Emmet	71.0
Otsego	65.6
Ogemaw	59.3

No. 3 Oillers	74.0%
Antrim	82.5
Northwest	81.0
Charlevoix	76.0
Benzie	75.1
Wexford	71.5
Manistee	69.7
Kalkaska	62.6
Missaukee	58.6

No. 4 Jets	68.8%
Berrien	73.3
Cass	73.3
Branch	70.6
Van Buren	70.4
Calhoun	69.0
St. Joseph	62.5
Kalamazoo	59.6

No. 5 Cowboys	67.5%
Osceola	83.8
Isabella	72.4
Clare	65.6
Mason	65.2
Newaygo	63.9
Oceana	62.0
Mecosta	60.0

No. 6 Patriots	66.6%
Clinton	77.6
Eaton	70.2
Livingston	68.2
Oakland	66.4
Shlawassee	64.7
Ingham	61.9
Genesee	58.8

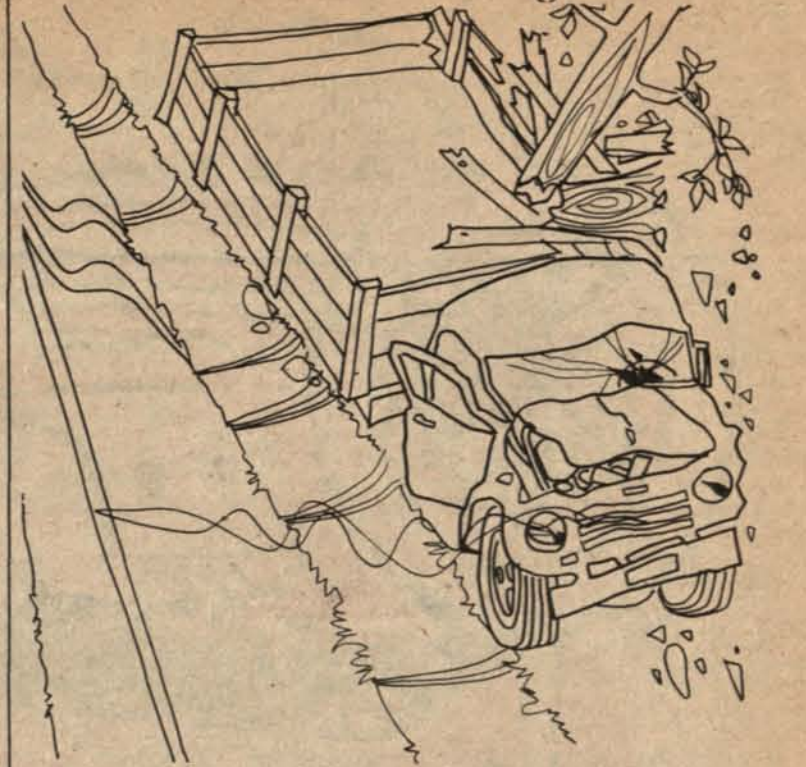
No. 7 Colts	66.3%
Gratiot	72.1
Bay	71.7
Gladwin	66.1
Arenac	63.3
Saginaw	61.8
Midland	61.2

No. 8 Vikings	65.9%
Ottawa	73.7
Barry	68.3
Allegan	68.2
Ionia	64.6
Muskegon	61.5
Kent	61.4
Montcalm	69.7

No. 9 Chiefs	60.2%
Wayne	76.9
Monroe	62.9
Lenawee	61.0
Jackson	59.6
Hillsdale	58.7
Washtenaw	52.7

No. 10 Dolphins	58.8%
Huron	68.6
Lapeer	62.5
Macomb	58.5
St. Clair	57.5
Sanilac	57.2
Tuscola	49.2

# WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION: the rules have changed



## truck accident claim cost would total \$85,000 under new court interpretation.

Robert Townan, a prominent Kent County dairyman, employed no full time farm labor. His son Bill, however, did work on the farm during the summer and when he was not attending MSU. On August 18, 1972, Mr. Townan hired two neighbors to pick up several loads of feed at the local elevator. During their second trip to town that afternoon, the two were involved in an accident. After missing a curve, the truck slid off an embankment and overturned. One of Mr. Townan's neighbors was killed instantly. The other suffered massive injuries and required intensive medical care.

At the time of the accident, Mr. Townan was not required to pay a Workmen's Compensation claim. The law did not cover the two neighbors, in that they had been hired that same day. Today, though, things would be different. Bill Townan had worked more than 13 weeks that summer and would qualify his father under the Workmen's Compensation Law. And now, if an employer is subject to the act, all of his workers are eligible for benefits. The potential claim cost for Mr. Townan would be \$85,000 today; a \$60,000 cost for payments to the first neighbor's widow and \$25,000 for the second neighbor's medical expenses and lost income. The above is an actual case taken from the files of Farm Bureau Insurance Group. Names, dates and location have been changed to protect the privacy of those involved. The Workmen's Compensation rules for agriculture have been changed drastically by the Supreme Court. All members are urged to review the law carefully. The potential liability to farmers is staggering.

## Four Star Counties

(Continued from page 16) the PD input. Newaygo FB sets up the county paper to publish a calendar of county FB events. If special comment is needed on issues of the day, Mrs. Kunnen organizes letters to the editor of the county paper. Newaygo's presence is felt all over the state in the policy development field. Newaygo members have representatives on five commodity advisory groups which offer recommendations for policy to the state PD Committee. Well-informed representatives on the district and state Womens and Young Farmer Committees add to meetings with local government officials so members can get information first hand. The heightened activity of the Newaygo FB indicates the presence of an active Young Farmers group. Young Farmers Bob and Nancy Rottier made themselves responsible for the progress of the organization this year when they became membership chairmen. The Young Farmer Committee had a full slate of traditional activities with a queen pageant and discussion meet.

## OFFICE CALLS

**QUESTION: What is a Blue Cross "participating" hospital?**

**ANSWER: A Blue Cross "participating" hospital is one that has entered into an agreement with Blue Cross Plan, in which the hospital agrees to look only to the Blue Cross Plan for payment for covered services for Blue Cross members. You are entitled to your full Michigan Blue Cross benefits in any hospital participating with a Blue Cross Plan. In addition, you are entitled to full benefits in accredited hospitals in any area not served by a Blue Cross Plan, such as hospitals in foreign countries.**

## FB Plan Offers Protection

There are a lot of good reasons why you should join or renew your membership in the Michigan Farm Bureau by the Jan. 15 membership deadline. Farm Bureau has been a tradition in the Michigan farm community for more than 50 years. That's because Farm Bureau is a large and progressive non-profit organization whose philosophy is summed up in its official 1973 theme, "Answer Challenge Today". And as a Farm Bureau member, you enjoy still another important advantage of membership - the opportunity to provide health care protection for your family and yourself through Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan. Blue Cross hospital care benefits cover rooms, meals, special diets, maternity care, laboratory services, and many other costly in-hospital services. Blue Shield MVF - Michigan Variable Fee - benefits pay most doctor bills in full for covered services. Benefits include such services as surgery, anesthesia, consultations, diagnostic X-rays, and radiation therapy. And if you're 65 or older, Blue Cross and Blue Shield offer special programs which combine with Medicare benefits to give you better coverage.

# FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

ALL CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE PREPAID

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FARM EQUIPMENT	LIVESTOCK	LIVESTOCK	MISCELLANEOUS
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