

## Annual Meeting Action

# Delegates Protest MDA Budget Cuts

A young farmer from Eaton County, concerned that programs vital to the agricultural industry would fall victim to budget cuts, launched a letter-writing campaign to the governor of Michigan during the MFB annual meeting in Kalamazoo. Mark Smuts of rural Charlotte made a motion that the entire delegate body recess their policy-making procedures for 15 minutes while farmers wrote their letters of concern. The motion passed so several hundred letters, postmarked Kalamazoo, were sent to Gov. Milliken urging him not to cut those programs of concern from the Michigan Department of Agriculture's budget.

The farmer concern started when Governor Milliken directed 16 of the state's 19 departments to cut their budgets by 20 percent. The anticipated cuts in the MDA's budget that caused Mark Smuts, and other farmers, the most concern were in the meat inspection, grain elevator audits and weights and measures programs.

In a press conference follow-

ing the delegate action, Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton R. Smith said, "Farmers have difficulty comprehending why programs which keep our agricultural industry viable, benefit consumers and the state's economy are being threatened."

**Smith said that the threat of elimination of Michigan's meat inspection program could mean a revival of the "Hot Dog War" which was waged several years ago. The MDA, with strong support from Farm Bureau and consumers, was successful in their fight to maintain the state's meat inspection standards, which far exceed federal standards. Michigan's meat standards prohibit the use of pork snouts, lips and other fillers in hot dogs and sausages.**

"I am certain we would have consumers' support again because lowering our meat standards would mean allowing the inclusion of such things as ears, spleens, lips, snouts, stomachs,



Delegates at the MFB 60th annual meeting protested proposed MDA budget cuts. As a result, policy-making procedures were recessed for 15 minutes while the delegate body wrote letters to Gov. Milliken expressing their concern.

glands, and cereal products in comminuted meats and sausages. Neither farmers nor consumers want that," Smith told reporters.

"Farmers are also concerned that the termination of the state's meat inspection program would result in a great

number of slaughter plants going out of business," Smith said. "Many of these businesses simply would find the cost of meeting federal requirements prohibitive. This would not only create a hardship for farmers who use and need these  
(Continued on Page 24)

## President's Address

# "No-Growth" Policy Advocates Rapped

In his annual address to members on November 28, Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton R. Smith challenged delegates to make every effort to elect leaders for their nation who believe "it is more important to be great than it is to be important."

Smith said there is a great need for leaders who have the courage to do what's right instead of what's popular. "They are the discoverers, the constructionists, willing to take a calculated risk if it can lead to a better society. They are the kind of leaders you and I should make every effort to elect to high offices in our nation," he said.

The farm leader pointed out the dangers of leadership by

advocates of a no-growth policy. "Many of the problems we are facing in this country are brought about because people in leadership positions want to be important — not great. They believe we should have a no-growth policy and are doing all they can to see that their philosophy is forced on all of us. The problem is that these people have become well established under the guise of respectability," Smith said. "That respectability comes in the form of being a champion of consumer rights or an environmentalist. Who can be against consumers or who can be against a clean environment?"

No-growth policy advocates have been successful in their ef-

forts to establish a philosophy in the minds of some American people, Smith warned. "For years, Americans accepted as fact that profit is the miracle ingredient in our economic system. But thanks to the no-growth philosophy, many Americans often seem embarrassed to make a profit," he said. "This philosophy will kill our competitive system."

Smith said the same no-growth philosophy that has blocked solutions to the nation's major problems—inflation and energy, is also extended to the use of chemicals, trade, business, land use and other issues of concern to farmers.

"If American agriculture is denied energy and chemicals,

our production will decline. Our balance of trade will become even a larger deficit," he told the delegates. "No-growth people fail to see the danger of a continued trade deficit. They do not want to understand that we cannot keep on spending more money abroad than is returned to this country. We are becoming 'hooked' on foreign countries for many of our basic needs, just as an addict becomes hooked on the source of supply for his habit. This country, just like the addict, must pay the price in one form or another."

The only area where the no-growth crowd seems to allow growth is the federal government, the farm leader said.  
(Continued on Page 25)

Annual  
Meeting  
Special

1980 MFB  
Policies

— Pages 11 - 23



*From the Desk of the President*

# It's Great to be Important-- But More Important to be Great

(Excerpts from the 1980 MFB President's Address)



It seems to me that as I look at our society, many people believe only that it's great to be important. But if there ever was a time in the history of this nation when we needed people who recognize that it is important to be great, that time is now.

The word important usually means of value or worth. But according to the dictionary, it can also mean status or having an air of weight or authority. It is in this latter definition that many of the so-called important people and organizations fit. They are pompous, artificial and enjoy the prestige of their position without working to increase the worth of that position. They are the opportunists in a society.

On the other hand, those who recognize that it is more important to be great, are the leaders. They are the people who have the courage to do what's right instead of what's popular. They are the discoverers, the constructionists and are willing to take a calculated risk if it can lead to a better society. They are the kind of leaders you and I should make every effort to elect to high offices in our nation.

I'm convinced that many of the problems we are facing in this country are brought about because people in leadership positions want to be important, not great.

They believe that this country should have a no-growth policy and are doing all they can to see that their philosophy is forced on all of us. The problem is that these people have become well established under the guise of respectability. That respectability comes in the form of being a champion of consumer rights or an environmentalist. Who can be against consumers or who can be against a clean environment?

These people have worked since the 1960s to gain acceptance of their ideas and their philosophy. Some of their projects may well have been needed, but they went further than just working out projects. They have worked to establish a philosophy in the minds of the American people.

For years Americans accepted as fact that profit is the miracle ingredient in our economic system. But thanks to the no-growth philosophy, many Americans often seem embarrassed to make a profit.

A second principle of our economic system is competition. Competition, when it is working, will assure that profits will not be exorbitant because someone is willing to produce

for less or more efficiently. Now the no-growth group fears large corporations as they feel large corporations reduce competition. However, it is because of the demands by this no-growth group that we find small units unable to produce efficiently. The no-growth philosophy will kill our competitive system.

Now, you might ask, why should we be concerned about these people? My answer is that since 1976, people, who have been identified as public interest lawyers, consumer and environmental advocates, have been appointed to positions of influence and power within the government.

These people can use their positions to assure that we have no economic growth in this nation. Since every public project requires plans, proposals, environmental impact statements and dealings with dozens of governmental agencies, all that needs to be done to stop a project is for someone in an agency to "require further study."

In fact, former Secretary of Energy Schlesinger said, "We have reached a point in the stage of democracy where almost everyone in the society can say no, but no one can say yes to a project."

Using this ability to say no, are some people who are out to change our way of life. Their

usual reaction to such a charge is, "Oh it's not true, we just oppose nuclear energy or coal mining or oil drilling or whatever the issue may be."

Far too many decisions have been made solely on social and environmental concerns and not on the economic issues. This is especially true in the area of energy.

Recently the U.S. Department of Interior estimated that 200,000 species should be listed as either endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Using this law, the anti-energy lobby succeeded in delaying the building of a dam which could supply energy to 20,000 customers. They said the dam would upset the natural habitat of a three inch fish called the snail darter.

Congress is now beginning to recognize that an energy crisis exists and that it makes matters worse to disturb the natural habitat of people, workers and their families, by continuing to delay the project. The project would not only supply energy but would also provide jobs and improve the environment of the area.

This favorable development, coupled with President Carter's proposed Energy Mobilization Board, may produce a breakthrough and enable us to get moving on the road towards energy independence. Cur-

rently, that road is blocked by what one writer has called the "deadly power of delay" which he has labeled as an elaborate trickery game of rehearings, environmental impact statements, review, hearing re-openings and tardy requests to expand the list of intervenors in the license proceedings.

Based on the concept that it is immoral for a species to multiply and use the natural environment to sustain itself, to provide relief from hunger, cold and disease, we are confronted with a powerful movement which lacks the intelligence to differentiate between those threats which are real and those which are trivial.

The no-growth people are opposed to the use of chemicals. They will dismiss evidence which does not prove what they want. Unfortunately, often the public media reports what these people say because it is sensationalized and the unsuspecting public believes what they hear.

Take for example antibiotics in livestock, the banning of DDT and 2, 4, 5-T.

A Time magazine article entitled "Drugged Cows — Antibiotics Are Feed for Thought" is typical of the attacks on agriculture by some of these no-growth people.

ABC's "20/20" program  
(Continued on Page 27)

## The Farm Press: A Vanishing Breed?

Traditionally, in this January column, I've shared some behind-the-annual-meeting-scenes with you. For example, a couple years ago, I shared a graphic description of one of your editors wedged between the ceiling and door of an inadvertently locked bathroom that contained the audio-visual equipment needed for that evening's program. This year, the topic is not so humorous, but still worthy of your consideration, I hope.

One of our behind-the-scenes activities is working with the press and, over the years, we've developed some close relationships with those we fondly call our "regulars." There were some changes this year, all of which were not due simply to the change in location.

Consider: the organization pays tribute to the memory of a farm broadcaster who spent his lifetime serving agriculture and hopes the tradition he established will be carried on by those he left behind.... We pray for another farm broadcaster who lies seriously ill in

the hospital a few blocks away instead of covering our meeting as he has in previous years.... We miss the presence of another farm journalist, less seriously ill, whose publication can't spare another to pinch-hit...

...We appreciate the faithful attendance and outstanding coverage of a reporter from the local daily, who stays up until 2 a.m. to meet his deadline. He'd like to be a full-time farm editor but, for economic reasons, his editor can't make that commitment.... We're thankful for the presence of the farm editor of the state's largest radio station, but sad that he must return so soon to responsibilities beyond that of his title.... We're pleased that others can be there for a day, but disappointed they can't afford to stay for the full impact of the four-day activities.

What does this tell you? The farm journalist—whether print or broadcast—is in danger of becoming a vanishing breed—and the reasons are economic. You, as farmers, are hit hard by inflation; so are

the news media. Some media are not replacing their farm editors when they leave, assigning instead the coverage of ag-related events to those already burdened with other responsibilities.

We've spent a good deal of time in recent years convincing the non-farm press that what's happening in agriculture is "hard" news and worthy of coverage. That effort has reaped some benefits (our Distinguished Young Farmer made it in all of Detroit's "biggies"), but there have been a few times when it's also reaped some bitter harvests. There was one occasion when we wondered, from the results, if the farm journalist and the hard-news reporter could possibly have been talking about the same meeting.

The farm journalist focused on the "guts" of the farmers, their philosophy, their caring, their commitment to their industry and to their consumers. The straight news reporter focused on "Who's going to pay?" and "What's your real motive?"

I'm not downgrading this second group; we need them, not only to reach the non-farm audience, but to keep us honest and open and assured that what we believe and what we are doing is right. What I am saying is that this second group has more economic latitude. They are supported by full-page ads and 60-second prime time spots from Krogers, A & P, K-Mart and Meijers. Who supports that vanishing breed—the farm press? Does the dealer who sold you your tractor, your feed, your seed,



your fertilizer, your pick-up?

If you have a farm journalist or media really trying to cover the agricultural scene—take good care of them. Let them

(Continued on Page 3)

### MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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# MMPA Establishes Subsidiary: McDonald Dairy Company

## Membership, Interest-Free Loans Offered

The state's largest, single processor of dairy products, McDonald Cooperative Dairy Company of Flint, ceased operation as a marketing co-op on November 24. Now operating its facilities is a newly-formed subsidiary of the Michigan Milk Producers Association called McDonald Dairy Company.

Plagued by financial difficulties for the past several years, the McDonald Co-op had reached the brink of bankruptcy and a close-down of their facilities. With insufficient cash-flow to pay farmers, suppliers, labor, and finance necessary modernization of operations, and no more borrowing power, the McDonald board and management concluded that the co-op could not continue in business.

**Concerned that the closing of McDonald's would cause severe market disruptions and a loss of markets for McDonald member-producers, MMPA formed the subsidiary and purchased the co-op's previously-owned milk bottling and ice cream manufacturing facilities. The purchase was made, at net book value, from the St. Paul Bank of Cooperatives, receiver of McDonald's major assets.**

MMPA will operate the Flint bottling and manufacturing operation and the Benton Harbor plant, which it leases, and plans improvement to the facilities "as needed to operate the subsidiary competitively," according to MMPA President Glenn Lake.

The 735 McDonald dairy farmer members were offered MMPA membership and, at this writing, almost 90 percent had accepted. Those who had

remained McDonald members until the day of the co-op's cessation and then signed an MMPA membership agreement, have been offered an interest-free loan equal to the gross value of milk shipped to the McDonald Co-op during the period of November 1 through November 24. The loan will be for a 15-month period, with borrowers authorizing MMPA to deduct one-fifteenth of the borrowed sum from each month's milk checks.

Lake is concerned that some new reports have caused confusion within the dairy industry, especially misunderstanding that the transaction was a merger, which would mean assuming McDonald's liabilities.

## "Not a Merger" Says MMPA President Lake

**"It is absolutely not a merger," Lake explained. "All MMPA is doing is buying and/or leasing certain assets that we need to continue to operate as the McDonald Dairy Company, a separate, wholly-owned subsidiary of MMPA. We're buying from the St. Paul Bank of Cooperatives those facilities that it takes to operate. We're not assuming any liability for the accounts payable for supplies or anything else."**

Lake said it was more than just concern for preventing market disruptions that prompted the MMPA's decision to form the subsidiary to continue operations; it was also compassion for the dairy farmers involved.

"We're advancing over \$3 million to the McDonald dairy farmers for the milk they sold November 1 through November 24. I'm proud of our MMPA members who have been just great in accepting this interest-free loan arrangement," Lake said. "I think they will welcome this new block of members and that we will have cooperation and unity and, consequently, a stronger marketing program."

**The dairy leader called the establishment of the subsidiary, plus the offer of MMPA membership and no-interest loans to former McDonald members "the best course of action to minimize dairy farmer losses and preserve market stability" for all Michigan dairymen.** He said he hoped the McDonald experience would point out the need for members to be knowledgeable about, and actively involved in, the affairs of their cooperatives and organizations.

Specifically, the assets purchased from the St. Paul Bank include: the Flint milk plant, equipment and inventory; the Flint ice cream plant, equipment and inventory; a portion of the transportation fleet; trademarks and trade names, and the Chesaning mix equipment to be transferred to Flint. MMPA will lease the Benton Harbor plant and certain of McDonald's other remaining assets with option to buy at net book value.

The move is expected to have minimum impact on the number of McDonald employees, which totals about 635. Senior management personnel of the McDonald Cooperative Dairy Company have been employed by the MMPA subsidiary.

Dairy farmers involved are encouraged to seek tax counseling service.

## Senate Passes HB 4555

# "Ability to Serve Customers Challenged" Says Blue Cross-Blue Shield Officials

"Never in its 40-year history has Blue Cross-Blue Shield's ability to serve its customers been so challenged and potentially impaired." That's the opinion of BC-BS of Michigan officials of HB 4555, passed recently by the House of Representatives.

Richard E. Whitmer, executive vice president, said, "A number of its provisions would be harmful to Blue Cross and Blue Shield and bad for health care in Michigan. It's obvious that many House members wanted to get rid of this complicated and politically sensitive issue by passing it to the Senate. House members acknowledged our problems with the bill and in committee tried to come up with a compromise solution that would satisfy everybody. But when it comes to health care, halfway solutions are as bad as no solutions at all."

## DONNA

(Continued from Page 2)

know they are important. Let the people you patronize know they are important to you and worthy of their advertising support. The death of the farm press would, without doubt, have a serious detrimental impact on your industry. Don't let it happen.

Whitmer said outside experts testified in the House that the bill could destroy Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan as it exists today by crippling its ability to compete. "Stanley Jones, former staff director of Senator Edward Kennedy's health care subcommittee, testified that this bill could destroy our leadership ability in cost containment and in providing health care coverage for those who find it difficult or impossible to get coverage elsewhere at reasonable costs," he said.

Accusing the state Legislature of "taking upon itself to redesign the corporate structure of a free enterprise corporation," BC-BS will urge the Senate to correct what officials believe are major flaws. According to Whitmer, the bill is deficient in seven key areas:

"1. Our board of directors and its committees would be straitjacketed by restrictions, its members opened to possible harassment, and our chief executive deprived of a board vote.

"2. There would be a conflict-of-interest with the state government reaching directly into our board room by appointing two voting directors.

"3. Our ability to compete in

the open marketplace would be weakened by a number of provisions, including the revelation of our trade secrets and draft board minutes to our competitors.

"4. The bill virtually guarantees future drastic fluctuations in rates by failing to provide a neutral forum for resolving rate cases and by not setting a time limit for rate decisions.

"5. The decision-making power of thousands of Michigan employers would be usurped by a provision that gives the insurance commissioner the power to mandate the details of health coverage for non-union employees. This could force employers to switch to other insurance companies not subject to this regulation.

"6. Our subscribers alone would have to subsidize senior citizens' health coverage by as much as \$20 million a year. One company should not have to bear the cost of a general social problem when more than 300 other companies are writing health coverage profitably in Michigan.

"7. The bill imposes unreasonable and unnecessary restrictions on our contingency reserves and investments which will tend to diminish income and thus inflate rates," Whitmer concluded.



## Look ahead this Winter

Though growing season is over and the land is at rest, the cold winter months can be the most productive on your farm.

Use them for planning, for setting goals for the future, and the return on your winter months may surprise you.

Top managers plan ahead. They decide, sometimes with the aid of a lender or other advisor, how things should happen. They shape events rather than letting events shape them.

Goals will help you shape events. Make your goals realistic. Make them for the short run and the long run. Some will be large and some will be small. Make them specific and measurable, so you'll know when you've met them.

Look ahead this winter by setting goals for your year ahead. Need someone to talk to about goal setting? Try us; we're good listeners. Chances are that we can help when it comes to your financial goals and a line of credit to meet them.

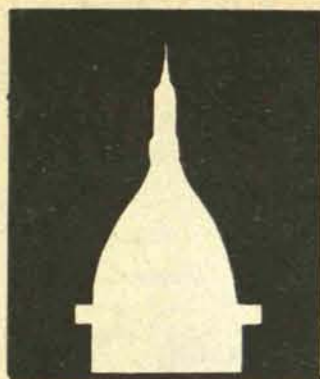
## Michigan Production Credit Associations

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Farming is everybody's bread & butter.





## CAPITOL REPORT

By  
Robert E. Smith

### New "Surveillance" Fees Proposed for Agriculture

Representative Connie Binsfield has introduced legislation (H.B. 5238) which would amend certain portions of the water pollution law fee system as it affects seasonal, agricultural operations.

Michigan fruit growers and processors who pay substantial fees for testing and analysis of waste water from their seasonal processing operations have been seeking relief from the spiralling cost of water surveillance fees. Charges for the surveillance program, administered by the Department of Natural Resources, have increased dramatically in recent years.

A northern Michigan fruit grower reports that he paid \$184 in surveillance fees in 1975; \$1192 in 1978 and expects to pay at least \$1400 in 1979. Michigan is one of the few states to have a surveillance fee program for pollution control.

In H.B. 5238, Binsfield proposes to amend the fee formula used by the DNR and to establish a limit on the charge to seasonal, agricultural operations at not more than \$600 per year.

In addition to the water surveillance fee system, fruit growers and processors complain that disposal standards on used water from processing plants are so strict that many processors have been forced to relocate in order to apply processing waste water to the soil or to have access to a municipal sewage treatment system. Used water from these operations comes from fruit cooling tanks or processing, does not contain any toxic wastes and contains only natural fruit sugars. These operations are seasonal in nature and usually are in progress for approximately 18 days each year. Current water pollution laws give no consideration to this fact.

Farm Bureau has worked to solve this problem by working for changes in the regulation, but it is apparent that the law must be amended. In addition to supporting Representative Binsfield's proposed amendments, the farm organization will work to further relieve or eliminate the present unequitable and discriminatory provisions of the pollution law.

### Ag Vehicle Operators Look for Motor Vehicle Code Exemption

Introduced by Representative Quincy Hoffman, H.B. 4878 would exempt farmers from new provisions of the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code which would have required a special endorsement for drivers of any vehicle or combination of vehicles weighing over 24,000 lbs. gross weight, a school bus, or vehicle towing a trailer with a loaded weight of over 10,000 lbs. The requirement would apply to trailers such as self-unloading wagons, fertilizer spreaders, spray rigs, etc.

The special endorsement involved a \$7.00 fee, additional written test, road test and established an age requirement at 18 years of age or older.

The requirements were added to the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code during a surge of

public opinion regarding the hazards of double bottom tankers on Michigan highways. However, it became apparent when farmers applied for new or renewed driver's licenses, that the requirement would also affect operators of agricultural vehicles and trailers.

The Hoffman bill would exempt farmers who drive vehicles under 24,000 lbs. gross weight that have a farm registration and will exempt trailers used to transport grain, feed, seed, fertilizer or spray used in agricultural operations.

The Michigan Department of State opposed the amendments to the MVC, however, the bill is expected to receive a favorable vote in the Legislature.

### Crop Loans Tied in UCC Red Tape

With the support of several lending agencies and the Michigan Farm Bureau, a bill has been introduced by Senator Robert Young, which would eliminate certain provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code as applied to agricultural crop loans.

S.B. 782 was developed after several lenders and farmers expressed concern about provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code which requires a legal description of each piece of property where crops are to be planted when applying for an annual crop loan. In addition, a copy of the loan paper must be filed with the Registrar of Deeds. Although such information does not in any way constitute a lien on the property, it does create additional expense and red tape for farmers and landowners who agree to acreage rental.

The bill, which will be considered when the Legislature returns from holiday recess, would eliminate the need to file the loan paper and property description with the Registrar of Deeds.

Farm Bureau was alerted to the complications caused by the existing provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code earlier this year. As a result Farm Bureau representatives have been working to develop recommendations to relieve the costly and confusing situation. Farm Bureau has also had the support of lenders in developing a proposed amendment to the law.

### MDA Audit Authority Proposed

Legislation introduced by Representative Francis Spaniola that would give the Michigan Department of Agriculture additional authority to audit grain dealers, has passed the Michigan House of Representatives and has been favorably reported by a Senate committee.

As currently written, H.B. 4807 would require licensed dealers, such as elevators and truckers, to keep daily position reports of their transactions. Three types of transactions are recognized: cash sales, price later agreements and warehouse receipts. These and other provisions would help protect farmers from losses due to bankruptcy of grain dealers.

Farm Bureau has strongly supported this proposed legislation because of the need to provide additional protection to farmers in their grain dealings.

## Legislature Acts to Protect Land Resources

WETLANDS BILL PASSES (S.B. 3)

The wetlands bill, which has been a controversial piece of legislation, has passed in final form and is expected to be approved by the governor. Essentially, the wetlands bill defines a wetland and prohibits draining and dredging without a permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources. However, through Farm Bureau's efforts in the Senate, farmers have been exempted from the effects of the bill.

Some uses that will be allowed without a permit under the bill are, "farming, horticulture, silviculture, lumbering and ranching activities including plowing, irrigation, irrigation ditching, seeding, cultivating, minor drainage, harvesting for the production of food, fiber and forest products, or upland soil and water conservation practices."

The bill also exempts the construction or maintenance of farm or stock ponds and "drainage necessary for the production and harvesting of agricultural products if the wetland is owned by a person who is engaged in commercial farming and the land is to be used for the production and harvesting of agricultural products." Another exemption for agriculture states "maintenance, operation or improvement which includes straightening, widening or deepening the following which is necessary for the production or harvesting of agricultural products." This includes: (1) an existing private agricultural drain, (2) a drain legally established pursuant to Act 40 of 1956, which has been constructed or improved for drainage purposes, and (3) drains constructed pursuant to other provisions of the Wetlands Act.

These are the key exemptions of particular interest and concern to farmers.

Before the bill passed it also was amended to take effect only in those counties with a population of 100,000 or more. There are 17 such counties, primarily in the lower portion of the state. Other counties, in the northern portion of the state, and in the Upper Peninsula, will not be affected at all until an inventory of wetlands is completed by the DNR.

There were other amendments that are important to those who would be affected by the legislation. Some of those amendments were helpful to the mining industry. The key amendment, however, is one that could require the state to purchase many wetlands, provided that a court determines that a person owning a wetland is being harmed by the restriction on its use. In that case the court could require the state to pay losses due to the act.

The bill, as passed, will give Michigan some advantage and permit the state to control the enforcement of federal EPA and Corp of Engineers permit requirements.

LAND RESOURCE INVENTORY (S.B. 443)

This bill has been passed by both Houses and means that Michigan will have a Land Inventory and Use Analysis Report within three years.

The measure is designed to assist local governments by making the land inventory available in determining local resources and their best use. It will be used as a base for analyzing future productivity of natural resources and land. It will be required to be updated at least every ten years.

It is estimated that the state will spend about \$250,000 to design the inventory and \$1 million a year while the inventory is being conducted. One of the problems in the past, when land use programs were considered, was the lack of total information as to exactly what constitutes Michigan's land resources.



# A Word From Washington

## Chavez Losing Credibility

**By Pete Hively**  
Associate Director  
of Information

Cesar Chavez has won some impressive rounds at the bargaining table, but there are growing signs he is suffering a gradual erosion of support for himself and his United Farm Workers Union. Continued at its present rate, this erosion could become a landslide to sweep aside the UFW.

Here are some examples for your consideration.

Federal funding has been lost for some of Chavez' pet projects. Chavez himself handed credit for the loss to the Farm Bureau.

The mood toward Chavez when he made his recent media blitz of Washington was palpably different than it was just a few months ago. He was received at the National Press Club by openly hostile questions. As often as not, his answers were met with murmurs of disagreement.

When Chavez went on a television talk show the questions from the studio audience were frequently a statement of opposition of the UFW. The audience, comprised largely of

people involved in farming, wanted to know how Americans were being helped by policies that squandered food, and how farm workers were being helped by a strike that kept them from working and had occasionally endangered their lives.

The most recent blow to Chavez' sagging prestige came from the WASHINGTON STAR, which reproduced a lengthy letter from C.C. Bruno, an ex-Marine who now works on a lettuce-wrapping machine in California. The headline, "I Won't Bow to Cesar Chavez" sets the tone of the article.

Bruno describes how he and his co-workers were attacked in a lettuce field near Monterey by 50 strikers, many of them waving jackhandles. As they surged toward him, their red flags leading the way, Bruno was reminded of the red flags that charged toward his Marine position in Korea, and he writes, "It was as bad as any day I spent in six years in the Marines."

Bruno and his crew had been on the job for several months, but many of the strikers had never been employed by that company. As a matter of fact, Bruno says,

many of them had just arrived from Mexico.

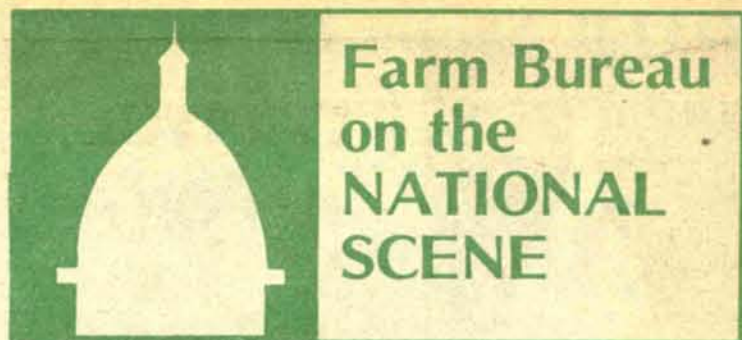
Yet they called him a scab. Only intervention by the local police prevented a bloody clash.

The attack has left its scars.

Bruno writes, "We live in fear now. There's violence throughout the valley." Tractors and equipment have been destroyed. Workers have been beaten and some have disappeared. The worst fear of all, he says, is that the growers will sign with the UFW and nonmembers will be forced out of work.

He doesn't blame the workers. He understands that you must survive, and sometimes accommodation is the only means of survival. But he is bitter about "ministers and politicians" who fail to see that the Mexican workers; who are the backbone of the UFW movement, are being reduced to subservience by a union that is not acting in their best interest.

Bruno wonders what those ministers would say a few years from now should one union gain control of the production of food and dictate the price of everything that goes on the tables of the rich and poor alike.



**Senate Repeals Carry-Over Basis Rule:** The Senate voted 81 to 4 in November to repeal the carry-over basis rule, legislation that would raise taxes for heirs who sell inherited property. This rule was enacted in 1976, but later suspended until 1980.

Farm Bureau strongly supports repeal of the carry-over basis rule and has cited the administrative burden and the spectre of greatly increasing capital gains taxes under carry-over.

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**Carter Signs Milk Price Support Bill:** President Carter has signed a bill that allows the government to set milk price supports between 80 and 90 percent of parity for two more years. In supporting the measure, Farm Bureau emphasized the need to have a national dairy program to provide an adequate supply of milk, while not encouraging overproduction.

.....

**Federal Crop Insurance:** The USDA's all-risk federal crop insurance program has been expanded to include Allegan, Isabella, Kent, Lapeer, Midland and Montcalm counties in time for the 1980 spring planting according to USDA Secretary Bob Bergland.

The selection of the counties by USDA's Federal Crop Insurance Corporation board of directors was based on the need to provide additional crop protection in those counties.

The FCIC program provides producers the opportunity to insure their major crops, thus guaranteeing themselves an established income should those crops be damaged or lost due to natural hazards.

.....

**Gasohol:** USDA Secretary Bergland has announced that the U.S. is cooperating with Canada and three European nations to share technology for increased conversion of wood products to alcohol fuel. "The implications for the United States are substantial," Bergland said. He roughly estimated that the U.S. has 700 million acres of timberland that "could be managed as an energy orchard."

.....

**Target Prices for 1980:** The Senate Agriculture Committee has agreed to raise the target price for 1980 wheat to \$3.63 and 1980 corn to \$2.35. No change was made in the target price for 1979, as was included in H.R. 3398 passed earlier by the House. The committee also included a one-year extension of the current farm program disaster payments program, which was not in the House bill.

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**Senate Committee Okays Foreigners' Land Sales:** The Senate Finance Committee has approved legislation that would require foreigners who buy and sell real estate in the U.S. to pay taxes on the profits they make from such sales. The committee's action was in response to complaints from some U.S. farmers that foreigners were bidding up the price of U.S. farmland.

The tax would apply to gains on the sale of any real estate and would bring the Treasury an estimated \$142 million a year. The House Ways and Means Committee will consider the legislation next year.

Farm Bureau is opposed to preferential tax treatment of foreign investments in agricultural land, but supports legislation subjecting foreigners to capital gains taxes on the sale of U.S. farmland.

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**F.B. Transportation Bill Introduced:** Rep. Tom Daschle, D.-S.D., has introduced a Farm Bureau-supported agricultural transportation bill. Designated the "Agricultural Transportation Improvement and Regulatory Reform Act," the bill would carry out Farm Bureau's policies on truck transportation problems. The bill results from meetings with a wide range of agricultural groups and representatives of independent truck owner-operators.

### Washington Addresses

Senators: Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Representatives: House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

### State and National Addresses

## Alcohol Fuels Information

Below is a list of agencies which have responsibility for alcohol fuels and a short explanation of their involvement. These agencies may be contacted for information and assistance on producing alcohol fuels.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms  
Regional Regulatory Administrator  
550 Main Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202  
Call (toll free) 800-543-1932

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) is responsible for administering laws relating to alcohol fuels. All producers of ethyl alcohol must obtain a permit from the ATF before beginning operation.

United States Department of Agriculture  
Farmers Home Administration  
Room 5420  
South Agriculture Building  
Washington, D.C. 20250  
(Or contact local office)

Administers funding assistance through various programs for farmers and commercial ventures in com-

munities of less than 50,000 population.

United States Department of Commerce  
Economic Development Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Administers the Rural Energy Initiative and the Public Works Program to provide funding for farmers, farm co-ops, public and non-profit organizations.

United States Department of Energy  
Office of Consumer Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Technical Information Center  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

The Department of Energy is the leading federal agency for alcohol fuel research and development.

National Alcohol Fuels Commission  
Suite 3000  
2000 M Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Phone (202) 254-7453

A part of the Department of Energy Works with congressional committees and other

governmental agencies concerning alcohol fuels.

National Alcohol Fuels Hotline  
Phone (toll free)  
(800) 535-2840 or (800) 533-5333

Provides the who, what and where for alcohol fuel information.

Michigan Department of Commerce  
Energy Administration  
6520 Mercantile Way  
Lansing, MI  
Phone (517) 374-9090

Michigan Department of Agriculture  
Marketing and International Trade Division  
Agricultural Energy Section  
P.O. Box 30017  
Lansing, MI 48909  
Phone (517) 373-1054

Additional information is also available from the Commodity Activities and Research Department, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909, phone 517-323-7000, extension 548.



## OYFW Shares Problems and Joys of Farm Life



Judy Kissane, Clinton County (left) and Sue Oesterle, Ingham County, (right) congratulate each other on being named first and second place winners, respectively, in the Young Farmer-sponsored Outstanding Young Farm Woman Contest.

A Clinton County woman was selected as the 1980 Outstanding Young Farm Women at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting. Judy Kissane, who will speak on behalf of young Farm Bureau women during the coming year, is active in the county Farm Bureau programs and in family and youth organizations. Mrs. Kissane is a weekly commentator on a local radio program offering insights into the current issues affecting agriculture. She is the adoptive mother of seven children ranging in ages from 2 years to 9 years.

"I'm really on the go with four pre-schoolers to care for and stepping in to help during the spring and fall season," says Judy. "In planting and

harvest time I drive tractor and help in the fields." She has recently accepted responsibility for managing brood sows and litters in the couple's farrow to finish hog operation. "By managing this portion of our operation, I feel that I can make a real contribution to the profitability of the farm." The Kissanes are farming 525 acres in a cash crop and livestock operation in rural St. Johns.

Future plans for the couple include expansion of their hog operation. According to Judy, the decision making and future planning for the family farm are shared equally. "After all," she says, "we both share in the risk of investment and we work together to set priorities and responsibilities on our farm."

## Special Pride, Challenges for Today's Farm Woman

"As women of Farm Bureau, we want to be working as an integral part of the total organization. Farm Bureau needs all of us working together to meet the challenges that face agriculture and to make our organization strong," said Vivian Lott, chairman of the Michigan Farm Bureau Women, at their annual meeting in Kalamazoo November 28.

"We as farm women, are special people," she said. "We are privileged to be partners with our husbands in our farm business, and can be proud of the important role we hold. This sense of pride includes being a partner in the business our family operates. Not all women in our society today know and understand their husband's business or are involved like farm wives are. We can feel special and proud and are challenged to do a better job," stated Lott.

Keynote speaker at the women's meeting was Judge Betty Ann Weaver, probate and juvenile judge for Leelanau County. Judge Weaver shared her views on the juvenile justice system with the women, stating that the system deals with young people before, during and after their becoming involved with the law.



JUDGE BETTY ANN WEAVER, WOMEN'S KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Judge Weaver also encouraged member involvement on proposed Juvenile Code revisions. Two bills are involved Substitute HB 4774 and HB 4959. According to Judge Weaver, HB 4959 is not being afforded public hearings nor extensive media coverage, and that is one of the reasons she asked for concerned member involvement in writing to legislators, Governor Milliken and members of the House Judiciary Committee, to express their concern.

Judge Weaver says the procedural requirements of HB 4774 are unnecessarily com-

plex, costly and burdensome to the administration of justice and state and local governments. She is urging support for HB 4959, which she calls a more concise approach to juvenile justice.

One of the highlights of the women's annual meeting was the recognition of county women's chairmen who won gold stars for programs conducted during the 1978-79 membership year. Prior to recognition of the individual chairmen, Betty Laurie of Tuscola County provided a unique rendition of "Hats Off to Farm Bureau Women."

## Honors and Cooperative Policy Highlights of MAFC Annual

The 34th annual meeting of the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives (MAFC) was held December 7 at the Lansing Hilton Inn.

One of the featured speakers at the meeting was Dr. Randall Torgerson, deputy administrator for cooperatives, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Torgerson addressed the main points in the proposed amendment to the Farm Credit Act of 1971, which is now being considered by the U.S. Congress.

Also appearing on the program was Michigan Department of Agriculture Director Dean Pridgeon who spoke on fuels derived from agricultural resources. Pridgeon stated that during the coming year, an energy section within the MDA will be working with the agricultural community in the development of alcohol and wood energy.

MAFC delegate action during the meeting included the passage of an amended resolution in support of the proposed amendment to the Farm Credit Act of 1971, in addition to directing the MAFC Council to pursue the establishment of a



Frank Carpenter, manager of the Leslie Cooperative, Inc. (left) presents LA Cheney the MAFC "Appreciation of Service" award for his 25 years of service to the Association.

scholarship fund for college students seeking careers in farm cooperatives.

Two awards were presented at the meeting recognizing those who have made contributions in the past year in promoting Michigan cooperatives. The Hopkins FFA chapter received the "Cooperative Activity Award," which is presented each year by the MAFC sponsors, in cooperation with the Michigan

Association of FFA. The award was earned for their classroom instruction in cooperatives and other agribusiness organizations, as well as their cooperative experience in marketing and purchasing supplies from cooperatives.

The "Appreciation of Service" award was presented to LA Cheney, who served as executive secretary of MAFC for 25 years until his retirement in August, 1979.

## Officers Elected



Elected to the 1980 Farm Bureau Women's Executive Committee were, left to right, Jan Stoner, Cass County, second vice chairman; Vivian Lott, Ingham County, chairman; and Faye Adam, Sanilac County, first vice chairman.

Vivian Lott of Ingham County was re-elected chairman of the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee during their re-organization meeting held at the MFB annual meeting in Kalamazoo November 29. Faye Adam, Sanilac County, was re-elected first vice-chairman, and Jan Stoner, Cass County, has elected second vice-chairman.

Lott and her husband, Marvin, operate a 750-acre dairy farm near Mason. She has been active on various committees including women's, policy development, community group and safemark; she also served on MFB's State Study

Committee in 1975.

Adam and her husband, Wayne, operate a 320-acre farm near Snover, specializing in beef and corn. She has been involved in women's activities at the county, district and state levels, including the Speakers' Bureau.

Jan and Roger Stoner operate a 700-acre dairy farm near Jones. She has been active in the women's program, policy development and has served on the Cass County Farm Bureau board, in addition to serving as a Women's Committee representative on the 1979 MFB Policy Development Committee.



# FBS Studying Possible Merger with Landmark of Ohio

Farm Bureau Services, Inc., entered its second half-century of continuous operation after what its president called, during the cooperative's annual meeting in Kalamazoo, Nov. 27, "our share of blood, sweat and tears."

Elton R. Smith told stockholders and members attending the meeting that the original charter of incorporation for Farm Bureau Services was dated October 25, 1929. "Just four days later, the nation experienced the great stock market crash which preceded the depression of the 1930s. What courage it must have required to stick to it and persevere in organizing a fledgling cooperative while the national economy was crashing," he said.

Next came the late 30s when the nation's banks closed, thousands of mortgages were foreclosed and farmers were unable to sell their products, Smith related. "Compared with those early depression days of Farm Bureau Services any problems we now have look pale indeed," he said.

More recent problems of the cooperative have included the lingering aftermath of the PBB problem, which the farm leader said "has now been largely put



ELTON R. SMITH

behind us." There has also been double-digit inflation which put unequalled pressures on the profitability of all types of U.S. businesses, Smith said, including Farm Bureau Services.

"In this day and age of high inflation and interest rates, it becomes increasingly difficult for businesses to maintain efficiency on a small scale," the co-op leader said. "Accordingly, we have seen over recent years, many business mergers. The board of directors believes a merger may be one of the viable alternatives that will provide the strength and efficiency to best serve the

Michigan farmer."

A merger with another cooperative, he said, could help ensure the availability of efficient, up-to-date facilities for storing and expediting the marketing of farmers' products, and also help ensure a dependable source of quality supplies at competitive prices.

Smith reported that a committee has been appointed to investigate the possibility of a merger with Landmark, Inc., an Ohio Farm Bureau farm supply and marketing affiliate.

"This committee will be meeting over the weeks ahead with representatives of Landmark and possibly with representatives of other similar cooperatives to determine, after a sufficient amount of study, if such a merger would be practical and desirable," Smith said.

## Co-ops Perform Vital Function

The need has never been greater for farmers to band together cooperatively, to utilize their combined resources, to protect themselves, their investments, and their capacity to fulfill the nation's food needs, said the president of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative.

In his report to stockholders at the cooperative's annual meeting, on November 27, FPC President Elton R. Smith said, "The ransoming of crude oil by the OPEC cartel has escalated fuel prices for everyone and contributed to double-digit inflation. Our cooperative has been obliged to cope with turmoil and uncertainty in the petroleum industry and yet fulfill its basic purpose of supplying oil and gasoline to Michigan farmers."

Not only has that purpose been met, Smith said, but in times of crisis, the farmer-owned cooperative exerts great influence in protecting the common interests of farmers.

"By putting farm production needs foremost, our cooperative fills a need just not available from the oil industry at large," Smith said. "And in

## Geiger, McKenzie, Tormoehlen Elected to FBS Board

Delegates to the fiftieth Farm Bureau Services, Inc., annual meeting named Gerald Geiger, Huron County; Keith McKenzie, Cass County; and Arthur Tormoehlen, Lenawee County to serve two year terms on the cooperative's board of directors.

Geiger, an incumbent member of the Services board has also served on the board of directors of the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives and is currently a board member of the Thumb Co-op terminal. He is the manager of the Ruth Farmers' Elevator in Huron County.

McKenzie operates a 2,000 acre corn and farrow to finish hog operation in Cass County. He is currently serving as a director of the Michigan Livestock Exchange and is a member of several state and local farmer advisory committees. He is a member of the Cass County Planning Board.

Tormoehlen has served Lenawee County farmers as manager of the Blissfield Co-op Company for 15 years and as a director of the Michigan Feed and Grain Dealers Association. He is a past director of the Farm Bureau Services, Inc.

## Landis, Harris Elected to FPC Board of Directors

Voting delegates to the Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., annual meeting held November 27, elected Jay Landis of Calhoun County and incumbent board member Neil Harris of Saginaw County to serve two year terms on the cooperative's board of directors.

Harris, who operates a 360 acre cash crop farm in Saginaw County, is currently president of the Chesaning Farmers' Cooperative Elevator. He is a member of the local township board of review and is a past member of the Saginaw Coun-

ty Farm Bureau board of directors.

Landis operates a 600 acre dairy and cash crop farm in Calhoun County. He has been active in the Michigan Farm Bureau organization serving as past board member of the Marshall Farm Bureau Oil Company and past vice chairman of the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee. Landis was recognized by his local Jaycee chapter as Outstanding Young Farmer and was first runner-up in the Michigan Jaycee Outstanding Young Farmer competition.

## NABA Needs Support

"Enactment of national farm bargaining legislation must be a goal for our association," Elton R. Smith, president of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association, told members attending MACMA's 19th annual meeting at Kalamazoo Center November 28.

"For processing fruits and vegetables, farm bargaining legislation is absolutely necessary to provide a legal basis for effective bargaining," Smith said in his report. "We realized that fact back in 1972 when the united efforts of Michigan Farm Bureau and MACMA members resulted in the enactment of P.A. 344. That state farm bargaining act, the first of its kind in the nation, has been of considerable value. The experiences of our association have proven that bargaining legislation is a realistic approach to enable farmers to improve their incomes in the marketplace."

H.R. 3535, the National Agricultural Bargaining Act of 1979, introduced in Congress earlier this year, has the active support of the nation's four leading farm organizations — National Grange, National Farmers Union, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, and the American Farm Bureau Federation. Eight Michigan Congressmen are among the bill's co-sponsors and both of

the state's U.S. Senators have indicated they will co-sponsor identical legislation.

"We need to intensify our efforts in 1980 to keep the bill moving in Congress," Smith said. "The key to success will be the united effort of individuals who believe in the need for this kind of legislation and are willing to take the time to express that need."

Smith said in view of the latest USDA predictions that farm costs will be up 11 percent in 1980 and farm income is expected to be down eight percent, possibilities for passage of the bill might be strengthened.

"We support the enactment of H.R. 3535 not because P.A. 344 is in itself deficient in any manner," Smith explained. "Farmers and their marketing associations all over the nation should have the provisions of farm bargaining legislation available for their use if they desire. The prices and other terms of trade which we establish through negotiations are limited by the prices being paid to producers in competing production areas. Our processing apple prices cannot greatly exceed the prices in the Eastern states, or our Michigan processors will be non-competitive in selling apple products. The associations in the East need to be accredited under national legislation to be effective in achieving profitable prices."



Speaking on "Farmers and Co-Ops," Henry Schriver, Ohio's Farmer Philosopher, addressed the FBS/FPC luncheon on November 27 during the two affiliated company's annual meetings.

times of petroleum shortage and skyrocketing prices, this protection becomes vital."

The FPC president said that the decision of Farmers Petroleum to engage in its own crude oil production was a wise one, assuring at least partial self-dependence against the "topsy-turvy fluctuations of world oil markets."

Being the first to commer-

cially sell gasohol to customers was a milestone, not only for the cooperative, but for the state's petroleum industry, Smith said.

"By taking leadership in introducing Agrihol (FPC's brand name), Farmers Petroleum has demonstrated its aggressiveness in helping to solve the fuel needs of its customers," he said.



## "America's Critical Choice"

# Ritchie Inspires Presidents, Campaign Managers



STEVE RITCHIE

"America's Critical Choice" was the topic of Steve Ritchie of the Adolph Coors Company as he spoke to a gathering of county Farm Bureau presidents and membership campaign managers at the MFB annual meeting. Ritchie told the group that Americans need an awareness of what they have and what they may lose if they forsake their individual and independent spirit to "toy with political regulation."

One of the most decorated men in U.S. military history, he served as a fighter pilot during the Vietnam conflict, and now takes his message on preserving America's competitive private enterprise system to audiences throughout the nation.

Ritchie noted that while we have less than seven percent of the world's population, we have over 50 percent of the world's material benefits.

"That's because so many have worked so hard under a free market, profit motive, individual initiative, incentive reward, capitalistic system," he said. "I think you and I have to be prepared and willing to fight to preserve, protect and defend our system of freedom. Because during the entire history of the world, individual freedom has been the most fragile of commodities."

Ritchie noted that a recent nationwide survey showed that less than four percent of Americans believe free enterprise has anything to do with their personal freedom. "Freedom without self-discipline won't work. Free people get spoiled, demanding more and more for less and less until economic collapse. And yes, it could happen here," he warned. "It has happened in every other nation or state in history. It's on the razor edge of

happening right now in Great Britain."

He talked about the politics of "buying votes by attacking profits" and said Americans must understand that their real needs are met, supported and financed by business and commerce—not by government. Ritchie called it "absolutely incredible" that Americans nationwide believe the average profit of U.S. business and industry is more than 33 percent. "Students think that it is over 48 percent while the real figure is less than five percent. Last year it was 4.7 percent, but what is worse is that this incredible ignorance is increasing rather than decreasing," he said.

To dispel ignorance of the forces which can destroy private enterprise and the freedom it sustains is the only hope for America's future, he concluded.

## Top County in Program Achievement

# Chippewa Scores Again!

John Kronemeyer, Chippewa County Farm Bureau president, made another triumphant walk to center stage at the awards program during the MFB annual meeting to accept the top award for program achievements.

Sixteen county presidents were recognized for winning two gold stars and up in various program areas by master of ceremonies Scott Killgore, farm editor for WJR radio and last year's MFB "Agricultural Communicator of the Year" recipient.

This was the sixth consecutive year Chippewa has been named top county Farm Bureau in the state, this year receiving eight gold stars for membership, information, policy development, policy execution, local affairs, women, commodity and community groups.

Giving Chippewa County a real run for their money was Sanilac County, which received seven gold stars. Sanilac president Wayne Wood's award-winning committees were membership, policy development, policy execution, local affairs, young farmers, commodity and women.

Four-star presidents in the spotlight were Albert Cook, Ingham County, for membership, information, young farmers and women; Gerald Grobbel, Macomb County, for membership, policy execution, policy development and community groups; and Bud Beeler, Newaygo County, for membership, information, women and local affairs.

Three-star presidents included Harold Borowicz, Cheboygan, for membership, policy development and community groups; Don Witt, Clinton, for membership, information and community groups; Ted Kneebush, Hillsdale, for membership, policy development and local affairs; Elmer Gowell, Oceana, for membership, young farmers and commodity; and Luke Schaible, Washtenaw, for membership, women and safemark.

Two-star presidents were Howard Haven, Jackson, for membership and policy execution; Larry Leach, Kalamazoo, for membership and community groups; Steven Carlson, Kent, for membership and local affairs; Duane Stevens, Montmorency, for membership and young farmers; Robert Gregory, Northwest Michigan, for membership and information; and Robert Karts, Ogemaw, for membership and young farmers.

In addition to the presentation of the gold-star awards, five county Farm Bureau presidents were honored for winning the President's Golden Award Trophy.

The trophies are earned by counties which have made membership and target goals and have the highest percentage of members participating in these member-only programs: Mutual Auto, Workers Compensation, Farm Record-keeping, Member Life, Blue Cross-Blue Shield, FBS/FPC Rebate Purchase Card, Wheat Pool and Safemark group purchasing.

The 1979 winners were Russell Nelkie, Iosco County; Gary Hoyt, Midland County; Elmer Gowell, Oceana County; Fred Erhorn, Ottawa County; and Elwood Kirkpatrick, Huron County.

Following the awards program, entertainment was provided by the Paul Caldwell Show.



Chippewa County President John Kronemeyer accepts congratulations and his county's awards from MFB President Elton Smith for being the top county in 1979 program achievements.

## 60-Year Members Honored at Annual



President Elton Smith (right) congratulates Mr. and Mrs. Earl Morehouse on being 60 year members of Michigan Farm Bureau, during the organization's 60th annual meeting.

Earl Morehouse, Van Buren County, served as proxy during the awards program at the MFB annual meeting for all members who have belonged to Michigan Farm Bureau for the past 60 years.

"This is the 60th annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau," said Scott Killgore, WJR farm editor, who served as M.C., "so it seems appropriate to honor those members who made their commitment to Farm Bureau 60 years ago."

Morehouse, selected for this special honor because of his strong support of the organization for the past 60 years, received a specially-designed memento which is also available to all other members who have been members of Michigan Farm Bureau for 60 years.

If you have been a member of Michigan Farm Bureau for 60 years, and would like to receive this special memento, fill out the coupon below and send it to Michigan Farm Bureau, Information & Public Relations Division, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909.

### ATTENTION 60 YEAR MFB MEMBERS!

Please complete this coupon and return to the address below for your 60-year-member gift of appreciation. Return to: Michigan Farm Bureau, Information and Public Relations Division, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_



# AgriPac Breakfast "Big Success" President Smith Re-Elected Four New Board Members

Michigan Farm Bureau's first AgriPac breakfast, held November 29 in conjunction with the annual meeting, was termed "a big success" by chairman Larry DeVuyst. More delegates wanted to attend the breakfast than there were tickets available—an indication, DeVuyst said, that the program is gaining acceptance and will be supported by members.

During the breakfast activities, Congressman Guy VanderJagt inspired members to become more politically active. Representative Loren Armbruster received AgriPac's "Friend of Agriculture" award for scoring 100 percent voting record on the 19 issues used in determining "Friends." And St. Clair County Farm Bureau member Carol Lauwers was honored with the AgriPac "Booster" award for personally selling over 100 tickets to the fundraiser in Fowlerville last year.

At a press conference following the breakfast, DeVuyst told reporters he believed AgriPac would have even more impact on the outcome of the 1980 elections than it did in 1978, when 66 of the 73 candidates designated as "Friends of Agriculture" were successful in their campaigns.

"We have found that our endorsement as 'Friends of Agriculture' is important and appreciated by candidates, and it has also been a motivator for legislators to be responsive to our positions on issues, which are based on farmer-developed policies," DeVuyst said.

"Farmers, I strongly believe, will begin to think of political clout in Lansing and in Washington, D.C. as a necessary tool for their farming operations," he told reporters. "More and more of them realize that already, and are willing to commit both financial and educational resources to the election of those who are proven friends of agriculture."

In 1978, when AgriPac was formed, it was the first time in the organization's history that Farm Bureau actively sup-

ported candidates for political office.

Proceeds of the AgriPac

breakfast will be used to help elect "Friends of Agriculture" in the 1980 elections.



**Congressman Guy VanderJagt was the keynote speaker at the first AgriPac breakfast, held in conjunction with the MFB annual meeting. The congressman urged members to become more politically active.**



**AgriPac chairman Larry DeVuyst (left) presented the AgriPac "Friend of Agriculture" award to Rep. Loren Armbruster at the AgriPac Breakfast held during the MFB annual meeting for scoring 100 percent voting record on the issues used in determining "Friends."**

Elton R. Smith of Caledonia, Kent County dairy farmer who has headed the state's largest farm organization since 1964, was re-elected as president of the Michigan Farm Bureau on Friday, November 30. The action took place during the reorganizational meeting of the 16-member board of directors in Kalamazoo, following the close of the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting.

Also re-elected was Jack Laurie of Cass City as vice president and Donald Nugent, Frankfort, third member of the board's executive committee.

Voting delegates to the organization's 60th annual meeting also re-elected Arthur Bailey, Schoolcraft, to represent District 1, which includes Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren counties; William Spike, Owosso, representing District 5, including Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Ingham and Shiawassee counties; Robert Rider, Hart, District 7, which includes Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana and Osceola counties, and Donald Nugent, Frankfort, District 9, including Benzie, Kalkaska, Manistee, Missaukee, Northwest Michigan and Wexford counties.

Elton Smith represents District 4 — Ottawa, Kent, Ionia, Allegan and Barry counties, and Jack Laurie represents District 6 — Huron, Tuscola, Lapeer, Sanilac, St. Clair and Macomb counties. Also re-elected to serve as a director-at-large on the organization's board was Michael Pridgeon of Montgomery, Branch County.

Newly-elected to the board were James Sayre of Belleville, representing District 3; Herman Robere, Fayette, representing District 11; L.C. Scramlin, Holly, representing Farm Bureau Young Farmers, and Vivian Lott, Mason, representing Farm Bureau Women.

Sayre operates a 475-acre farm specializing in strawberries, vegetables and cash crops, and also has a roadside market. He has served on various county and state Farm Bureau committees, as county president and was on the MFB board of directors for seven years. He and his wife, Joan, have five sons. District 3 is composed of Livingston, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne. Sayre replaces Andrew Jackson of Howell.

Robere farms 500 acres, specializing in cash crops. He has been active in Farm Bureau since 1964, serving as county president, policy development committee chairman, membership chairman and community group offices. He and his wife, Ellen, who serves on the state women's committee, have

three children. District 11 includes Chippewa, Copper Country, Hiawathaland, Iron Range, Mackinaw-Luce and Menominee counties. Robere replaces Frank Schwiderson of Dafer.

Scramlin operates a 650-acre dairy and hog operation. He has served on the county Young Farmer Committee, was the district Discussion Meet winner and a finalist in the Distinguished Young Farmer contest. He is also active in 4-H and the Michigan Duroc Association. L.C. and his wife, Jackie, former state Farm Bureau queen, have one son. Scramlin replaces David Conklin of Owosso.

Vivian Lott and her husband, Marvin, operate a 750-acre dairy family farm. She has been active in county, district and state women's activities and was elected chairman of the Farm Bureau Women's Committee last year. She has also been active in policy development and community group activities and served on MFB's most recent state study committee. The Lotts have four children. She replaces Claudine Jackson on the board.

Other officers re-elected were William Wilkinson, East Lansing, secretary; Max D. Dean, Okemos, treasurer and chief financial officer, and Robert E. Braden, Byron, was reappointed administrative director and assistant secretary.

## In Memoriam:

### Delegates Honor Heath

Delegates at the 60th annual meeting of Michigan Farm Bureau paid tribute to Howard Heath, founder of the Michigan Farm Radio Network and recipient of Michigan Farm Bureau's first "Agricultural Communicator of the Year" award. The farm broadcaster passed away several weeks ago, and as President Elton R. Smith said in his presentation to Heath's daughter, Mary Heath White, "We in agriculture will miss him greatly."

A plaque was presented to White to share with her family; it reads "Special Communicator Award in memory of Howard Heath, Michigan Farm Radio Network, for his lifetime of service to Michigan agriculture."

President Smith also announced that the Michigan Farm Bureau will be making a contribution to the Howard Heath Farm Broadcasting scholarship at Michigan State University.

## "Fabulous 15" Honored

Members of the prestigious "Fabulous Fifteen" club were in the spotlight at the County Presidents' and Campaign Managers' Banquet at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting.

Exclusive membership in this club is reserved for those three counties in each membership category which are first to reach goal. The following campaign managers were honored

during the banquet:

In the 1 to 350 membership category — Foster McCool, Kalkaska; Betty and Lyle Robinson, Iosco; and Don Davis and Don Bay, Clare.

In the 351 to 650 category — Stan and Anna Marie Stempky, Cheboygan; Richard Beck, Ogemaw; and Wayne Thompson, Muskegon.

In the 651 to 1200 member category — Audrey Quisenberry

and Terry Slocum, Montcalm; Cloral Beeler, Northwest Michigan; and Ray Doty and Harold Swiler, Ionia.

In the 1201 to 1500 category — Duane Wagner, Lapeer; Alvin Gaertner, Monroe; and Richard DeKleine, Ottawa.

In the largest member category, 1501 and over, Robert Kissane, Clinton; Edward Hebler, Saginaw; and Delbert Roberts, Huron.



## Speaks on Managing Resources

# Brickley Addresses MFB Delegates

An executive-level committee is studying the needs and problems of Michigan cities and rural areas in an effort to check the uncontrolled growth of urban areas and to preserve Michigan's land resources, Lt. Governor James Brickley told farmers at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting in Kalamazoo, November 29.

Brickley, who heads the Community Development Cabinet, said the issue of community development could be summarized in two succinct sentences: "Our farmland, forests, and open spaces, which for centuries seemed limitless, are suddenly in short supply. Older sections of our towns and villages have begun to deteriorate while often uncontrolled growth continues on the fringe areas.

"We cannot afford to trade in our communities every generation, moving our population farther away from the buildings, roads, offices and businesses in which we have invested trillions of dollars," he said.

"In southeast Michigan, we are constructing 30,000 new dwellings a year. While the population is growing by less than 24,000 households a year. We have built 278 new schools since 1970, while nearly 400 school buildings have been abandoned in the same period because of declining enrollment, declining revenue and deterioration," reported Brickley.

The loss of human and financial resources to our cities is paralleled by the loss of Michigan's agricultural land in those fringe areas. "In Michigan alone," said Brickley, "more than 100,000 acres of cropland are lost annually. One third of this is in the urban fringe of our cities and this same fringe land provides more than 20% of our food supply."

Our society, he said, "never learned to place a value on what we have; we greedily steal from future generations the resources they will need."

While praising farmers for having "long known the value of land," Brickley said others are just now coming to fully appreciate its value. "Modern society has an obligation to assure that our natural environmental systems, recreational areas and communities are protected....Our children and grandchildren have a right to the resources that are temporarily placed in our custody today," Brickley continued.

He told the Farm Bureau members that the governor has established four principles to guide state government toward better management of our resources. The goals are improving the fiscal stability, economic resources, and physical conditions of already



**LT. GOVERNOR JAMES BRICKLEY**

developed areas; encouraging the conservation and revitalization of neighborhoods; strengthening local governance; and preserving prime agricultural and environmentally sensitive areas.

"There is no question in my mind," said Brickley, "that efforts to maintain prime agricultural land are not misplaced.

"The encroachment of development into rural areas victimized the farmer more than anyone else.... As more and more farms are swallowed up by indiscriminate sprawl, fewer and fewer remain isolated from skyrocketing property taxes. Farmers are heavily taxed to support services they neither need nor want, but which are required by the developers and the people moving into their areas. It is no exaggeration," he continued, "to say that in many cases farmers have literally been forced to quit farming simply because their land has become too valuable."

Consumers, too, he said, are hard hit by declining farm acreage.

"It does not take an experienced economist to figure out the effects of diminishing land and food supply on the price of the products.... Rising gas and diesel fuel prices alone added \$200 million to the nation's total food distribution costs during the first half of 1979."

Some progress has already been made in checking the disruptive effects of urban sprawl into rural areas. In 1976 at the federal level, he reported, the President's Council on Environmental

Quality directed federal agencies to curtail any projects that could lead to the loss of prime agricultural lands. The director of the Farmers Home Administration Office in Michigan has announced that his agency will not make home mortgage loans that could convert farmland to other uses.

Brickley also pointed to the success of Michigan's Farmland and Open Spaces program which extends tax credits to farmers who commit their land to continued farming for a minimum of ten years. That program, said Brickley, has enrolled one million acres of farmland as of September 1, 1979.

On the unfinished agenda for better management of our land resources, said Brickley, proposals are being studied to encourage more efficient land use patterns, concentrate development in urbanized areas, and improved land management techniques to reduce sprawl, unregulated development and wasteful use of resources.

According to Brickley, the governor has directed a review of land use and development policies in the departments of Public Health, Natural Resources, Agriculture and in the Transportation Commission.

"The governor and the Community Development Cabinet will continue to monitor the policies of state agencies to ensure that our goals are realized. We will work to assure that the levers and programs controlled by state government are working in harmony toward these goals," Brickley said in conclusion.

## Incentives Needed for Gasohol Production

The American people would buy gasohol if it were readily available, according to senior research economist, Dr. William E. Riddle of Battelle Institute. A speaker at the commodity session at the MFB annual meeting, Dr. Riddle said demand for gasohol has not decreased since its introduction, but the available supply has not been as much as originally anticipated.

"Gasohol is a very American type of commodity to purchase, particularly when you consider that over 50 percent of our oil is imported," he said. "This is using American products to free ourselves from imports, and people tend to support a product that supports the American free enterprise system. The big problem with gasohol is that we don't have an adequate supply of alcohol to mix with the unleaded fuel and that tends to make it a short supply commodity, not available on a regular basis."

Riddle said that although it may not be economical to produce gasohol currently, "I think we all realize we're going to have to pay more for fuels and

the question is — do we pay that money to foreigners or do we pay it to our own countrymen? Every time the Arabs increase the price of oil, the economic gap narrows."

Alcohol fuels can help ease the petroleum shortage if producers, processors and consumers are provided with incentives, Riddle said. For producers, those incentives should include direct payments, investment credit on equipment and land improvement, and a classified pricing system. For processors, incentives should include investment credit, an excise tax on regular gasoline, government financial help for the first production facility, and government procurement practices, he said. Tax credits on fuel and automotive purchases, and an excise tax on nonalcohol fuels would provide incentives for consumers, the research economist said.

The U.S. could be stronger agriculturally, less dependent on Middle East oil, inflation could be reduced, and a real contribution made to future independence if these incentives were provided, Riddle concluded.

## MFB Receives Recognition from Legislature, State Police



**In recognition of the MFB Rural Crime Prevention Program, President Elton Smith received a copy of House Concurrent Resolution 451 from 56th District Representative Ernest Nash. The resolution recognizes Farm Bureau members' active participation in implementing innovative and successful crime prevention programs in rural areas.**



**Lt. Col. William Hassinger, chief deputy director of the Michigan State Police, congratulates Ron Nelson, local affairs specialist, for development of Rural Crime Prevention programs.**



# 1980 Michigan Farm Bureau Policies

## 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 education 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.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DELEGATES, 60TH ANNUAL MEETING, KALAMAZOO, NOVEMBER 27-30, 1979.

## FOREWORD

Our Michigan Farm Bureau is starting its 61st year of service to agriculture in Michigan. Through its first sixty years our organization has experienced many member endorsed changes to reflect and serve a dynamic, changing agriculture.

As we enter a new decade, we face even greater changes in the agricultural community. We find rapid growth in the rural non-farm segment of our population. Many of these persons have problems common to farmers. Many of these problems need an organized effort to be solved, and the solution would be enhanced by a combination of both farm and non-farm involvement. We believe that the experience gained in our Farm Bureau, could provide that solution.

New services, for members only, will need to be developed to provide added incentives for membership. We are pleased that efforts are underway in the development of new programs and services. This process will strengthen Michigan Farm Bureau and its affiliate companies to even greater benefits for Farm Bureau members and our efforts will lead to a stronger Farm Bureau in terms of numbers, finances, services and influence.

We have assembled in this, our 60th Annual Meeting, to develop policies on current and future issues. Member involvement in surfacing these issues, along with suggested solutions, started at the Community Group level. They were discussed at 69 county Annual Meetings, where members discussed the issues and voted on them.

Our State Policy Development Committee has spent 6 days in gathering information, weighing alternatives and preparing recommendations to delegates from all county Farm Bureaus. The actions of the delegates will result in the policies of our organization for the year ahead, but what we do at this Annual Meeting will result only in words on paper. They must be put into action by Farm Bureau members.

The strength of any organization is member involvement. We encourage members to become involved in the many programs and activities of Farm Bureau. This will result in the continued success of Farm Bureau in serving the needs of members in Michigan.

John Laurie, Chairman  
Policy Development Committee

## 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.

## APPRECIATION

During the first session of the 80th Legislature much legislation consistent with Farm Bureau policies was passed, implemented or in progress, including:

- Implementation of the 1978 Constitutional Amendment limiting state spending, procedures for property tax rate rollbacks and maintenance of state aid to local governments.
- Amendments to animal health laws.
- Equalization of property by class and implementation of a "developmental" classification.
- Progress of legislation to reform Workers' Compensation.
- Legislation in progress to promote gasohol.
- Amendments to the Wetlands legislation exempting land to be used for agricultural production.
- Enactment of Legislation for a Statewide Land Inventory.
- Appropriations for the Extension Service, Agriculture Experiment Station, FFA and 4-H.
- Progress on a new Plant and Soil Science Building.
- Amendments to the No-Fault Law providing for a realistic Essential Insurance Program.
- Progress to amend the Uniform Commercial Code to solve farm loan problems.
- Amendments to the Grain Dealers Act to further protect farmers.
- Amendments for specific exemptions for farmers from Drivers License Endorsement requirements.
- Legislation to require licensing of land acquisition agents.
- Amendments to the Solid Waste Act.
- Permit Farm Licenses for Wood Harvestors.
- Amendments to the Probate Code.
- Several tax measures in progress, including repeal of stored grain tax and exemption of health care cost from income tax.
- Numerous Educational amendments under consideration.

We commend the Governor, Legislature and various Departments on introduction, enactment and implementation of these and other measures, which we have supported or are consistent with our policies and are important to agriculture and the economy of the State of Michigan. We also ap-

preciate that much proposed legislation not in the best interest of agriculture has not been adopted or has been amended.

## Agriculture

### MARKETING AND BARGAINING LEGISLATION

The Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act (P.A. 344 as amended) has proven to be a fair and equitable procedure through which marketing and bargaining associations and processors negotiate fruit and vegetable prices and other terms of trade. We support:

1. Amendments to P.A. 344, which would clarify where necessary the provisions and procedures to make it more workable.
2. Action to assist farmers in other states in the development and the enactment of state marketing and bargaining legislation.
3. Enactment of proposed national farm bargaining legislation.
4. Aggressive action to defend marketing and bargaining majority rule concept legislation. We will oppose any efforts by opponents of P.A. 344 and national farm bargaining legislation to weaken or cripple its operations and effectiveness.
5. Modification of the act so that other agricultural commodities can come under this legislation if producers comply with its provisions.

We urge that Farm Bureau at all levels give the highest priority to marketing and bargaining legislation.

### GRAIN AND BEAN MARKETING

Farmers should be in a position to control their own bean and grain marketing. Producers delivering grain to elevators should be offered both a warehouse storage receipt and a price later agreement and be able to select the one of their choice. Passage of the Grain Dealers Act of 1976 relieved several concerns once expressed by farmers in Michigan concerning price later agreements.

### GRAIN DEALERS ACT

During the past several years several elevators have filed bankruptcy resulting in sizeable dollar losses to many Michigan farmers. This has caused serious problems for many who thought that their interests were protected by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

We support proposed legislation to strengthen the Grain Dealers Act. This legislation gives the MDA authority to conduct a functional audit of elevators and grain dealers. It would also permit the examination of books, records and accounts by a trained staff.

### DRY EDIBLE BEANS

Michigan is the leading dry bean producing state in the nation. Presently the producers are without an adequate grower production or marketing information system. Also, there is no unified promotional program by the industry.

We support the establishment of a system to provide accurate industry production and market information on a timely basis. We support a united industry wide effort to improve promotion of dry edible beans in the domestic and export markets.

### SOYBEAN RESEARCH AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Soybean acreage is increasing in Michigan. This crop is an important part of farm income.

We believe soybean research should receive continued emphasis at Michigan State University. Developing and testing of new varieties adapted to Michigan's unique environmental conditions is needed as well as research on disease, weed and insect control.

We urge the Michigan Soybean Committee to substantially increase the portion of existing check-



## Policies Become:

# Solutions to Agricultural Problems

off funds for research in Michigan and continue to work with the Legislature and MSU in providing adequate matching funds for soybean research in Michigan.

### FRUIT JUICES

Fruit juices have great marketing potential and consumer demand for these products is very evident. Michigan is one of the major producers of fruit crops such as cherries.

Frequently, adverse weather conditions cause considerable quantities of cherries to be unacceptable for No. 1 Grade product, however, the raw product would be very acceptable for juice stock. Recent rigid interpretations and inspection and grade specifications by government agencies have caused serious hardship on many growers because they are not able to market their crop. The inflexible rules have been unreasonable and inequitable to growers and consumers since considerable product is lost from the market.

We continue to support research and extension activities to develop the best handling procedures, reasonable testing methods and definitions which will allow for maximum utilization of fruit crops and market expansion of these products.

### QUARANTINE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

In trying to meet the growing need for food, farmers are doing all they can to increase food production. This often calls for new methods, production techniques and often the use of chemicals.

While great care must be taken to use precaution in handling these chemicals, we recognize that sometimes accidents may occur. This may lead to quarantine of farmers and possible disposal of products.

We believe that for all products the quarantine period should not exceed 30 days. By the end of that period, the governmental agency imposing the quarantine must take one of four actions:

1. Revoke the quarantine.
2. Continue the quarantine for an additional 30 days. Total quarantine should not exceed 60 days.
3. Condemn the product and dispose of it within 10 days. In the case of poultry, the total quarantine should not exceed 30 days.
4. If the quarantine extends into the second thirty days, loan arrangements should be made available to producers who are quarantined for conditions beyond their control.

### ANIMAL HEALTH RESEARCH

The income from livestock and livestock products represents the largest segment of Michigan agriculture. We encourage additional funding for continued research on animal diseases by the MSU Agricultural Experiment Station. This work should be coordinated with the MSU Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory and other animal health facilities.

### LIVESTOCK RESEARCH

There is much hope for genetic advancement in livestock through ova transfers. We encourage that contacts be maintained with Michigan State University researchers working with ova transfer and that members be kept informed of the results.

Pork production is an important economic enterprise in Michigan. The lack of structural soundness in swine breeding stock as well as market hogs is creating considerable economic loss to Michigan producers. Therefore, we encourage Michigan State University to conduct research on both problems.

### LIVESTOCK TESTING

The import-export tests required on livestock by Michigan differ from those required by Canada. We believe reciprocal testing programs should be implemented and that all requirements be strictly enforced.

### CALFHOOD VACCINATION

Michigan presently requires calfhood 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 calfhood vaccination program. To aid in maintaining this law, we believe the indemnity should be paid only to owners of calfhood vaccinated animals.

### PSEUDORABIES CONTROL

Current regulations regarding imported feeder pigs require a special permit to bring feeder pigs into Michigan and that they be quarantined until slaughter.

We urge a vigorous educational program be conducted to acquaint feeder pig buyers with the new regulation and urge the Michigan Department of Agriculture to strictly enforce these provisions.

The sale of swine breeding stock within the state should require a pseudorabies test within thirty days prior to sale if not from a qualified free herd.

We recommend blood testing of swine breeding stock within thirty days prior to each show at county fairs which will help control the spread of this disease. Isolation from swine herds from time of test to time of show will also help control pseudorabies.



### SOFT WHITE WHEAT DELIVERY POINT

Soft white wheat is the major class of wheat produced in Michigan. It is the only class of wheat for which there is no provision for delivering against a future contract. We urge continued work by Farm Bureau and the Michigan Elevator Exchange to establish delivery points for soft white wheat. The delivery points should be the same as for soft red wheat, namely Toledo and/or Chicago.

### MEAT INSPECTION

Michigan's meat inspection program is in danger of being discontinued due to lack of federal funding. We contend that the Federal inspection would put a number of our small meat packers out of business and also lower the quality of our product. We will continue to work to preserve our present State Meat Inspection Program.

We recommend that meat and poultry inspected under a state program, which is equal to federal inspection and approved by USDA, be permitted to move in interstate commerce and also to federally inspected plants.

### ON FARM MILK QUALITY TESTING

We urge continued research to provide an inexpensive, fast on farm antibiotic test at the milk tank. This would help to assure a drug free milk product and assure that producers have a double check on the product they produce and sell.

Conclusive proof of residue must be provided to the producer before the milk tank is red tagged.

### MILK TEMPERATURE REQUIREMENTS

The quality of milk is directly affected by the temperature both on the farm and throughout the handling. Consumption of milk is directly affected by quality, thus milk must be kept cool at all handling points.

Current law requires that raw milk be cooled not to exceed 50 degrees Fahrenheit and processed milk not to exceed 45 degrees Fahrenheit. We recommend that the laws regarding temperature requirements be strictly enforced.

We urge that special attention be given to milk quality utilized in the school milk program or any other mass milk distribution program.

### PROMPT PAYMENT

We deplore the practice of some processors and handlers of farm commodities of operating on producers money due to delayed payment for commodities delivered. Sometimes this period extends for as long as a year or more.

We therefore, urge producers to develop firm business policies concerning contracts on overdue accounts including an appropriate interest charge to any account not paid in full after 30 days.

We support legislation that would require processors and handlers purchasing farm commodities from producers to make full payment within 30 days of date of purchase unless other provisions are made by written contract.

### MOISTURE TESTING STANDARDS

All farmers who wish to sell crops at local elevators must rely on the accuracy of the scales and moisture testing equipment at the elevators. There currently are regulations concerning the scale. While grain buyers who trade under U.S. grain standards must meet USDA criteria, inspection of all grain dealers is not enforceable. Moisture testing equipment should be inspected and certified annually by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. As an additional safeguard to farmers spot inspections of this equipment by Michigan Department of Agriculture should also be conducted.

### FERTILIZER TESTING

Michigan fertilizer laws provide for testing fertilizer to assure that it meets the analysis as labeled. However, we are concerned that due to lack of adequate manpower and laboratory availability, there is insufficient testing to protect farmers buying fertilizer.

We are also concerned that many nitrogen fertilizer products such as anhydrous ammonia are not tested adequately. We support whatever measures necessary for the enforcement of Michigan's fertilizer laws.

### NOXIOUS WEED LIST

Due to the speed with which they are spreading throughout the state, we believe the Noxious Weed Law should be amended to include Velvetleaf, Nightshade, Nutsedge and Jimson weeds.

### ABANDONED ORCHARDS AND VINEYARDS

Abandoned and severely neglected fruit orchards, vineyards, blueberry and bramble plantations harbor diseases and insects. We support the removal of such orchards and vineyards through the Department of Agriculture removal program upon the request of a commercial grower.

In order to accomplish this and enable farmers to utilize integrated pest control we support necessary funding for M.D.A. to remove trees and vines from abandoned sites and recommend that the cost of removal be placed as a lien against the property if the owner refuses to comply.

We support an amendment to the present law to include brambles and blueberries.

### AGRICULTURAL REPORTING SERVICE

The agricultural industry has developed many mechanisms for reporting the size and progress of



## Policies Provide:

# Direction for Action

crops and other agricultural commodities. The system that has been most widely adopted by the industry is the Agricultural Reporting Service. To insure the accuracy of their reports, farmers should give the Agricultural Reporting Service full cooperation. Farm Bureau should work with the Agricultural Reporting Service to find ways to improve and simplify the gathering of information, reporting and other aspects presently criticized by farmers. We recommend that the Legislature and the Michigan Department of Agriculture adequately fund their full portion of this cost-share service. We also recommend additional funding for the Agricultural Reporting Service to publish, at least quarterly, a timber price report as an added service to private forest owners.

### APPOINTMENT OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DIRECTOR

We believe the present method of selecting the Director of the Department of Agriculture is the most effective system to avoid compromising the Director's position through the use of political pressure. A strong Agriculture Commission consisting of individuals with a farm background has and continues to serve all Michigan residents.

### AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND EXHIBITION CENTER

The development of an Agricultural Education and Exhibition Center in Michigan will improve the knowledge and management skills of farmers. We encourage continued aggressive action by the Steering Committee to develop the planned Center at Michigan State University.

### MICHIGAN BEAN COMMISSION

We support the efforts of the Michigan Bean Commission. The Commission should be the instrument for fostering, surfacing and developing new bean products and expanding the uses of dry beans. Efforts by the Commission to establish local advisory committees should be continued to develop better communications with dry bean growers.

### AGRICULTURAL REPRESENTATION ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The increasing involvement of government in agriculture has significantly increased food production costs. Many producers have discontinued or substantially altered their farming operations as a result of increased government regulations. This problem is magnified by the fact that most appointees to various boards and commissions do not understand agriculture. We recommend and will continue to vigorously support the appointment of qualified persons familiar with agriculture to all boards and commissions involved in areas affecting agriculture.

Agriculture should continue to be a voting member of the Air Pollution Control Commission and Water Resources Commission. We oppose repeal of the laws establishing these commissions.

### LOCAL FAIRS

Michigan fairs are an important part of our state's heritage, and they are more popular today than ever before. The number of exhibits and the number of exhibitors have increased steadily in the last decade. The important impact of the youth programs which culminate in competition of fairs and of adult agricultural exhibits has been felt throughout the agricultural industry.

We support the Michigan Department of Agriculture's leadership in the Michigan Fair Industry. We also encourage the Michigan Legislature to continue to create and make possible the funding of these endeavors.

### MICHIGAN STATE FAIR

We believe the Michigan State Fair helps to create a better understanding and appreciation bet-

ween the agricultural and industrial producer and the user or consumer. Because of its location, the Michigan State Fair is within relatively easy access to the majority of Michigan residents and offers the unique opportunity to bring the producers and processors of food and consumers together. The fair has performed this function for 129 years.

The Legislature has transferred the fair grounds and fair to the Department of Natural Resources. An eleven member council has been created consisting of the department directors of agriculture, commerce, and natural resources and eight appointed members, three of whom shall be farmers. We urge that agriculture be the priority attraction at the State Fair with additional emphasis on youth.

We urge that Farm Bureau members attend and participate in the State Fair.

## Natural Resources

### AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION

Agricultural land is essential to the well-being of all Michigan citizens. The Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act (P.A. 116) provides a voluntary method of preserving farmland through a contractual arrangement with the state and thereby limits property tax to a percentage of household income. It also provides relief from certain special assessments. It is proving to be an effective program to preserve agricultural lands for future food needs and open space. Farmers throughout the state have enrolled over 1 million acres of agricultural land in the program of which over 40 percent is located within urban areas.

The administrators of P.A. 116 are to be complimented for the efficient manner in which the program has been handled. We support retention of administrative responsibility for the program in the Department of Natural Resources.

We urge the Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Farm Bureau, Cooperative Extension Service personnel and local government officials to aggressively inform farmers of P.A. 116. We urge every farmer to seriously consider the program and its potential benefits to their farming operation.

We continue to support P.A. 116 and will work to maintain and improve this major agricultural land preservation program. We oppose enactment by the Legislature of additional agricultural land preservation programs which we believe would confuse farmers and diminish the effectiveness of P.A. 116.

We urge Farm Bureau members to take an active part in land use planning at all levels of government. 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.

We oppose federal assistance to states for land use planning except under a grant-in-aid program. Funds available to a state should not be withheld as a weapon to enforce compliance. We oppose federal legislation and agency policy which would impose land use regulations as a qualification for obtaining federal grants and loans.



### SUBDIVISION CONTROL

The present Subdivision Control Act permits a tract of land to be divided into not more than four parcels of ten acres or less without platting. However, many instances of circumventing the platting of land have been observed through the selling of land in parcels of 10.1 acres or greater. This practice has led to several areas of unplanned developments which can be costly to the community.

We will support legislation to eliminate the inadequacies of the present Act and require the platting of all subdivisions.

Local zoning laws should continue to control strip building along highways or on agricultural land as authorized under present zoning laws.

### PUBLIC UTILITIES

Activities of public utility companies take them across much of Michigan's farmland. They often damage underground tile in farmlands when installing new facilities. Farm owners should be notified a minimum of 30 days prior to installation of such new facilities so the farmer can identify the location of tile and prevent damages.

Electric and telephone utility transmission lines, gas lines and oil right-of-ways for these purposes should be standardized as nearly as possible with contracts or other legal instruments including as many protections to the owner as possible. We further believe that consideration should be given to the leasing rather than sale of right-of-ways.

We support legislation to require licensing of land acquisition agents for oil, gas and utility companies. The legislation should require that landowners be informed of their legal rights, the proposed use of the land, the amount of royalty if any and the source in the state agency that can provide further information.

Many times utility companies own good agricultural land at present or future power generating locations. They are severely restricted in the disposition of these properties because of P.A. 286 of 1972, "The Land Sales Act". We support an amendment to P.A. 286 exempting utilities in the disposition of real estate for agricultural use.

### WILDERNESS AREAS

Experience has shown that the "no management" concept applied to certain areas under the Wilderness Act has resulted in the serious degradation of the resource. It has been demonstrated that the removal of all man-made facilities has resulted in sanitation and health problems that threaten the values the Act was designed to preserve.

Established wilderness criteria further threaten such areas by prohibiting the employment of power tools and vehicles in watershed management, trail maintenance, soil treatment, noxious weed control, waste management, and fire protection. For these reasons, and the fact that wilderness management is inconsistent with sound multiple use principles, we oppose further expansion of wilderness areas proposed under RARE II and urge reevaluation of all existing wildernesses under the Wilderness Act. Any future wilderness proposals should be subject to environmental, social and economic impact analysis in addition to heavily weighted consideration of the views and land use plans of the residents of the locality and state concerned.

### ENERGY

Energy and its availability to meet the needs of society must receive high priority. We believe there are adequate energy supplies to meet foreseeable demand; but without proper incentives, these supplies will not be developed.

The market system is the best method and incentive for developing and allocating energy resources. Additional government regulations and taxes levied on energy producers will only serve to make the United States more dependent on foreign nations to supply our energy needs.

Although it will only partially solve the energy



## Policies Reflect:

# The Voice of the Grassroots

problem, all citizens must put forth a strong effort to conserve energy now and in the future.

Government funds and private funds should be used to hasten energy research with the objective of ending our dependence on other nations for sources of energy. This research should include coal gasification, the utilization of feedlot and other organic waste, shale oil extraction and utilization of ethanol as fuel; solar; wind; nuclear, including fission, fusion and breeder reactor; wood, geothermal, and other energy sources.

However, because of inherent problems with nuclear wastes adequate disposal facilities for the waste must be developed before permits are issued for new nuclear power plants not already under construction.

We oppose government rationing as a means of allocating scarce supplies, except in the case of national emergencies. In such cases, agriculture should receive uninterrupted supplies.

Data gathered from highly sophisticated exploratory techniques indicates there are large amounts of untapped gas and oil beneath public lands. These energy supplies represent important resources to meet future energy needs of the economy. We support the development of these vast oil and gas supplies beneath public lands, when appropriate, providing strict environmental controls are assured.

A portion of the revenue from sales of oil and gas from state and federally owned property should be returned to the county and township in which the property is located.

### GASOHOL

Agricultural commodities are a renewable source of bio-mass for ethanol alcohol production. The use of such commodities for production of ethanol alcohol could accomplish significant energy conservation of non-renewable resources. We commend Farmers Petroleum Cooperative for assuming leadership in the marketing of gasohol in Michigan. We urge Farm Bureau to continue to exert its full influence to promote the development, production and use of gasohol.

### 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 continue to 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 that such regulations, when implemented, be realistic and consistent with good 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 waste.

We recommend that whenever an environmental impact statement is required, an economic study should also be required to inform the public of the probable consequences of the proposals.

### MINERAL RIGHTS

In many areas of the state, mineral rights were either sold or retained by original owners throughout the years resulting in the fact that many present owners do not own the mineral rights to their property. Farming operations are disturbed when the owners of mineral rights exercise their rights to develop the mineral resources. While compensation is due the owner of the surface rights, often there are other losses incurred for which no compensation is received. We believe that the owner of the surface rights should receive some

portion of the royalties to compensate him for these losses and increased property taxes resulting from the development of mineral rights.

Presently, there are laws permitting oil and gas mineral rights to revert to the owner of the property. We believe this principle should be extended to other kinds of mineral rights. However, we believe that the present 20-year claim period should be reduced to ten years.

### WATER SURVEILLANCE FEE

Public Act 293 of 1972 requires persons discharging wastes into surface and underground waters to file an annual report with the State and pay a surveillance fee for monitoring of the discharges. The total annual surveillance fees charged must be equal to the appropriation made by the Legislature to fund the surveillance activities. The law establishes a \$9,000 maximum fee that can be charged per location to any one discharger. Due to rising costs and the maximum fee that can be charged a factor similar to that used in property tax equalization is applied to the fees levied against small dischargers including many agricultural operations. We support legislation to remove the \$9,000 ceiling so that large dischargers will carry their full share of the surveillance fee. We also support replacement of the current formula used to compute fees with a formula that will provide incentives for dischargers to prevent environmental damage. The new formula should result in a fee that accurately reflects the amount of surveillance actually necessary to monitor discharges.



### LAND DISPOSAL OF WASTEWATER AND SLUDGE

The use of land to dispose of industrial and municipal wastewater or sludge is expected to increase due to national water pollution abatement goals established by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The supply of nutrients and the water in these wastes could be beneficial to agriculture. We urge farmers to consider the possibilities of utilizing wastewater and sludge from municipalities contemplating land application. Government agencies responsible for approving land application systems should allow private agriculture to utilize municipal wastewater and sludge whenever possible and we will continue our efforts to seek approval of such a policy. We believe the use of farmland for disposal of such wastes should:

1. Permit private enterprise agriculture with voluntary participation.
2. Provide flexibility in amount and timing of application of the wastes according to agricultural needs.
3. Provide indemnity payments for unsaleable crops due to Food and Drug Administration regulations or crop losses caused by components in the wastes.
4. Provide indemnity for land should it be contaminated because of components in the wastes.

### WATER RIGHTS

The use of irrigation for crop production continues to increase rapidly. We will oppose any ef-

forts to restrict the availability of an equitable water supply for irrigation use. We support the current efforts of the Michigan Farm Bureau Water Rights Task Force to study water laws, identify potential riparian problems which might affect agriculture and recommend equitable solutions to such riparian problems.

### SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Several years ago the Legislature passed legislation requiring the burying of solid wastes and that the wastes be covered daily.

Michigan counties have been complying with the law. In so doing counties have used hundreds of acres of land. Michigan is fast running out of suitable land for waste disposal. This is a wasteful practice and should be stopped.

We will support the passage of legislation providing incentives for the recycling of rubbish, the burning of all burnable materials, the recycling of metals suitable for recycling and the burying of the ash. The energy derived from the burning process should be harnessed to produce steam for the generation of electricity. Energy is costing more every day and this trend will likely continue. The energy we are now burying should be saved and utilized.

### COMMERCIAL FOREST ACT

The Commercial Forest Act has not been amended since 1970. We believe it should be studied to determine its effect on the community and updated to bring revenue yields in line with today's economic situation.

### DRAINAGE

Much of Michigan's nearly 12 million acres of farmland require drainage to produce food. Certain types of agriculture such as muck farming cannot continue or expand without adequate drainage systems. We favor retention of authority for administration of the Drain Code in the Department of Agriculture. We support recodification of the Drain Code. Drains constructed by authority of the Drain Code should whenever possible follow natural drainage contours and maintain aesthetics of individual farms.

### TRESPASS

The present law requiring hunters, fishermen, snowmobilers and ORV operators to obtain written permission before entering upon farmland and connected farm woodlots has reduced the number of trespass complaints. We urge owners of farmland to fully utilize this law to protect their property rights against trespass. We will oppose all efforts to repeal or weaken this law.

We are concerned about the growing problem of crop destruction by ORV's. We recommend that Michigan Farm Bureau arrange and conduct a meeting with landowners, law enforcement agencies and ORV operators to discuss ways to minimize this problem. If this effort proves unsuccessful we will support legislation to provide greater protection to landowners.

### DEER HERD

We appreciate the efforts of the Department of Natural Resources to continue on an expanded basis for 1979 the special Landowner Permit Program which recognizes the contribution of farmers in providing feed and habitat to the deer herd. We support its continuation and expansion where appropriate in 1980.

We will support legislation to prohibit shining for deer in fields where livestock is kept or pastured and prohibit the rays of an artificial light to be cast upon buildings except in the normal operation of a vehicle or when necessary by persons working within the scope of their employment.

We will also support legislation to prohibit statewide the shining of deer for a 30 day period immediately prior to and during the bow and firearm deer seasons.



## Policies Reflect:

# Strength Through United Action

### DESTRUCTIVE WILDLIFE AND PESTS

Many species of wildlife are causing serious damage to crops and property in agricultural areas. We recommend that intensive research and management efforts be continued by state and federal agencies to find effective methods of minimizing these dangers. We recommend that landowners contact United States Bureau of Fisheries and Wildlife personnel stationed in the Michigan Department of Agriculture, the Department of Natural Resources and Cooperative Extension Service for assistance in dealing with wildlife crop damage.

### SECTION 208 COST SHARING

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 establishes a goal of zero water pollution by 1985. We believe the zero water pollution goal is impractical and unattainable and should be substantially modified. This unrealistic goal provides direction for implementation of Section 208 of the Act.

Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act requires each state to designate appropriate agencies to study area water quality problems and prepare and implement plans to control non-point sources of pollution. Plans prepared under Section 208 must identify, if appropriate, agriculturally related non-point sources of pollution, including run-off from manure disposal areas and from land used for livestock and crop production. The plan must also set forth procedures and methods, including land-use requirements, to control to the extent feasible such sources. Since Section 208 plans are intended to achieve public goals any limit on cost-sharing of approved conservation practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program for measures required by Section 208 plans should be removed. We believe Soil Conservation Districts or the ASCS should be responsible for administering any Section 208 plans for agriculture.

We urge Farm Bureau members to take an active role in monitoring the Regional 208 plan in their area.

### SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL ACT

The Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act, P.A. 347 of 1972, requires that after December 31, 1978 certain agricultural practices except for normal tillage, planting and harvesting be conducted either (1) under a permit obtained from the local agency designated by the County Board of Commissioners or (2) carried out in accordance with a soil conservation plan approved by the local Soil Conservation District. We do not believe routine agricultural practices such as removal of fencerows, construction of grass waterways, preparation of farm building sites and burial of stonepiles are significant sources of erosion or sedimentation. We therefore support legislation to exempt all agricultural practices from the requirements of P.A. 347.

### AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS AND DRUGS

Modern agriculture cannot continue to provide sufficient quantities of high quality food and fiber to meet the nation's needs without the use of agricultural chemicals and drugs. Any undue curtailment of the safe and appropriate usage of these products will result in lower quality food and fiber at higher costs to the consumers.

We believe governmental agencies, research organizations and manufacturers of chemical products must continue comprehensive research studies about the toxicity to humans, adverse effects, and the life duration of the chemical.

We urge that responsible agencies not issue scare warnings. This has happened on numerous occasions in the past and in every instance has harmed the market for some products of American agriculture.

In any evaluation of chemicals and drugs, the possible detrimental effects must be considered in relation to the benefits derived. Only through a

complete evaluation can a balance between environmental control and chemical control be effectively attained. Unless there is conclusive evidence to prove that a threat to public health exists, government agencies should not impose a zero tolerance or issue an RPAR for any chemical or drug.

We recommend that the Delaney Amendment be amended to permit the establishment of safe tolerance levels.

All persons using chemicals and drugs should read and follow precisely the label instructions. Such adherence to label instructions can help avoid government actions to cancel the use of essential chemicals and drugs. We recommend that pesticide dealers carry safety equipment for purchase by applicators as required on pesticide labels or be able to suggest a source where the equipment can be obtained on a timely basis.

Farmers are encountering problems in properly disposing of pesticide containers. We recommend that pesticide manufacturers and appropriate regulatory agencies consider development of a program for disposal or recycling of these containers.

### BIOLOGICAL PEST CONTROL

The increasing restrictions on pesticide use pose many uncertainties as to their future availability. While considerable progress has been made to develop biological controls against pests, much remains to be done. We support expanded research to further develop effective biological pest control programs.

### INDIAN RIGHTS

Litigation is currently pending in Federal Court involving the right of specific Indian tribes to take fish from the Great Lakes for commercial and subsistence purposes without complying with applicable fish laws. The Indian tribes believe that the Treaty of 1836 prohibits the State of Michigan from enforcing any state law which is inconsistent with this treaty. The State of Michigan maintains that the subsequent Treaties of 1855 fully released and discharged all rights and privileges including fishing rights which were reserved in the treaty of 1836. Since this case concerns only fishing rights and does not involve land use, there will be no immediate consequences to Michigan farmers. However, we are concerned that if the case is decided against the State of Michigan, Indians may bring action to hunt, trap and gather fruits of the land on vast areas ceded in the Treaty of 1836, but which are now privately owned. We urge Michigan Farm Bureau to closely monitor this important case and take appropriate action to protect agricultural interests.

## Labor

### WORKER'S COMPENSATION

Agricultural employers are concerned with the misuse and abuses which have crept into the Worker's Compensation Program.

Because of the high minimum premium many farmers and other employers do not avail



themselves of the coverage, leaving themselves and their employees unprotected. Overly generous awards have contributed to high premiums.

Farmers who hire laborers are responsible for the protection of the employees while on the job.

Michigan Farm Bureau and Michigan Agricultural Services Association will continue to work with other groups to review and find solutions to these problem areas.

Worker's Compensation should be made a cost-sharing program with employees paying a portion of premium cost, since employees receive all of the benefits.

Benefits should not exceed 80% of the workers' average weekly wage. There should not be a minimum.

Workers' Compensation should be reduced by the amount of other benefits that are provided at the cost of the employer.

A more simple appeal process should be implemented for employers who wish to appeal decisions regarding Workers' Compensation claims.

The three-year statute of limitations should be strengthened and enforced on Worker's Compensation claims.

Attorneys' fees in the representation of an injured worker should be based on a flat per hour rate and not exceed 15 percent of the total settlement.

Employees should be required to report injuries before leaving premises where employed or within 24 hours for claims pertaining to Workers' Compensation.

Insurance companies and the Department of Labor should update a computerized list of statistics related to injuries and claims under Worker's Compensation.

Previous injuries whether reported or not at time of employment should not be attributed to the present employer.

There must be a direct connection between the disability and a claimant's employment.

Injuries sustained by an employee involved in recreational, social or personal interests, regardless of whether or not they occur on the premises of employment should be excluded from coverage. Compensation should not be given for ordinary diseases of life.

The present situation whereby benefits are paid to employees leaving the labor market, not because of a true impairment — but because of advancing age or to take advantage of a voluntary retirement plan should be corrected.

Alleged Workers' Compensation claims hearings and determinations should be made within 60 days of filing.

Any retroactive benefit increases should be financed through use of public funds. It would not be equitable to force current employers to assume the expense of raising benefit payments for workers injured years ago.

Dependency of a child should be limited to age 18, unless mentally or physically disabled. Full-time students should be eligible to receive benefits until age 23.

Permanent and total disability should be redefined to eliminate "loss of industrial use" as a criterion for eligibility.

Employees should be required to provide the employer a copy of any physical examination received in connection with any injuries or medical impairments.

Disability should be redefined to mean the inability of an injured employee to perform or obtain any work suitable to his/her qualifications or retraining.

In any or all cases of such disability the burden of proof should rest solely with the claimant.

### MI-OSHA

We encourage all farmers to become aware of any occupational hazards on their farms and voluntarily adopt safety programs. We believe the basic premise of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, that all employers know what is required by OSHA, is a faulty premise. Therefore, we favor safety



## Policies Include:

# Direction for the Organization

educational programs and no-penalty first time inspections.

The rules and regulations as established by MI-OSHA for industry are not adapted to agriculture. The uniqueness of agriculture in its operations does not lend it to industrial rules. To insure that Michigan agriculture employers and employees are not subjected to a competitive disadvantage we believe that MI-OSHA standards and rules should be consistent with OSHA standards and rules.

We urge the Governor to maintain an agriculture representative on the Occupational Safety Standards Commission or any committees appointed to work in this area. We urge the reestablishment of the Department of Labor Mi-OSHA Agricultural Advisory Committee before any further agricultural requirements can be considered.

We believe that the employee also has a responsibility and should be subject to penalty for failure to observe the safety standards.

We recommend that farmers throughout Michigan continue to make a constructive contribution to the development of practical, realistic agricultural safety standards which correct safety hazards on Michigan farms to provide a safe working environment for agricultural employees and employers or producers.

### ELEVATOR REGULATIONS

The current MI-OSHA interpretation of electrical codes relative to grain handling facilities and feed mills is causing extremely severe economic hardship to the owners of these facilities, many of which are farmer cooperatives. Producers are also being seriously effected economically. Agricultural employment is being lost and food costs will be unnecessarily increased.

MI-OSHA regulations are far more stringent than federal OSHA requirements. Many elevators invested heavily to update facilities and comply with the regulations only to find the regulations changed with additional requirements. Such bureaucratic tactics have placed Michigan in an even greater non-competitive position with other states.

Since MI-OSHA regulations do not provide any greater safety conditions than OSHA regulations, we urge that state requirements be consistent with federal rules.

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS

The Michigan Department of Health promulgates many rules and regulations affecting agriculture including some under the MI-OSHA Act. We believe an Agricultural Advisory Committee to the department should be established to provide producer input on any regulation affecting agriculture.

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Unemployment insurance is a social insurance program to compensate employees for their loss of earnings at times of involuntary unemployment.

However, the original intent of unemployment insurance has been so defiled by Labor Department regulations and interpretations that it has become an enrichment program.

Unemployment insurance should not be paid to persons on strike, who retire, who refuse to work when it is available, who knowingly and willingly work in seasonal employment, or to school personnel during semester and vacation breaks.

We call upon the National Study Commission on Unemployment Compensation to recommend ways to reduce abuses and fraud in the program.

Michigan farmers must compete in the United States and world markets. Therefore, we continue to oppose any attempt by the State of Michigan to require more extensive coverage for agriculture than that provided by the Federal Unemployment Act.

Farm employers who will not qualify under the current guidelines should continue to be allowed to voluntarily provide unemployment insurance for their employees.

Since full time students are not eligible to receive

unemployment benefits, their wages should not be included in the Federal Unemployment Insurance base.

### TEMPORARY FOREIGN LABOR

Many of Michigan's fresh market produce crops depend upon the use of hand harvest labor. It is becoming increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to obtain hand harvest labor. We support administrative and/or legislative action to provide for a workable temporary foreign worker program.

## Taxation

### AGRICULTURAL LAND TAXATION

The Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act (P.A. 116) provides a voluntary method of preserving farmland through a contractual arrangement with the state and thereby limits property tax to a percentage of household income. It also provides relief from certain special assessments. We are pleased with the excellent support that farmers are giving this program throughout the entire state. Over 1 million acres are enrolled of which more than 40% are in Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

We continue to strongly support P.A. 116 as we believe it is far superior to any similar program in the nation. We oppose at this time other programs that might dilute its effectiveness such as agricultural districts proposals. Additional programs at this time would lead to confusion.

Another tax relief program that is helpful to farmers as well as farmowners and renters is the "circuit breaker" program which provides property tax relief for homestead and agricultural land based on household income. The refund limit is \$1,200.



We recommend that this limit be increased to at least reflect the inflation factor.

We believe that the new "developmental" land classification can be helpful if properly interpreted and administered. The intent is that other property such as farmland would not be subject to increased valuation because of property sold for development purposes.

We further believe that a higher valuation should not be placed on land as a result of a zoning change until the owner initiates the change of use.

The Constitutional Amendment (Headlee) passed by the people in 1978 is in the process of implementation. We believe it will effectively limit state revenue within the formula and consequently unnecessary state spending. Local property taxes are also limited and in many cases tax rates will be rolled back.

We believe these controls will be effective and improve Michigan's tax system which already rates as one of the best in the nation.

We will continue to work to improve the tax system to assure equity to all citizens.

### STATE INCOME TAX CREDIT

Many farmers that have P.A. 116 contracts have had to wait undue lengths of time for their refund. We believe that such refunds should be made within 90 days after filing. The taxpayer should receive interest on the amount of the refund after the 90 day time limit at the prevailing interest rate.

### INHERITANCE TAX

Michigan's Amendatory Inheritance Tax Act, P.A. 628 of 1978, provides significant inheritance tax relief for Michigan farm owners. Heirs who enroll estates in P.A. 116 for 10 years receive a 50% exemption and a deferment of inheritance taxes on real property for 10 years.

We urge farmers to become familiar with all the many provisions of the act and to use careful estate planning to minimize detrimental aspects of estate settlement.

While progress has been made we believe the Inheritance Tax Law, like the Federal Estate Tax Law, does not adequately recognize the contribution of a spouse to the building and accumulation of an "estate" particularly in agriculture. We believe that a surviving spouse should not have to pay inheritance tax on what they have helped to pay for. There is also a need to adjust the exemptions and/or tax credits for dependents by an inflation index.

### NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS TAX

We believe that the imposition of a tax on negotiable instruments (checks, bank drafts, money orders, certificates of deposit, etc.) would result in a constant increase in the tax rate. It would also be unfair to those using checking systems as the payee would probably demand the amount of the tax from the payer in order to pay the tax at the time of cashing. We oppose a negotiable instruments tax.

### 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 the trailer homes is not reflected, nor do they contribute a proper share of the cost of schools and local government. Mobile homes should be assessed on the same basis as other homes or dwellings.

### STATE BUDGET

Michigan's Constitution requires the state to operate on a balanced budget. This provision has been effective and necessary. Cuts have been made from time to time.

We support fiscal responsibility. However, we believe that any necessary cuts must be equitable between governmental departments with emphasis on elimination of any program that is no longer necessary.

We point out that appropriations for the Department of Agriculture, agricultural research and some other services essential to Michigan's agriculture have not kept pace with inflationary costs. Care must be taken that such programs are not weakened to the point of being ineffective.

## Education

### EDUCATIONAL FINANCE

Major changes in the financing of education have been made resulting in a "new equity in Michigan school finance." Reforms include 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 bonded millage.

While these and other changes are highly commendable, the property tax remains the major source of local school finance. However, the "circuit breaker" concept and other reforms have aided in relieving the property tax burden. P.A. 116 has also proved to be an alternative for farm land.

—An increase in the "circuit breaker" benefits to provide a more balanced tax system.

—The possible use of the income tax by a local school district or intermediate district.

—Sufficient funds appropriated to pay in full all state aid formulas.



## Policies Include:

# Suggestions to Members

—Funding for K-12 schools on a multi-year basis.

—Full funding by the state for all state mandated educational programs as required by the Tax Limitation Amendment.

We believe it is possible to achieve further educational finance reform within the present constitutional framework and 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 education system. We recommend:

—The present State Board of Education should be replaced by a bi-partisan, odd-numbered Education Commission appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Commission should employ the Director of Education.

—Statewide testing and assessment of student progress and total evaluation of education should be continued and expanded. School systems should emphasize the "basics" and require students to meet minimum academic standards for graduation.

—Reorganization of K-12 districts, intermediate districts, and community college districts should continue to be voluntary. However, if reorganized, the policy-making board should be representative of all local boards of education and/or all areas of the districts.

—Cooperative programs among small K-12 school districts to help provide a broader curriculum.

—The use of program budgeting should be encouraged at the local level as a means to equate program costs to students needs.

—Guaranteed local control of schools including curricula, personnel, etc., in order to meet the particular needs of the community.

—In-service training including C.P.R. for teachers be encouraged.

—Local school facilities be used to their fullest potential for educational purposes for both youths and adults.

—Vocational-technical programs for both youths and adults be made available to all areas of the state. Existing educational facilities should be used wherever possible. The "World of Work" demands saleable skills.

—Building accountability into the educational system. School boards, administrators, teachers, students and parents must work together to set goals and objectives to improve student learning and performance.

—Evaluation of teacher education programs in the colleges.

—An evaluation program on human development for the experienced teacher. The emphasis is on the individual, his or her interrelationship and interactions with students, subject matter, and teaching techniques. We support a feasibility study on merit pay.

—The inflexibility of the present Teacher Tenure Law makes it unreasonably difficult for school boards to discharge incompetent personnel. We believe that consideration should be given to an initiatory petition procedure for the purpose of correcting the deficiencies created by the present tenure law.

—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.

—Programs for gifted children.

—New and innovative instructional methods be researched and used after proven beneficial.

—Full funding of all special programs mandated by the Legislature or the courts. Such legislative actions should not have the effect of mandating the raising of property taxes above the 15-mill constitutional limit.

—The common goals of the Michigan Department of Education should be a helpful guideline for local school boards.

—We are opposed to the Department of Education's interpretation of bilingual education such as identification of students, etc.

—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.

Busing to achieve integration is very expensive, wastes needed energy and provides no educational values. We support corrective measures, to preserve neighborhood schools, to enable a student to attend the school of his choice, and to maintain the right of parents to participate in public and private school affairs.

### TEACHER TENURE AND LICENSING

The inflexibility of the present teacher tenure law makes it unreasonably difficult for school boards to discharge incompetent personnel.

School boards are often forced to sit in hearings for unreasonable periods of time. We believe the Tenure Act should be streamlined to include the use of outside hearing officers, removal of administrators from the Act unless specifically included by board action, require a single approach to removal procedure either through the employee contract, Tenure Act or court system. The probationary period should not be increased unless there are several reforms to assure a more workable and equitable legal document.

We strongly support the present system of teacher certification with periodic review and evaluation. We see no need for a licensing system and oppose present proposals.

### EXTENSION SERVICE

The Cooperative Extension Service has played a vital and successful role in the development of our nations agriculture. With the help of Extension Service information and education programs, 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 also 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.

We believe that every effort should be made to use successful Extension Service methods for education programs 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 the Agricultural Extension Service and Research programs.

In light of these considerations, we recommend:

•Special reports required by the Extension Service be financed by the necessary appropriations, not by siphoning off a part of the already overtaxed budget.

•Development of Extension type programs for urban people where they are needed under the jurisdiction of the Extension Service with special appropriations for these programs.



•Extension continue its traditional educational role in supplying unbiased factual information, but avoid taking positions pro and con on public issues.

•County Farm Bureaus develop and maintain a stronger and closer working relationship with their county Cooperative Extension Office.

•We support the proposed expanded budget over a three year period to return Cooperative Extension Agricultural positions to their normal capacity prior to budget cut backs. We will support additional positions for agriculture as needs become evident.

### MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

The Agricultural Experiment Stations have and continue to play 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.

As we look to future world needs, new techniques must be applied to farming to aid in solving environmental concerns, conservation of energy and natural resources, and to meet future production needs.

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 Sciences, Natural Science, and Veterinary Medicine. There are 30 departments and more than 600 research projects with over 300 scientists.

We are proud of the work done by the Experiment Station. However, we are concerned that in recent years appropriations have not kept pace with rising costs. The station has no other source of income. We are shocked to learn that numerous faculty and research personnel have resigned; such talent cannot be readily replaced. Good research is a continuing process and cannot be turned on or off. Agricultural research has proven to be a sound investment that has returned great dividends to all citizens for over a century. We commend the Legislature for recognizing this fact in the 1979-80 appropriations and urge that it continue to recognize the need to appropriate sufficient funds to carry on research projects, such as:

—Optimizing energy, land and water.

—Improving crop production.

—Dairy systems.

—Development of the new Horticultural Experiment Stations.

—Livestock and poultry.

—Improving food quality.

—Control of insect transmitted diseases.

—Housing for non-urban communities.

—Integrated control of pests.

—Environmental monitoring network for agricultural production.

—Utilization of forage and grain by cattle in the Upper Peninsula.

—Dry edible bean production research.

Michigan is in direct competition with not only other states but also other countries; and to remain competitive, we must have up-to-date research from the various Michigan Experiment Stations. We stress the need for appropriate funds for the outlying MSU experiment stations with special consideration to the Upper Peninsula.

### 4-H

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

We also commend the 4-H leadership and the 25,000 volunteer leaders for the new and exciting projects developed to gain interest and participation of Michigan youth. We encourage adults to actively participate as project leaders. We will continue to support adequate appropriations for this worthwhile youth program.



## Policies Become:

# Programs of Action

## Transportation

### HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

An adequate system of rural roads and bridges is essential for farm to market transportation.

Inflation has resulted in a multitude of detrimental effects on net revenues to build and maintain roads. These include:

1. The higher price of fuel has resulted in more fuel efficient automobiles and a decrease in the number of miles driven and number of gallons of fuel used. Since the gas tax is a flat rate per gallon the net revenue from this source is decreasing.
2. License plate fees are based on vehicle weight. New cars are much lighter.
3. Costs of building and repairing roads continue to escalate.

Therefore, we favor a restructuring of the revenue formula so that the ability of the Michigan Department of Transportation and County Road Commissions to build and maintain roads and bridges is maintained at least at the present level.

County Road Commissions must dedicate themselves to using the most economical means possible including the receiving of private bids on all road construction to reconstruct and maintain quality roads and to make the new tax revenues cover as many of the pressing needs as possible.

We recommend as an aid to construction and maintenance of local roads that townships that are financially able have the right to contract for their own road building program especially when county matching funds are not available.

When increased revenues are again needed only "user taxes" should be used for road purposes. We must not revert to the property tax or special assessments as a means of building roads.

### HIGHWAY SAFETY

Highway accidents take many lives each year. Many people are injured and much property damage results. We have and will continue to support legislation which will promote highway safety. Efforts need to be continued. We recommend the following to further reduce highway accidents:

1. We urge that information and education be provided so that farmers become aware of the law involving movement of farm equipment on the highways.
2. Minimum lighting is required by law on all farm equipment traveling on the road. One headlight and one taillight are required in addition to the slow moving vehicle (SMV) sign. We urge all farmers to maintain this required equipment.
3. All farmers should check their SMV emblem signs, replace those that are faded and worn and urge their neighbors to do likewise. The SMV law should be enforced.
4. We urge farmers to use care in preventing and keeping field and animal residues off roads as these create highway safety hazards.
5. Roads should not be used as hazardous to the farmer and hazardous to traffic.
6. Present laws which deal with stopping for school buses are not uniform in all areas and often lead to confusion. Uniform state laws should be adopted for the safety of both children and motorists.
7. All school buses should be equipped with two-way communications for emergency purposes.
8. Hardtop roads should be marked with center lines and sidelines as an aid to safer nighttime driving.
9. County Road Commissions should be encouraged to clear roadsides and intersections of hazards within the road right-of-way that obstruct the view of motorists.
10. Renewed emphasis should be directed toward the placing of crossroad, yield or stop signs at unmarked rural intersections.
11. Reflectorized license plates as a major safety factor making disabled vehicles abandoned on roadways more visible.

12. All rural roads should be marked with a name or number. Houses should be numbered by the homeowner and coordinated in each county. A number clearly visible from the road is essential during emergencies.
13. Mail and newspaper boxes should be placed on the same side of the road to make travel with large machinery safer and easier.
14. Red and amber reflectors and SMV emblems should not be used as mailbox and driveway markers. Only appropriate blue or green markers should be used.
15. The check lane system should be continued instead of using the proposed mandatory annual vehicle inspection.
16. Reflectorized glass which cannot be seen through should be banned from use in licensed motorized vehicles. This presents a hazard for police officers when they stop such a vehicle.
17. New or replaced highway guardrails should be constructed to eliminate the chance that a vehicle could be pierced by the guard rail.
18. We commend the 4-H, Boy Scouts and others on their bicycle safety programs. We urge that the present laws pertaining to bicycles be amended so as to insure that bicycles yield to motor vehicles in the lane of traffic and that safety flags be made mandatory on bicycles used on public roads and that all laws pertaining to bicycles be more readily enforced.



### RAILROAD / HIGHWAY CROSSING SAFETY

We support legislation to require railroads to use reflectors or reflectorized paint on the sides of rail cars which would improve their visibility.

We urge MFB support of "Operation Lifesaver," a four part program to promote railroad/highway crossing safety. The four-parts are:

1. Educating the driving public to appreciate and respect the risk of ignoring rail crossing warning signs.
2. Enforcement.
3. Engineering of the crossing grade.
4. Evaluation of the overall project.

### SPECIAL FARM TRUCK PERMIT

In 1976 the Legislature passed P.A. 74 which provides that farmers using various types of vehicles "designed" for the purpose of hauling crops at harvest time from the field to a place of storage be permitted to have a special \$15 permit in lieu of registration and regular licensing procedures. The vehicle cannot be used for any other purpose. This law has been very helpful to many farmers. However, due to the word "designed" in the requirements for a permit some trucks do not qualify even though they are only used for the permitted purpose. We support an amendment to this legislation which would make all vehicles used only for the purpose of hauling harvested crops from the field to the place of storage eligible for the special permit.

### VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTION

For a number of years the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has pressured Michigan to have a mandatory safety inspection program for motor vehicles. We oppose such inspection requirements as it would require setting up inspection stations and would require fees to be charged the individual motorist. We believe that Michigan's program which permits the State Police to set up safety inspection lanes on the highways is far superior and workable. We recognize that the State Police have not been able to continue this program due to lack of necessary funding. We support additional appropriations and personnel for the continuation of the special motor vehicle inspection lanes operated by the Michigan State Police.

### MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSIONS INSPECTION

The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is mandating Michigan and other states to establish a program of motor vehicle emissions inspections by 1982. It is required that such inspections be made in those areas that do not attain the required air quality standards. In Michigan at the present time this means in general the Detroit urban area and perhaps other urban areas throughout southern Michigan. While we question the need for such mandatory emissions inspections we believe that if they are required any legislation should apply only to those areas of the state that have not attained the air quality standards and that certain vehicles such as agricultural implements should be exempt from such inspections. We believe that this will be a most costly undertaking for the state as well as for the motorist required to pay the inspection fees. Every effort should be made to reach air quality standards without having to take this drastic step.

### SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

We recommend the Michigan Department of Transportation study the use of alternative materials to be used as salt substitutes in the removal of ice on highways. County Farm Bureaus should work with the appropriate groups in their areas for the moderate use of these materials.

We urge strict enforcement of a 1978 law prohibiting the deposit of snow, ice or slush on the roadway or highway.

### RAILROADS

Railroads provide an essential mode of transporting agricultural commodities. The transportation of agricultural inputs and commodities produced is dependent upon efficient and continued railroad service. Without adequate railroad service, it would be impossible for trucks to meet the need for transportation at peak harvest time. Many rural areas are served by roads subject to weight restrictions making trucking costs uneconomical.

We support the continued efforts of the Michigan Department of Transportation to meet the many deadlines and other aspects of rail planning required by Federal law. The Department should continue to utilize citizen advisory groups in this important planning process. At least one person familiar with agriculture and its transportation needs should be named to serve on each group.

We support appropriations by the Legislature to fund Michigan's share of subsidies necessary to retain essential rail and cross-lake ferry service. The state should not purchase railroad cars or water transportation equipment.

Subsidies to retain essential rail service should be considered a temporary solution. We believe privately operated rail companies should be encouraged and allowed to operate the railroad system on a for-profit basis whenever possible and in the best interest of shippers.

We commend the individuals who have stepped forward to execute contracts with the State for private operation of important rail lines serving rural Michigan. Shippers are urged to utilize services of-



## Policies Reflect:

# Farmer Concerns, Thought

ferred by these carriers whenever possible. We favor deregulation of railroads.

### WINTER NAVIGATION

We support continued efforts to study and evaluate the social, economic and environmental impact of winter navigation on the Great Lakes.

## Law

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

A lack of respect for law and law enforcement agencies exists in our society. We urge citizens to carry out their responsibility to help law enforcement officers by offering pertinent information and assistance. We also urge support and expression of confidence to our law enforcement officers and urge that they be given protection from liability when performing their duties.

We urge judges to fit punishment to the crime. Incarceration is not always the answer. The use of prisoners to accomplish community improvement projects can benefit both the prisoner and the community. Whatever the punishment it must be fair and dealt out swiftly.

### RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Adequate police service in rural areas can be an important deterrent to rural crime. We urge both state and local officials to develop long range crime prevention programs to better assist citizens in the rural areas to reduce crime. While we are concerned about crime in cities we are very concerned with the assignment of additional State Police to metropolitan areas which seriously reduces police protection in rural areas. We urge adequate funding of police services in order that sufficient manpower can be allocated to rural areas.

Michigan State Police is a highly professional police department providing all types of service to citizens and support to other departments. We strongly urge the Michigan State Police be maintained and funded as a total police agency providing service to all of rural Michigan.

### HEALTH COST DEDUCTIONS

Those persons employed by others usually receive many fringe benefits including prescription drugs and health, dental, optical care and even life insurance. While such benefits are a part of their total income they are not taxable.

Self-employed people must pay such costs out of their taxable income.

To correct this growing inequity, we support legislation to permit those persons who pay their own health care costs to deduct them from state and federal income taxes.

We believe that removing present inequities will encourage the use of private health care plans.

### EMERGENCY RURAL MEDICAL SERVICE

Emergency medical care to victims in rural areas is costly to provide. We recognize the need to maintain and upgrade needed services. Promulgation of rules by the various state agencies often places undue hardships on rural ambulance services located in small, sparsely populated communities.

We urge that the agencies involved consider realistic standards for rural area taking into consideration the financial resource base of the community, limited available time and collective talent of volunteers and response time in relationship to distance of hospital facilities.

### INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR MENTAL ILLNESS CONDITIONS

Mental illness seems to receive discriminating consideration regarding hospitalization and professional care insurance benefits. Many health care insurance plans limit the number of days of coverage afforded a person suffering from mental illness.

We believe the practice of defining separate benefits for this illness should be reevaluated. We

urge all companies offering health insurance plans to make available comprehensive coverage for mental health inpatient treatment, similar to other health care coverage, and consider the mental illness condition as any other necessary hospitalization.

### STATE JUVENILE CODE REFORM

In concurrence with the Michigan Legislature, we believe the time for reform of the State Juvenile Code is long overdue.

We support reforms that would:

1. Preserve the present language in the law that a minor shall be obedient "to the reasonable demands of his parents".
2. Establish clear guidelines for the courts, parents rights, juvenile rights, the protection of all citizens and cost effectiveness to county government.
3. Simplify procedural requirements.
4. Allow for detention if no facility is established and space available within 25 miles for the court, providing minors are kept separate and apart from adults.
5. Make provisions for a young offender to pay restitution to the victim of his crime and to give voluntary services to society.



### NO-FAULT AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

We support the general principles inherent in Michigan's No-Fault Insurance law, which became effective October 1, 1973, in that persons injured in automobile accidents now receive economic compensation more quickly and equitably.

There remains, however, aspects of the law which: (1) restrict rights and responsibilities of the individual and (2) unnecessarily increase claims costs of No-Fault and ultimately the insurance premiums paid by motorists.

For these reasons, we recommend legislative action to amend certain provisions of the law:

1. Application of the No-Fault law to motorcycles should be redefined. At present, motorcycles are not required to purchase mandatory No-Fault insurance but are eligible to receive No-Fault benefits if they collide with an automobile. If motorcyclists are to benefit from the law, they should pay their fair share of the cost.
2. We urge the Legislature to redefine parts of the law which, because of ambiguity, are in danger of being interpreted by the courts far more liberally than the law's original intent.
3. Presently, the law provides that unlimited medical and rehabilitation benefits be paid to accident victims by their insurance company. We support one of the following alternatives for the purpose of controlling high claim costs:
  - a. Establishment of a maximum benefit amount per victim, such as \$100,000 which would be increased annually to reflect inflation, or,
  - b. Establishment of a maximum benefit period per victim, such as three years. Then, medical and rehabilitation expenses incurred by individual accident victims in excess of the maximum benefit amount or period

would be assigned to a statewide underwriting association and shared equitably by all insurance companies.

4. We believe the "At-Fault" driver in an accident should be made responsible for all damage caused to the property of others.
5. We believe that farm equipment built from a motor vehicle chassis and used primarily off the road in the production of agricultural commodities should be exempt from the No-Fault law.

### ORV INSURANCE

We recommend that owners of all off-road vehicles be required to carry public liability and property damage insurance whenever their vehicles are operated on other than the vehicle owner's property.

### TRACTOR SAFETY

From a safety standpoint and for convenience of operation we request MASA to work with tractor manufacturers to position a PTO emergency shut-off at the rear of the tractor outside the cab area.

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Recognizing the contributions of minority groups in our society, we believe that equal protection and opportunity under the law should be fully extended to all. Social and economic inequalities continue to exist which preclude some from the full exercise of their constitutional rights.

We believe that equal opportunities must be available to all and oppose quotas requiring hiring or selection based on minority group or sex rather than qualifications of the individuals.

### EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

Recognizing the contributions of women in agriculture and other professions, we believe that equal protection and opportunity under the law should be fully extended to all women. Social and economic inequalities continue to exist which preclude women from the full exercise of their constitutional rights.

We congratulate the Michigan Legislature for the progressive steps it has taken to guarantee equal opportunities for women and urge it to continue such efforts.

### DOCTRINE OF GOVERNMENTAL IMMUNITY

Statutory and case law has eroded the once strong doctrine of governmental immunity from tort liability. We, therefore, find our local government agencies such as county road commissions, school boards, township boards, boards of county commissioners and hospitals as well as the individuals serving thereon, faced with suits for damages where the boards or commissions were performing or intending to perform a governmental function. This has had the effect of depleting local tax revenues, taking the time of public officials and public funds in defending such actions and requiring high cost insurance coverage to protect against unfavorable settlements and judgements.

We believe that the doctrine of governmental immunity should not have been weakened and we support legislation that will have the effect of strengthening this doctrine.

### PUBLIC EMPLOYEE STRIKES

Although strikes by public employees are now illegal, the restriction is generally ignored. We believe where public service and safety is concerned the law must be enforced.

We believe that state mediation and factfinding have been valuable tools in contract negotiations. However, we oppose legislation requiring compulsory binding arbitration. This can result in the elimination of local control by locally elected officials and economic hardship on the local unit of government.



## Policies Include:

# Direction on Issues Affecting Farmers

In the case of school employee strikes, we do not believe that teachers should have an advantage over other employee groups. Teachers should lose pay during a strike, the same as any other employee.

### ANNEXATION

The State Boundary Commission was established under Public Act 691 of 1968. The Commission is composed of three state members appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. After annexation petitions have been presented to the Boundary Commission the Probate Judge in the affected county appoints two county members to help decide the specific issue thus bringing the Commission to five members.

Petitions requesting annexation must be signed by a specified number of voters in the affected territory and presented to the Boundary Commission. This procedure was developed to provide a third party to decide the issue. We are concerned that township residents may not have an effective voice even though they are directly affected. We urge that affected township residents be given a vote in the annexation question.

### UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE

We believe the Uniform Commercial Code should be amended to exclude livestock. This Code currently applies to anything that is bought or sold and has an implied warranty section that guarantees quality. In the case of animals, for example, this could guarantee to the buyer that the animals will remain healthy for an indefinite length of time and thus make the seller liable for damages completely unrelated to conditions at time of sale.

### BANKRUPTCY OF AGRICULTURAL HANDLERS

Agricultural producers are often severely affected when handlers of agricultural products file for bankruptcy, since agricultural producers are regarded as general creditors. Therefore, we recommend that agricultural producers be given first priority in the distribution of the net assets of agricultural handlers who file bankruptcy.

### VOTING

A person should not be permitted to vote in any election in any community where he has not been a resident for at least thirty days. Voters should be required to register in person a minimum of 30 days prior to the election.

In community, state, or national elections, undergraduate college students should be permitted to vote only at the residences of their parents.

We recommend that national election projections on Election Day not be released to the public until all polls are closed.

We urge that clear, concise and simple language be used on all ballot issues.

A common language is essential to the United States of America, and an understanding of our language is a requirement for naturalization. Therefore, we urge elimination of any requirement for bilingual ballots in any public election.

### CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

Elections are held frequently throughout the state. Posters, billboards and informational material has proliferated to inform the voters on the merits of a candidate or issue.

We urge that either the candidate, party leadership or campaign committee be held financially responsible to remove all campaign materials within a reasonable amount of time after the election.

### FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

We are opposed to financial disclosure requirements of public officials that would be imposed in pending legislation known as the Financial Disclosure Act. We believe such requirements will discourage well qualified candidates and would not upgrade the standards and abilities of those serving the office.

### JURY DUTY

We feel it is a responsibility for citizens to serve as jurist in our judicial system. This obligation should be extended to all citizens. The length of time presently required is time consuming and costly to our farming operations. We suggest that jury duty be limited to one week or less whenever possible.

### PRISON LABOR FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS

We commend the use of voluntary prison labor across the state in cleanup and beautification projects. We urge that this program be reinstated whenever possible.

### CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Statistics from the 1978 Uniform Crime Report show that total crime has increased 8% in rural areas while at the same time urban crime decreased 1%. During the same period statistics indicate violent crime has increased more rapidly in rural areas than in urban areas. Indications are that a very large percent of the crime is committed by a few criminals. Second and third time offenders are frequently allowed freedom to commit additional heinous crimes against helpless, innocent and often young victims. The criminal justice system and the Legislature has taken a permissive attitude while the list of victims grows. We feel that capital punishment must be reinstated for first degree murder.

### NARCOTICS AND HARMFUL DRUGS

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

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



### GUN CONTROL

We believe our laws should place more emphasis on the crime and the criminal rather than on the gun. We oppose further expansion of registration of firearms.

### WELFARE

Welfare is a necessary part of our system for those who cannot sustain life without assistance. Welfare accounts for a major portion of the State budget which increases each year. This program has been spiraling in scope and cost, and suffers from abuse, fraud and mismanagement. We support welfare for those who need it.

Both food stamps and welfare are temporary measures to be used by individuals during a time of proven financial need. These programs were not intended and should not be used to sustain life from

cradle to the grave. Many reforms are needed. We recommend:

1. Able welfare recipients be required to engage in an educational program or in some type of service work as a criteria to receive welfare funds.
2. Educational programs to help many welfare recipients become aware of nutritional and health needs, along with basic economics.
3. Continued evaluation of welfare programs to be sure that only those in need receive aid and that existing regulations be carried out.

We urge legislation to reform the welfare system to eliminate abuse, prevent fraud and correct mismanagement to prevent waste of tax dollars. Welfare rolls should be available for inspection by the general public.

## Farm Bureau

### OUR FARM BUREAU

Our Farm Bureau is a farm organization. It must be an aggressive organization geared to serving commercial farmers with bold and imaginative programs. The building and maintenance of a bold and aggressive farm organization depends heavily on attracting the best in farmer leadership. This leadership must be active at all levels of the organization, from Community Groups through state officers. The organization must maintain the best type of employees to carry out the wishes of the members.

The primary purpose of Farm Bureau should be to serve the needs of active, producing farmers. However, in serving these needs, we will undoubtedly develop policies and establish many programs and services which will attract some non-farm people to our organization.

We should welcome the support of non-farm people who wish to join our farm organization and support the policies which are set forth by our farmer-members.

The authority and responsibility for determining who shall be a member and the classification of membership should remain with the county Farm Bureau Boards.

The right to vote in Farm Bureau should continue to be limited to regular members. We further endorse the policy of determining the number of voting delegates to the state annual meeting based on regular member count, and urge that this policy be extended to the American Farm Bureau Federation.

### MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY

We are proud of our organization. As members, it is our responsibility to uphold and promote a positive attitude toward the programs and policies we adopt.

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

However, the right to participate carries with it the responsibility to support the decisions of the majority. This requires a sense of organizational discipline which can only be self-imposed by the member.

We encourage our members to study, discuss and recommend changes in policy when appropriate.

### MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Hard work and dedication on the part of hundreds of Farm Bureau members, insurance agents, and employees of Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliated companies has enabled Michigan Farm Bureau to realize twelve consecutive years of membership growth.



## Policies Include:

# Programs to Service Members

Continuing growth at a substantially increased rate is fundamental to the financial health and effectiveness of the organization.

We approve the 1980 County Membership Goal Formula of a 5% increase over the previous year's goal or the ending total, whichever is less.

With continued cooperation between the members of the Farm Bureau family plus expanded member only economic services, this membership growth objective can be reached.

We encourage each County Farm Bureau to strive for regular member growth, recognizing full well that much of the future membership growth must come from the vast potential of rural non-farm residents, residents who in many cases have similar needs and concerns as their farmer neighbors.

### FARM BUREAU WOMEN

One of the main purposes of the women's program in Farm Bureau is to promote opportunities for the women of Farm Bureau families to participate in the organization. Farm Bureau women are an integral part of the total Farm Bureau family. We encourage the women to be involved in all Farm Bureau activities. We urge County Boards of Directors to support and promote active Women's Committees in all counties. We also encourage Farm Bureau Women to direct their efforts especially to leadership development, legislative and political activities, agriculture understanding, health and safety, and local affairs activities.

We commend the women's leaders for instituting programs to encourage the participation of young farm women and stress the importance of continuing this effort.

### FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMERS

The major goal of the Young Farmer program is to surface and develop new Farm Bureau leadership. The State Young Farmer Committee has been successful in initiating county Farm Bureau programs that promote and develop Young Farmers into strong leaders and active Farm Bureau members. They accomplish this through various activities such as discussion meets, leadership conferences and district meetings.

Young Farmers are eager for meaningful involvement in vital issues concerning agriculture as evidenced by their recent marketing programs. The Young Farmer program will be successful if given strong and active support by county Farm Bureau leaders. We encourage county Farm Bureaus to recognize achievements of Young Farmers at the county level and their efforts in leadership activities.

County Farm Bureau Boards working with county Young Farmer Committees, have proven to be the catalyst for the development of strong Young Farmer programs. Major emphasis will be given in 1980 to increasing the involvement of Young Farmers at the county level, on Farm Bureau Boards and committees. We also encourage county Farm Bureau supervision of the county Young Farmer Committee.

We commend the state and county Young Farmers for new and innovative programs.

### COMMUNITY GROUPS

Our predecessors, the architects of Michigan Farm Bureau, built the Community Group program as a structure to maintain the organization's grass roots effectiveness. For many years, it was recognized as the "backbone" of the organization, providing Farm Bureau with a two-way communications system between the members, county, state leaders and staff.

Community Groups are a main source of policy recommendations for many counties and are vital contributors to policy execution. They offer an opportunity for leadership development of our members and for active involvement of members in their organization and in their communities.

We believe that the strength of this organization

still lives at the grass roots level and that the Community Group system is the best means of determining members' interest and needs.

We recommend that this program be given renewed emphasis in the years ahead. To assist in this endeavor, all county Farm Bureaus, should, in accordance with the County Relationship Agreement, appoint an aggressive Community Group Committee with the responsibility to get more younger members actively involved in Community Groups.

### MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU GROUP PURCHASING, INC.

Michigan Farm Bureau Group Purchasing, Inc., administers a "Safemark" Group Purchasing Program for Farm Bureau members in conjunction with the American Farm Bureau Service Company. We commend the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors for making this significant economic service-to-member program available to all Michigan Farm Bureau members on a "for members only" basis.

This is a county Farm Bureau program! County Farm Bureaus decide if they wish to participate in the program. County Group Purchasing Committees appointed by county Farm Bureau Boards play a key role in selecting and supervising Safemark dealers and in promotion of the program among the county membership.

We challenge all county Farm Bureaus to participate in this program and make members aware of the Safemark products through active Safemark Committees. We further challenge every Farm Bureau member to take advantage of these economic savings.



### MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION

M.A.S.A. has established itself as the primary source of information on farm labor issues for its M.A.S.A. members. It plays an important role in interpreting the complex rules and regulations which dictate the employment requirements on the farm. We urge every Farm Bureau member to avail himself to this valuable M.A.S.A. farm labor information.

Two new M.A.S.A. programs also deserve Farm Bureau members' consideration and support. The Legal Services Program provides members with readily available, well-qualified legal counsel, when and if it is needed.

The Legal Defense Fund Program developed by M.A.S.A. allows farmers to pool their resources in defending their rights in court.

We appreciate the fact that M.A.S.A. programs are for Farm Bureau members only. We urge Farm Bureau members to utilize these M.A.S.A. programs.

### LOCAL AFFAIRS

Members are proud to be associated with an organization that takes a strong stand on local issues, and follows through with effective action on problems which affect them locally. A strong effective Local Affairs Program builds County Farm Bureaus.

We commend the numerous County Farm Bureaus which have worked on local issues, thus, providing a valuable service to their members. We urge all County Farm Bureaus to actively pursue local issues, thus, building a strong, more viable organization to serve members.

### POLITICAL ACTION PROGRAM

The candidates elected in the 1980 November elections will be making daily decisions that will vitally effect agriculture. Good laws begin where good lawmakers are elected.

We are pleased that our farm organization has an effective political action program and commend members of the AgriPac Committee for the aggressive program they have developed for the 1980 campaign. This program will again include the designation of "Friends of Agriculture." These designations will be made after the AgriPac Committee has thoroughly analyzed the voting records and other performance factors of incumbent office holders.

We urge each County Farm Bureau Board of Directors to become active in the political action program. This activity should include promotion of AgriPac among the county members, providing AgriPac with input on incumbent legislators and analysis of the candidates in various races where no incumbent "Friend of Agriculture" is running.

We urge every Farm Bureau member to support AgriPac with a contribution. Funds will be solicited through the Michigan Farm News, direct mailing and through various regional fundraising activities. Income tax credits and deductions are allowed for political contributions. Funds raised will be allocated to "Friends of Agriculture" in various districts based upon need and effectiveness.

### COMMUNICATIONS STUDY

Communication is a very important part of today's world. Through the wonders of modern technology we are able to instantly communicate with people. Farmers need to receive daily information as a tool of good management. Information on markets, legislative affairs, membership and other items should be available to members.

We are pleased that Michigan Farm Bureau is conducting an in-depth study to determine the communication needs of members and systems to meet those needs.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

We urge Farm Bureau to continue to create health and safety awareness and to promote a need for projects for healthy and safe families, including fire safety and promotion of smoke alarms; first aid training; farm home, and traffic safety, and chronic illness detection.

Response to emergencies by trained personnel in many areas is often too slow to assist the victim. First aid, C.P.R. and the Heimlich method for assisting choking victims should be offered by utilizing local resources such as police and fire agencies who may provide assistance and training.

We also urge Farm Bureau members to serve on state, regional and local commissions and committees regarding health and safety.

### HEALTH CARE

Our Farm Bureau health care program through Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Michigan continues to provide Farm Bureau families with the best group health care coverage available at the lowest possible cost.

Participation in this very important service-to-member program continues to grow with over 37,000 Farm Bureau families enrolled in our Comprehensive and Econo Plan. We commend Blue Cross-Blue Shield for the implementation of cost containment efforts which contributed towards a substantial rate reduction for some 34,000 members enrolled in the Comprehensive Plan.

We are gratified that the Board of Directors ap-



# Michigan Farm Bureau.....

proved additional benefits as part of the Comprehensive Plan in the way of medical emergencies and pre and post natal care.

Since health care costs are primary out-of-pocket costs for Farm Bureau members, we urge the Board of Directors and MFB staff to continue their efforts in seeking the best health care coverage at the lowest possible cost for the Farm Bureau members.

## RURAL CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Michigan Farm Bureau is proud of its Rural Crime Prevention Program. We appreciate the support of the Michigan State Police, Michigan Prosecuting Attorney's Association and the Michigan Sheriff's Association along with other organizations in making it successful.

We believe citizen participation is an effective ingredient in law enforcement and crime prevention. Therefore, we encourage all Farm Bureau members to participate in the Operation Identification Program and to make use of the marking equipment available.

We also believe that the Operation Eyes program is another effective tool in the prevention of rural crime. We urge Farm Bureau members to participate in this program and that it be expanded to all counties as soon as practical.

## SERVICE TO MEMBERS

Valuable economic services are a prerequisite to continued membership growth. We are pleased with the progress being made by Michigan Farm Bureau and its affiliate companies in expanding current service-to-member programs and in developing new programs. We recommend that in every possible instance these programs be for members only.

We appreciate the action by the Farm Bureau Mutual Board of Directors and management to establish a membership requirement for the Farmowners policy at the same time that coverages were expanded. These changes resulted in significant economic savings to Farm Bureau members. We urge the Farm Bureau Mutual Board of Directors to continue to explore expansion of benefits for members only.

We commend Farm Bureau Services - Farmers Petroleum Cooperative for developing and financing the new \$10.00 rebate program for all Farm Bureau members who purchase designated products from FBS-FPC outlets.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE

We are proud of the public relations activities of Michigan Farm Bureau and our members in presenting the story of agriculture to the non-farm population.

As farmers become a smaller minority of the population, the need for more public awareness of the contributions of agriculture in our economy becomes increasingly important.

All farmers benefit by these public relations activities and we urge Farm Bureau members to work through their organization at the state and county level to build a greater understanding of agriculture's importance to farm and non-farm people alike. The Farm Bureau women's Speakers' Bureau is an outstanding example of farmers telling the "farm story."

Reaching the urban population with agricultural news and information is the goal of the Michigan Farm Bureau public relations program. Daily and weekly agricultural news and commentary is available through radio programming, news releases, and a weekly agricultural news packet. These services continue to receive widespread acceptance from the Michigan news media. We are pleased that Michigan Farm Bureau has earned a reputation as a reliable and respected source of agricultural news.

The real "voice of agriculture" however, is farmers themselves. We congratulate our members who have spoken on behalf of agriculture and Farm

Bureau in newspaper articles, news programs and documentaries to give a firsthand account of how current issues affect farmers. Many county Farm Bureaus report that area TV and cable TV outlets have been very supportive of agricultural programming. Ingham, Gratiot, Alpena and Northwest Michigan, conduct television programming, often produced by farmers themselves, with good success. We commend the local farm leaders who have participated in these public relations activities.

We have also seen a strong development in information activities at the county Farm Bureau level to improve media relations and keep the membership informed about the issues, activities and services that are of interest to farmers. Information and public relations activities at the county level have resulted in better news and agricultural feature coverage of special events sponsored by Farm Bureau such as Agricultural Understanding Day, shopping mall displays, rural-urban meetings, farm visits and educational and county fair promotions.

We salute the Farm Bureau members who participated in the Michigan State Fair project and the Harvest Dinner in Detroit. By volunteering their time and effort, many farmers were able to meet with consumers and discuss agriculture on a one to one basis. Farm Bureau members statewide appreciate the work done by the people who participated in these projects.



## APPRECIATION FOR SERVICE - WJR

WJR-AM radio in Detroit, as Michigan's only "clear-channel" radio station, is in a unique position to communicate with both rural and city residents. It admirably fulfilled this communications function in 1979 by cooperating with 12 Michigan Farm Bureau members in the "Acres for Charity" project.

In the project, these 12 farmers and their county Farm Bureaus agreed to donate the proceeds from three pigs, three apple trees, three acres of wheat and three acres of dry beans to a Detroit charity. In return, throughout the growing season and harvest WJR's air personality J.P. McCarthy let these farmers explain "on the air" some of the rewards and challenges of the farming business.

We salute WJR for its cooperation in making this project a success and helping to contribute to a greater understanding of the agricultural business.

## MEMBER-TO-MEMBER MARKETING

We appreciate the efforts of MACMA to expand the direct sale of top quality products to Farm Bureau members through its Direct Marketing Division.

We urge the MACMA Direct Marketing Division to give priority attention to a sales program for Michigan products to Farm Bureau members in other states.

We also urge MACMA to study the potential of Direct Marketing of farm products through food co-ops in our Michigan cities and communities.

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 strict quality control is vital to success.

## FARM BUREAU MARKETING PROGRAMS

We continue to recognize agricultural marketing as a major concern of farmers. Many farmers are interested in learning more about marketing their commodities in the most advantageous way. Farm Bureau should continue to develop educational programs along with the Cooperative Extension Service and other agencies to provide farmers with this information.

We urge Farm Bureau at the county, state and national levels to actively support sound marketing programs and marketing legislation which will improve members' incomes. We request strong, aggressive management from our affiliates to be competitive which will encourage all Farm Bureau members to support programs of their affiliate companies. Farm Bureau stands ready to assist members in meeting their marketing needs.

## ESTATE PLANNING

We recommend that all members investigate planning for the purpose of reducing estate taxes at the time of death. A knowledge of wills, trusts, marital deductions, and existing tax laws should enable the family to make provisions for:

1. Minor children and family members.
2. Continuation of the family farm.
3. Equitable treatment of the spouse.

We further recommend that Michigan Farm Bureau explore new methods to communicate the importance, need, and value of estate planning for all members.

We commend the Farm Bureau Insurance Group for the progress that has been made to develop a comprehensive estate planning for members.

## ORIENTATION OF EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS

The employees of Michigan Farm Bureau and all of its affiliated companies represent our overall Farm Bureau organization 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.

We commend the efforts being made to inform employees about the objectives, philosophies, and programs of Farm Bureau and all affiliates through a regular liaison program. We encourage expansion of this program on a priority basis.

## COORDINATION OF AFFILIATE COMPANIES

Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliate companies share a common goal — to serve farmers. We continually strive to have all patrons of affiliate companies become members of Michigan Farm Bureau, and to have all Michigan Farm Bureau members patronize their affiliate companies. We must continue this effort.

In the meantime, we have many Farm Bureau members who are excellent potential customers or policyholders for affiliates. We also have affiliate patrons and policyholders who are excellent prospects for Michigan Farm Bureau membership.

We urge County Farm Bureau Membership Committees and local affiliate company personnel to work closely together in sharing prospect lists.

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

## COOPERATION WITH OTHER FARM ORGANIZATIONS

We urge Michigan Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation to continue to



# "Growing with Agriculture"

work in coordination with other farm organizations in executing the policy positions adopted by this convention.

We believe that continued active participation in meetings with other general farm and commodity organizations has resulted in improved communication and understanding between organizations. We urge Michigan Farm Bureau to continue active participation in this type meeting.

We commend the American Farm Bureau Federation for extra effort in coordinating support for national marketing legislation with the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, the National Farmers Union, and the National Grange.

## PROPERTY INSURANCE RATES

Property insurance rates should reflect actual usage of the insured. Individual management practices which impact safety and risk should be reflected in

the premium paid. We request Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company to develop and promote any safety programs which will result in reducing our members losses and which will eventually reduce premium rates.

## SALE AND LEASING OF MINERAL RIGHTS

A farmer leases or sells the mineral rights to property on very few occasions in his lifetime. It is difficult for him to keep abreast of current values and determine if he is receiving a fair offer for his mineral rights. We recommend that a presentation be developed on the sale and leasing of mineral rights.

## FOREST INDUSTRY

Approximately one-half of Michigan's land area is classified as forestland. In many rural areas, revenues from forest products often exceed the

revenues from crops and livestock. Many farmers own timberland and in many cases depend on forest products or forestry-related work to supplement their agricultural income. This is especially true in the northern two-thirds of Michigan.

Therefore, we will continue to actively represent the forestry interests of members and promote forestry as an agricultural enterprise.

## 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.

## Dennis Wilkin Named "Distinguished Young Farmer"

Dennis Wilkin, 29, who operates an 1100-acre cash crop farm near Canton in Wayne County, was named "Distinguished Young Farmer" for 1979 by the Michigan Farm Bureau. Wilkin was honored during the MFB annual meeting in Kalamazoo and will represent Michigan at the American Farm Bureau Federation's national contest in Phoenix, Arizona, in January.

The Wilkins' total farming operation is leased or rented. They began farming 10 years ago with 280 acres and have grown rapidly since then. Because of their good reputation with local landowners, they have been able to rent larger farms and better ground.

Progress has been the key word in the Wilkin's enterprise — changing to no-till planting, adding a grain dryer and storage facility for crops, making improvements in farm recordkeeping, using the futures market, incorporating a skip-row soybean planter and irrigation.

In addition to his farming operation, Wilkin hauls grain for neighbors in his off-season, justifying ownership of a 1,000 bushel capacity truck. He also

does custom combining to boost his farm income.

Future plans of Wilkin and his wife, Amy, include ownership of a farm with 200 acres under irrigation, a storage grain business, and expansion of their strawberry crop to a "U-Pick" operation.

"Agriculture is moving into a new era with new ideas and new technology," says Wilkin. "Without leadership qualities, you could be left behind. An innovative young farmer must be one of the leaders in the new agricultural era."

Wilkin has served on the Wayne County Farm Bureau board of directors, Young Farmer Committee, and Policy Development Committee, and was recently elected president of the Wayne County Farm Bureau. He has served on the Michigan Farm Bureau Natural Resources Committee and was a legislative leader during the organization's annual trip to Washington, D.C. last year to visit with congressmen about issues of concern to farmers.

In addition to his service to Farm Bureau, Wilkin has also been active in the ASCS, Production Credit Association and 4-H. Dennis and Amy have three children, ages 3, 4 and 5.

## Jim Licht Wins Young Farmer Discussion Meet Contest

Jim Licht, a Huron County farmer, will represent the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers in a national Discussion Meet in Phoenix, Arizona in January 1980. Licht competed with Michigan regional winners during annual meeting activities of the Michigan Farm Bureau at Kalamazoo. The series of problem solving panel discussions focused on U.S. food policy and export trade.

Contestants examined current U.S. export levels and surfaced concerns for world food prices and distribution. According to Licht, farmers export one of every 3 planted acres in the U.S., but they have little control over the market price worldwide or distribution of their products in developing nations.

Licht calls a food for oil policy unrealistic. "We cannot pursue such a policy in these developing countries," says Licht. "Their populations are often so small that their demand for grain can be met by other producing nations in the



Jim Licht, Huron County, (right) accepts congratulations and a plaque from Young Farmer chairman David Conklin for winning the 1979 Young Farmer Discussion Meet. Licht will represent Michigan in the national contest at the AFBF annual meeting in Phoenix.

world market. We simply do not have the leverage in international trade to guarantee oil supplies based only on trading U.S. food."

However, says Licht, agricultural exports do bolster the U.S. dollar through balancing our trade deficit. A strong international trade market for

U.S. grains returns dollars spent for oil to our county, he says.

Licht operates a 200 acre cash crop farm near Pigeon, Michigan. He is the young farmer representative on Huron County Farm Bureau board of directors and is active in his local church.

## MFB, FFA Conduct Producers' Forum

While Agriculture Secretary Bergland deliberated the structure of American agriculture in a series of national "dialogue" meetings, a group of Michigan FFA seniors were planning and discussing their own future in production agriculture.

The young men and women representing Michigan's 185 chapters of the Future Farmers of America attended the first annual Producers' Forum at Midland, Michigan on December 6-7. The Producers' Forum was sponsored by the Michigan Farm Bureau and the Michigan Association of Future Farmers of America.

According to Don Currey, MFB staff member who coor-

minated the program with FFA officials, the forum focused on the decisions young men and women make as they enter production agriculture. "About 80 percent of the students participating in the forum will go into full time farming immediately after graduation from high school or after completing a two year agricultural technology program," says Currey.

Workshop discussions examined factors and issues in agricultural marketing, partnership agreements, energy conservation, credit management, legal rights and responsibilities, and agricultural public relations. "The topics were very

timely and appropriate to the issues that are facing all farmers, not just young farmers," says Currey. "I was impressed with the ability of the instructors to convey the importance of the topics to the young people. We are very grateful to the faculty of Michigan State University's various colleges for their cooperation in a successful Producers' Forum."

The Producers' Forum is the first youth seminar conducted by the Michigan Farm Bureau exclusively for state FFA members. The forum was very well received by the students, says Currey, and definitely will be continued on an annual basis.



MFB Young Farmer outgoing Chairman David Conklin (left) congratulates Amy and Dennis Wilkin on being named the Distinguished Young Farmer for 1979.



## Between You and Me

By Judy Kissane

1980 Michigan Farm Bureau  
Outstanding  
Young Farm Woman



## You CAN Make a Difference

It's that time of year again when we look back over the last year's accomplishments and failures and look forward to the coming year.

New Year's resolutions — most everyone makes them — but very few people can truthfully say at the end of the year that they carried them out for the full twelve months.

This year, instead of the usual ones, such as losing 10-20 pounds or to stop smoking, let's have some real resolutions. Resolutions that will be for the benefit for our Farm Bureau and its growth. Resolutions that will supply us with personal growth while we carry them out.

We might make it simple by just saying, "This year I'll get involved," but getting involved is simpler said than done. It's hard to get involved if you're not aware of all the different programs in Farm Bureau.

The first step is to take stock of yourself and find your areas of strength and interest. If you're interested in local issues and problems and working with county commissions, check with your local affairs committee. If, by chance, your county doesn't have a local affairs committee, then your resolution should be to start one.

If you like speaking and writing, think about the information committee. Your job would be to inform farmers, Farm Bureau members and the general public about Farm Bureau programs and policies and to create understanding and support of these programs. If you are a camera bug and like to take pictures, then the information committee is the place for you.

Are you intrigued with politics and how they shape our lives? Look into the state or national affairs committees. Your role would be to know, understand support and work for the adoption of legislative policies on the local, state and national levels that have been established by Farm Bureau members.

What about the commodity from your farm? Have you ever felt it wasn't getting the attention it deserved when it comes to marketing and promotion? Check with the commodity committees and take an active part in their market development and research programs.

Do you sometimes wonder

how Farm Bureau policies are developed? Every county has a policy development committee. Their function is to encourage the study and discussion of issues and problems brought up by Farm Bureau community groups and Farm Bureau members. The committee obtains the needed information and prepares an adequate slate of policy recommendations to be presented to the members at the annual meeting. Every Farm Bureau member should make it a real point to put his or her thoughts and ideas into the policy development process.

There are many other committees you could look into such as the citizenship committee, nominating and various service committees or the membership campaign. Membership is a very important and challenging area because it is our members who make the organization.

Maybe you're a young farmer and not sure where you want to start. The young farmers committee is a really good place to start. Their committee provides opportunities for leadership development, education and enables them to be active, participating members of their county Farm Bureau.

Women of the state, check out the women's committee and the activities they have planned. The women's program promotes and participates in the entire scope of Farm Bureau programs with emphasis on those activities particularly suited to the talents and interests of women. Many times a woman will become active in the women's committee, then branch out into other committees as she grows and develops her leadership abilities.

From personal experience, I have found that there is a place for everyone in the Farm Bureau family. All you have to do is look for your place.

So as you look over your list of New Year's resolutions, let this be your #1 resolution: "Be it resolved that I will take a more active part in my Farm Bureau organization."

Until next month, remember: Even though you are only one person, you can make a difference if you take an active part in your organization.

## Delegates Protest MDA Budget

(Continued from Page 1)

slaughter plants, it would also create unemployment and loss of tax revenue."

Another area of concern to farmers, Smith said, would be the elimination of grain elevator audits and enforcement. "This would leave us with no protection against insolvencies and poor business management in the grain industry," he explained. "Recent bankruptcies, and the resulting losses to farmers, have emphasized the need for such protection."

Another anticipated cut would involve the discontinuance of weights and measures enforcement which, Smith said, "would have a serious adverse impact on consumers and our entire state's economy. There is no federal agency that checks weights and measures, so no one could verify the accuracy of the scales used to weigh everything from produce in the grocery store to gasoline, heating oil and cement. If this enforcement is eliminated, it could also result in seizure of Michigan products by other states, with the eventual loss of sales and credibility."

The farm leader said that the possibility that budget cuts may eliminate the gypsy moth program alarms the agricultural community. "Without an eradication program, a gypsy moth population explosion would surely occur," he explained. "The USDA would be forced to quarantine the whole state and require inspection or treatment for the movement of logs, Christmas trees, vehicles or other articles which



"The threat of elimination of Michigan's meat inspection program could mean a revival of the 'Hot Dog War'..." stated President Elton Smith at a press conference during the MFB annual meeting.

might carry gypsy moths from one area to another. Loss of Michigan trees would also destroy a valuable source of energy

and disrupt our growing lumber export trade."

Smith said he hoped the concerns of farmers would be considered by the governor.

## Young Farmers Elect Officers

A new slate of officers were elected by the state Young Farmer Committee to guide the MFB Young Farmers in 1979. The new officers elected at the MFB annual meeting in Kalamazoo on November 28 were L.C. Scramlin, chairman; Janis Sanford, first vice chairman; and Glenn Preston, second vice-chairman.

Scramlin, who will represent the Young Farmer Committee on the MFB board of directors, operates a 650-acre dairy and hog operation in Oakland County. He has served on the county Young Farmer Committee, was the district Discussion Meet winner and a finalist in the

Distinguished Young Farmer contest. He is also active in 4-H and the Michigan Duroc Association.

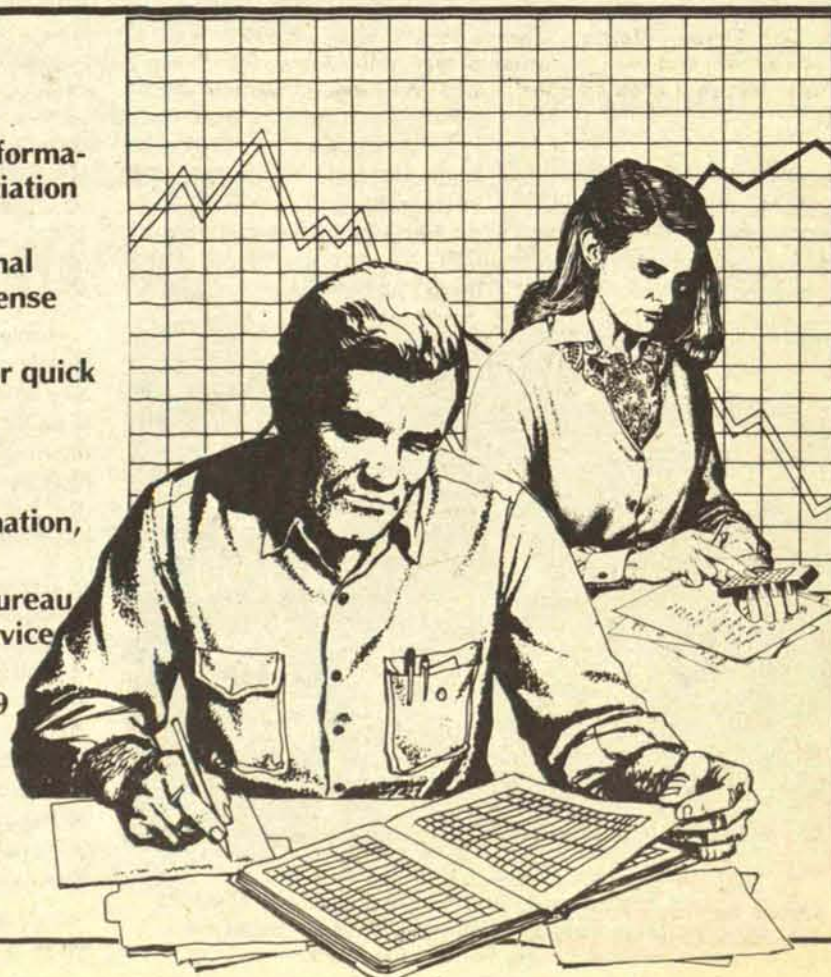
Sanford and her husband Neal operate a dairy farm in Jackson County. She is a nursery school teacher and has served as her county's Young Farmer Committee co-chairman.

Preston operates a dairy and cash crop farm in Branch County. He served as a Young Farmer representative on the 1979 state Policy Development Committee, is a member of the Branch County Farm Bureau Board and the Dairy Commodity Committee.

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# Dr. Hoefer Receives "Distinguished Service to Agriculture" Award



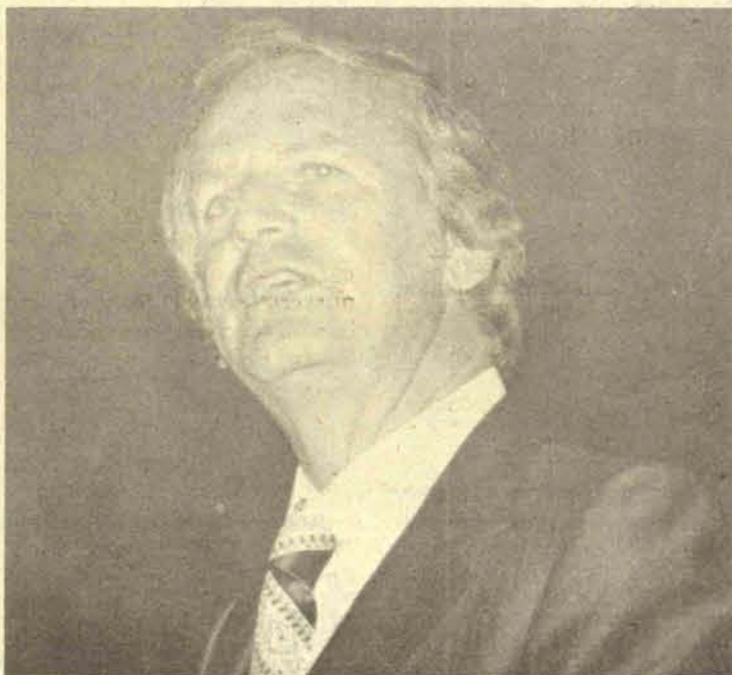
Dr. and Mrs. Jacob Hoefer (center and right) are presented with the MFB 1979 Distinguished Service to Agriculture award by President Elton Smith at the annual banquet November 29 during the MFB 60th annual meeting.

Dr. Jacob Hoefer, associate director of Michigan State University's Agricultural Experiment Station, was presented the Michigan Farm Bureau's highest honor during ceremonies at the organization's annual banquet at Kalamazoo Center. Dr. Hoefer received the Farm Bureau's "Distinguished Service to Agriculture" award for his "leadership, service and contributions to Michigan's agricultural industry."

In presenting the award, Elton R. Smith, MFB president said: "Jake has a long record of service to agriculture in our state. He is well respected in the academic and scientific arenas, but equally well respected by farmers throughout Michigan."

Dr. Hoefer has been associated with Michigan State University since 1950 when he was named professor of Animal Husbandry. Since that time, he has served as acting chairman of two departments — Animal Husbandry in 1966-68 and Food Science and Human Nutrition in 1970-71. In 1967 he was named associate director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, a position he still holds. He served as dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and in 1979, he was named to the Natural Resources Commission by Governor Milliken.

For 22 of the past 23 years, the Michigan Farm Bureau has presented its "Distinguished Service to Agriculture" award to persons who have made outstanding contributions to the well-being of farm people. Presentation of the honor takes place each year at the organization's annual meeting.



Dr. Denis Waitley, psychologist who worked with astronauts and with prisoners of war, talked to the MFB annual banquet crowd about "The Psychology of Winning."



To look at the "real you" objectively, Dr. Waitley suggested putting a paper bag over your head. . . Two mystery delegates took his advice seriously.

# Trade is Two-Way Street Says Commodity Speaker

The People's Republic of China has given high priority to the modernization of its agricultural industry, according to Dr. Kenneth Bader, chief executive officer of the American Soybean Association. Speaking at the commodity session of the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting in Kalamazoo Center, Dr. Bader said it was "small wonder" that the Chinese hierarchy has set this priority, since agriculture there employs 80 percent of their total labor force and feeds the world's largest human and livestock population.

"China's total economy places them among the top ranking countries in the world," said Dr. Bader. "Their GNP for 1978 was \$444 billion, sixth largest in the world. China is

## "No-Growth"

(Continued from Page 1)

"The federal government owns or rents enough office space to fill the equivalent of 613 Sears Tower Buildings in Chicago — the tallest in the world. In 1978, the General Services Administration bought over 300 thousand tons of paper for federal agencies. That translates to 66 billion sheets of 8 1/2 x 11" paper. If each of these sheets were laid end to end, they would circle the equator 461 times or could make 48 paper roads to the moon."

Smith said farmers must use their political clout wisely in the 1980 elections to change conditions in this country. "I believe we have too many people in too many key places who do not believe in the system that has made our America the greatest place in the world. It is going to take work by people like you and me, who believe in growth and who believe in our economic system, to remove the non-believers from power," he concluded.

the world's fifth largest producer of primary energy and the third largest coal producer. It has exploded atom bombs and built high powered computers.

"In contrast, China today has 65 times more bicycles than cars, no national electricity grid, no national highways, only 3.5 million telephones, only 200 Telex machines and 85 percent of their locomotive production is still steam," he reported.

The need to modernize is serious and the Chinese have begun the process in earnest, Bader said, "but they are particularly perplexed with the fact that labor productivity has steadily declined over the past 10 years." Shortages of fertilizer and agricultural chemicals is another problem faced by the Chinese, he said.

Although the Chinese are making strides in improving their production capabilities, Bader said they will continue to be good customers of U.S. grain and soybeans. "Trade is a two-way street," he reminded the farmers attending the session. "It is obvious that we in the United States will have to buy materials and goods from China if we expect them to buy our agricultural production."



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## Renew Membership By Jan. 30

Receiving medical care is often associated with worry or anxiety, but Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Michigan subscribers have the edge taken off, by the simple act of presenting their plastic ID cards. The Blue Cross-Blue Shield ID card is immediately recognized and honored wherever medical care may be needed. These ID cards also insure accuracy for physicians and hospitals and are an essential feature in speeding claims processing at the Blues headquarters.

Various subscribers through the years have consistently indicated that they really appreciate the handy, easy to use Blue Cross-Blue Shield ID card, which eliminated much time and red tape, filling out lengthy forms, having information checked and double checked, etc. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan subscribers are encouraged to always carry their ID cards. It is an important health care feature that is unduplicated elsewhere.

Farm Bureau members are fortunate to have health care protection available to them under the Blue Cross-Blue Shield group plan.

But don't forget — to remain eligible for this protection you must have your dues paid by the January 31, 1980, deadline. Don't take a chance on losing this valuable bonus, renew your membership in Michigan Farm Bureau today.



# People

## Governor Appoints Members to Soybean Committee

Two Michigan Farm Bureau members have been appointed to the Michigan Soybean Committee by Governor William G. Milliken. Appointed were Gary L. Albright of Branch County and Donald M. Korte of Wayne County.

Albright, of Bronson, is a full-time farmer with 900 acres under cultivation (400 acres in soybeans). He has been active in the county Farm Bureau, has served on its executive committee and was recently elected Branch County Farm

Bureau president. He has served on the MFB Soybean Committee and will serve as District 2 representative (Calhoun, Branch, Jackson and Hillsdale counties) on the committee.

Korte, of Canton, a soybean and corn farmer, serves as District 4 representative (Wayne and Monroe counties) on the committee and was first appointed in 1976. He is a member of the board of directors of the Michigan Soybean Association.

## Michigan 4-H Youths Nationally Recognized

A Michigan 4-H member, who enjoys working with animals and farming, has won a \$1,000 special 4-H scholarship.

Rick Burkett, 18, of 26149 M-60 West, Cassopolis, was one of two 4-H members selected by the Cooperative Extension Service to receive the \$1,000 scholarships from The Edwin T. Meredith Foundation. Winners were announced at the 58th National 4-H Congress held in Chicago Nov. 25-29.

Burkett, son of Cass County members Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Burkett, plans a career in veterinary medicine. "Choosing to be a veterinarian is very challenging to me as I feel I can help the farmer with his problems," he said.

"Living on a farm has given me great exposure to animals and the need for the maintenance of their health." He added that in veterinary medicine, he will still be closely related to agriculture.

Burkett, who has been a 4-H member for seven years in Cass County, has completed 4-H projects in swine, beef, rabbits, dairy, cooking, veterinary science, agriculture and food-nutrition.

He earned 4-H awards in beef, agriculture and veterinary

science and the showmanship award at the county fair. He won blue ribbons on his beef, swine and rabbit projects.

Burkett served as president of his 4-H Club and attended "Share-the-Fun" activities at Michigan State University Exploration Days. He also was selected to attend the National 4-H Citizenship Short Course in Washington, D.C.

He said that his own farm animals and crop production are his main interests. However, he enjoys aiding younger 4-H members with their projects.

Debie Mahaffy, of Snover, daughter of Sanilac County Farm Bureau members Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Mahaffy, represented Michigan at the National 4-H Fashion Revue. Sponsored by Simplicity Pattern Co., Inc., the revue was held in conjunction with the National 4-H Congress in late November in Chicago.

Mahaffy was a state winner in the fashion revue program, and designs her own clothes. She is a nine-year 4-Her and has worked closely with younger 4-H members in the program.

She was one of 51 state winners who modeled their own ensembles at the 4-H Congress.

## Necia Sharkey Appointed to ADA Position

Necia Kelly Sharkey has been appointed program coordinator for the American Dairy Association of Michigan, according to an announcement by Bonnie L. Lynch, executive director.

As program coordinator, Sharkey will be involved in marketing and public relations programs designed to promote the dairy industry in Michigan. Such programs include the new Dairy Diplomats project

and in-store point-of-sale promotions conducted three times yearly throughout the state. She will also assist in the development of ADA's new Foodservices Program.

Prior to joining ADA of Michigan, Sharkey was employed with Delta Dental Plan of Michigan. She has also been active in several community and political organizations in the Lansing area.

## MFB, Affiliate Company Staff Changes Announced

Several staff appointments and changes of responsibilities have been announced by Michigan Farm Bureau and two affiliated companies since late October.



Robert Craig has been appointed the manager of the Commodity Activities and Research Department. Prior to assuming his new position with MFB on November 19, he was in charge of the Resource Economics Unit, Land Resource Program Division of the Department of Natural Resources.



PATTI BURNS

Patti Burns has been appointed assistant director of the Member and Public Relations Department for Farm Bureau Services, Inc. and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. Her appointment was effective October 29.



GENE GREENAWALT

Gene Greenawalt, MFB regional representative in the Central Region, has been promoted to senior regional representative. In his new position, Greenawalt will assume greater responsibilities for training county leaders and new regional representatives and will assist in the coordination of Farm Bureau activities through the Organization Department.



BECKY JEPPESEN

Becky Jeppesen has been named the new Michigan Farm Bureau regional representative in the Northeast Region. Jeppesen's appointment was effective November 5; she replaces Bill Craig, who transferred to the Southeast Region.

Prior to assuming her new position, she was a commodity and facility loan clerk with the Montcalm County ASCS office. In addition, she has also worked for the Michigan Farm Radio Network.



RON NELSON

On December 1, Ron Nelson, former MFB Local Affairs specialist, assumed the newly created position of legislative counsel. In his new position, he will work with the Michigan Legislature and state government agencies in implementing Farm Bureau policies.



ROBERT EPELHEIMER

Following the resignation of Dick Westra, Robert Eppelheimer has been named the new manager of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association Direct Marketing Division. Prior to assuming his new position, he was a loan officer with the Lansing branch of the Production Credit Association.

## Governor Appoints Members to Asparagus Committee, Ag Labor Commission

Governor William G. Milliken has reappointed Farm Bureau members, Wayne R. Fleming, Oceana County, and Paul Wicks, Cass County, to the Michigan Asparagus Committee for terms expiring November 13, 1982, subject to Senate confirmation.

Fleming, who has a 400-acre dairy, fruit and asparagus farm near Shelby, serves as a Central-Northern Michigan area representative.

Wicks, an asparagus grower who is a partner in Plainview Orchards near Dowagiac,

serves on the committee as a representative from the Southern Michigan area.

Both members were appointed in 1978 when the committee was first established in accordance with P.A. 146 of 1978.

Timothy L. Belanger, a member of the Northwest Michigan Farm Bureau, was appointed to the Agricultural Labor Commission by Governor William G. Milliken; and Louis Smith, Monroe County, was reappointed to the commission.

Belanger, a full-time agricultural worker and orchard manager from Williamsburg, succeeds John D. Young of Caro; and will serve as a year-round agricultural worker representative on the commission for a term expiring June 27, 1981.

Smith, of Carleton, a farmer and partner in a greenhouse, has served on the commission as a grower member since 1969. He is a member of the Ash Township Planning Commission and the Michigan Agricultural Labor Camp Advisory Committee.



## Farmer-Legislator Communication Vital, Says Hort Speaker

"Communication between farmers and legislators must occur to ensure a healthy agricultural industry in Michigan," said Farm Labor Specialist Dr. Daniel Kruger of Michigan State University.

Speaking at the 108th annual meeting of the Michigan State Horticultural Society December 6 in Grand Rapids, Kruger said, "Too often legislators do not understand the unique features of agriculture and that many times lawmakers and administrators of legislation use the industrial model as a basis of laws which often affect agriculture. Since this occurs," Kruger added, "there remains a need for careful and accurate review of all state legislation that impacts on agriculture."

The farm labor specialist said that Michigan farmers must bring to the attention of

legislators, the adverse effects which many of these laws have on our state's farming industry.

Kruger listed four alternatives that farmers have under the current system of laws. First, the farmer can comply with the law. Second, he can break the law and accept the penalties if caught. Under the third alternative, the farmer can change the operation of the farm so that no farm employees are needed, thereby, not being affected by the law. The final alternative requires the farmer or grower to strive to modify, change, or alter the onerous features of the law.

Kruger explained that it is a mistake to gain legislative support for farmers, to claim that agriculture should be exempt from legislation. Farmers and growers, in his opinion, should support legislation affecting

them which is in the public interest.

Increasing government regulation was criticized by Kruger. It "is causing farming to become more and more like a public utility with an army of regulations. Too many times individual agencies do 'their thing' without considering what the other agencies are doing."

Whether it's legislation dealing with workers compensation, child labor laws or the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Kruger said that each piece of legislation has a price tag. "On one hand the nation is very concerned about inflation, yet somehow fails to understand that every new law, every new MI-OSHA regulation, has a price tag." Kruger emphasized, "It's the lawmakers who are the feeders of the inflationary pressures which affect the state and national economies."



MSU Farm Labor Specialist Dr. Daniel Kruger, speaking at the Michigan State Horticultural Society meeting in Grand Rapids, Dec. 6 said that communications between farmers and legislators must occur to ensure a healthy agricultural industry in Michigan.

## "More Important to be Great"--President's Column

(Continued from Page 2)

added to public confusion with a highly sensationalized version of the theme that drugs consumed by animals may cause great difficulties and perhaps death in humans.

Yet no scientific documentation exists that a single case of human illness has resulted from resistant bacteria made resistant by the use of antibiotics in livestock or poultry feed.

The end result of such misleading material, presented over time to an unsuspected public, is the restriction or outright ban of many products or processes important to farm production.

It follows just as surely as night follows day that if American agriculture is denied energy and chemicals, our production will decline. Our balance of trade will become even a larger deficit. We experienced a \$30 billion deficit in 1978, even though agricultural exports were a record 29 billion. The deficit will again grow this year, in spite of new record agricultural exports of over \$30 billion.

No-growth people fail to see the danger of a continued trade deficit. They do not want to understand that we can not keep on spending more money abroad than is returned to this country. We are becoming hooked on foreign countries for many of our basic needs, just as an addict becomes hooked on the source of supply for his habit. This country, just like the addict, must pay the price in one form or another.

The only area where the no-growth crowd seems to allow growth is in government.

While a candidate for office, President Carter talked about a balanced budget and reorganization in government to reduce duplication and increase efficiency. Three years

have gone by and what has happened to those promises?

The budget deficit has grown every year. Instead of reducing bureaucracy, it has grown. Just this year a new department was created — the Department of Education.

The number of U.S. government civilian employees is three times as large as the total employment of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the world's largest private employer.

We hear much about foreign investors buying farmland. According to a USDA publication entitled, "Who Owns the Land?", less than one half of one percent of all farmland is owned by foreign investors. At the same time, over 40% of all land in the United States is owned by the government. If put together, the 742 million acres owned by the federal government would cover all states east of the Mississippi plus Texas and Louisiana.

Now is the time for Americans to rise up, to speak out, to demand that government stop growing. They must demand or speak out to the fact that freedoms in this country include more than the right to dissent, to free speech, to worship, to peaceful assembly. People must recognize that we also should have freedom from the strangling regulations and suffocating bureaucracy of government.

So far in these remarks I may have sounded alarmed about the conditions in this country. If I have, it reflects my true feeling. But I think things can be changed. They must be changed. I am convinced that one of the forces that will make them change is the Farm Bureau. Let me tell you why.

First, Farm Bureau has known that it is important to be

great. Our organization is not a populist type of organization that swings and blows in each political wind. We have taken stands based on member adopted policies. Sometimes these stands were not popular with the no-growth groups.

But those stands have gained respect. I'm sure all of you have read in the October issue of Successful Farming the results of a study made by that magazine. It concluded that farmers have seriously underestimated their political muscle. The Successful Farmer said, "By a wide margin Farm Bureau still reigns as the single, most influential farm organization." Farm Bureau scored an 80% ranking in the "impact" category. The second highest farm organization was 42%.

Sometimes, we as farmers, get concerned about our political power. Oklahoma Senator Henry Bellman recently said, "I can't think of any other sector involving only 4% of the population which has fared as well legislatively as farmers." As farmers we have clout. We must use it wisely, but we must use it!

A second reason I believe Farm Bureau has a chance to affect the future of this nation is because we have started our Political Action Committee program. AgriPac's activities are vital. We are not buying favors. We are supporting those candidates who will support our basic beliefs.

One year from today the elections of 1980 will be over. Frankly, I believe much of the hope for this nation rests on those elections. I am concerned that what is happening at this time is a development of a personality contest. That must be changed. The American people deserve a good discussion of issues, potential solu-

tions and the cost of those solutions.

I hope that Americans will hear about an energy program which will make us less dependent on foreign countries. But let's not be fooled by statements that "we're coal rich," because the no-growth crowd won't let us mine the coal.

I hope we hear about foreign trade. But remember the no-growth crowd does not see food production as one of our strengths. They believe "Food for people, not for profits."

We should hear discussion on reducing the regulatory burden on individuals and industry. Again, you'll probably never hear the no-growth crowd admit that regulation is a step towards stagnation.

Certainly we ought to hear a lot about inflation, but on this issue the no-growth crowd will talk only in terms of inflation being inevitable and at what level is it acceptable. They will never talk of the need to balance the budget and curb inflation.

As farmers I hope we demand to know the views of candidates regarding funding of agricultural research. Having spent two weeks in the Soviet Union this fall, I can assure you that nation is increasing its spending in agricultural research. In the United States, however, we are not keeping pace. If we are going to remain the world's leading agricultural nation, we had better do more research.

Of course the no-growth philosophy wants to curb agricultural research. They believe all chemicals are dangerous. They believe environmental impact statements are more necessary than increased production. But as farmers we know that diseases,

insects, weather and other disasters do not file an impact statement before they hit. They hit and we must be ready to fight back. We must have agricultural research to be ready to meet those disasters, and to remain competitive in our production.

I believe we have too many people in too many key places who do not believe in the system that has made our America the greatest place in the world. It is going to take work by people like you and me, who believe in growth and who believe in our economic system to remove the non-believers from power.

Elton R. Smith

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# Farm Women Moving Into the Spotlight in 1980

Recognition of the needs of farm women and their roles in the farming operation has resulted in new programs and studies planned for the coming year.

From the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service and Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA), comes a series of daylong seminars for farm women to be held at 18 locations throughout Michigan during January and February.

The series of programs, focusing on effective farm management for farm women,

will be conducted at no charge to participants. Management information sessions will feature farm labor management, farm office procedures, a discussion of the American Dairy Association's Dairy Diplomat program and a review of the latest DHIA dairy management techniques. Other sessions will cover life insurance and recent changes in probate laws which affect the farm family and farming operation in event of the spouse's death.

Information about the seminar program nearest you is

available from the county Cooperative Extension office.

The USDA will also be taking a closer look at the role of farm women in today's modern farming operation during 1980.

According to a recent announcement by Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland, the USDA will conduct a nationwide survey and study of farm women. The survey and study are part of the USDA's Farm Women's Project, established to look into the status of farm women in relation to USDA programs, program management procedures and employment structure.

"The intent of the survey is to provide a record of farm women's experience with USDA services and farm programs and their perceptions of the department," Bergland said. "It will also provide us with a knowledge of women's roles in making farm management decisions. This knowledge will help the department better serve the needs of farm women who can and do use USDA programs and will help identify opportunities where women can participate in programs at a management and advisory level."

The Farm Women's Project will also report on a study of the legal rights of farm women in relation to USDA programs and services.

The rights of women was also the subject of a recent release from the Cooperative Extension Service of Michigan State University. According to that release, farm women, and all women, ought to be concerned about their rights under the Social Security system.

Collette Moser, a public employment specialist for the Cooperative Extension Service, says the Social Security system is outdated and discriminates against women. Changes are needed to assure more equitable benefits for working women and homemakers, she reports.

"The Social Security system was developed in 1935 when fewer women were in the labor force," says Moser. "It was designed assuming every family consisted of an employed husband, a wife who was a homemaker, and children. Today, both homemakers and many employed women, are not classified equally with men, because their benefits are mainly determined by their husband's income. Often, employed married women are discriminated against even more than homemakers."

Because women may have no earnings during the years when they are raising their families, their lifetime earnings average is low, affecting their retirement benefits under their own name, says Moser.

Wives are eligible for a spouse benefit, which is 50 percent of their husband's benefit

at retirement and frequently the employed wife will take that benefit because it is more than the benefit available under her own name. "What this means," says Moser, "is that a family with two wage earners frequently receives the same Social Security as a one-wage-earner family which has contributed less to Social Security."

Women who take time out from employment may also lose their right to disability benefits. The law requires the disability beneficiary to have earnings during recent work quarters prior to the disabling condition.

According to Social Security rules as currently written, full time homemakers are not eligi-

ble for disability benefits. "Homemakers cannot get disability benefits at all because they have no Social Security in their own name," Moser emphasizes.

Moser cites changes in the Social Security system proposed by the federal government to give women more equitable treatment.

"First of all, Social Security benefits could be split in half between an employed husband and a wife for as many years as they are married," she says. "If the couple is divorced, the woman would still be entitled to half of the benefits from their marriage because it would be in her own name. This change would probably not increase

(Continued on Page 31)

## DeVuyst Reappointed to Farm Credit Board



LARRY DEVUYST

Larry L. DeVuyst, a cash-crop farmer from Ithaca, and a member of the Michigan Farm Bureau board, has been reappointed director-at-large on the Seventh District Farm Credit

Board, headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota.

DeVuyst, whose current term expires December 31, 1979, was named to a second 3-year term by Donald E. Wilkinson, governor of the Farm Credit Administration.

The board sets policy for the Farm Credit System in the Seventh District — the Federal Land Bank, the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, and Bank for Cooperatives, and local Federal Land Bank Associations and Production Credit Associations. The district includes the states of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota.

DeVuyst raises corn, navy beans and wheat on 700 acres. He also farrows and finishes 2,400 hogs per year.

## Wasson to Retire After 30 Years with FBS/FPC

Arlo E. Wasson, director of the Member & Public Relations Department of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., will retire in early 1980 after spending over 30 years with these two cooperatives and Michigan Farm Bureau.

Arlo began his career with Michigan Farm Bureau in 1949 as a district membership representative in Northern Michigan. In 1952 he transferred to Farmers Petroleum Cooperative and held the following positions — supervisor of Field Promotions, manager of Patron Relations Department, sales manager of Distribution Division, marketing manager, and vice president of the Marketing Division.

In 1973 he became director of Public Relations and Marketing Services, and with the reorganization of Farm Bureau Services and Farmers



ARLO WASSON

Petroleum Cooperative, became director of the Member & Public Relations Department in 1978.

Arlo and his wife Shirley have two daughters, Mrs. Jerry (Mary) Thompson of Grand Ledge and Mrs. William (Sylvia) Roger of Mason, and one son, Tom Wasson of Radnor, Ohio.

In retirement, Wasson plans to do more fishing, traveling and wood working at home.

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The Farmer of the Week Award, sponsored by the Michigan Farm Radio Network and Farm Bureau Insurance Group, recognizes Michigan farmers for their contributions to the agriculture industry and the community. In addition to recognition from the news media, award winners receive a plaque and a specially-designed award buckle and leather belt from their local FBIG agent.

The Farmer of the Week Award winners for November 1979 were:



**PAUL GROFVERT**

Week of Nov. 5 - Paul Grofvert, a Kalamazoo poultry farmer, raises pullet chicks. He currently farms 100 acres and in the course of a year he raises over 360,000 pullet chicks. Grofvert teaches Sunday School at Twin Lakes Reformed Church; is a past elder in his church; served as treasurer and manager in the Alamo Township Boys' Baseball League; is a past 4-H leader; is a member of the Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau and past officer on the county Farm Bureau board and has served on the Alamo Township Zoning Board. He and his wife, Eleanor, have three children.



**ROBERT REMINGTON**

Week of Nov. 12 - Robert K. Remington, 38, raises hogs, soybeans and feeder cattle near Bloomingdale in Van Buren County. He farms 800 acres. Remington is a member of the Bloomingdale School Board; vice-chairman of the Bloomingdale Township ASCS

Committee; member of the Bloomingdale Christian Church; member of the Bloomingdale Telephone Board; member of the Bloomingdale Athletic Boosters Club; and member of the Van Buren County Farm Bureau. He and his wife, Marilyn, have three children.



**JIM LICHT**

Week of Nov. 19 - Jim Licht is a 21-year-old cash crop farmer from Pigeon. He farms 200 acres and grows navy beans, sugar beets, corn and wheat. Licht was selected to represent the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers in a national discussion meet to be held in Phoenix, Ariz., in January 1980. He is a member of the State Future Farmers of America (FFA) Alumni Council; chairman of the Laker FFA Alumni Affiliate; serves as benevolence treasurer for his church; is a member of the church choir; chairman of the Huron County Young Farmers and member of the county Farm Bureau board of directors; and has earned the Silver State Farmer Degree and the American Farmer Degree from the FFA. He also served as State FFA president for one year, regional FFA vice-president, and FFA chapter president.



**FRITZ KLIEWONEIT**

Week of Nov. 26 - Fritz G. Kliewoneit, a dairy and crop farmer, farms 440 acres and milks 30 cows near Gladwin with his son, Keith. Kliewoneit, 52, is a member of the Gladwin Schools Board of Education; treasurer of Grout Township in Gladwin County; vice-president of the area Michigan Milk Producers Association; president of the Gladwin County Farm Bureau; member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Gladwin; and member of the Gladwin County Fair Board Association. He and his wife, Yvonne, have four children.

**Labor Leader Emphasized Need to Speak Against Anti-Growth Advocates**

"We have reached a point when some important decisions must be made to assure the American people that there will be future economic growth and enough energy to provide that growth," said Stan Arnold, secretary-treasurer, Michigan State Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO, in a recent appearance before members of the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors.

Arnold, who serves as chairman of the Michigan Committee for Jobs and Energy, visited with the board to explain the concerns of the coalition of labor, business and industry, education and energy producers. Elton R. Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau, also serves as a director of Michigan Committee for Jobs and Energy.

"The motivation to organize the committee came from self-interest, anger and the fact that a growing number of so-called public interest groups were interfering with the political process and leading us toward a no-growth society, and bringing about changes which were slowing energy growth and development, halting energy exploration, stagnating the economy, promoting inflation and stopping or stalling projects that put people out of work," Arnold explained.

"I am talking about people who, in the name of the environment and the public interest, bombard the media, pack political meetings and hearings, intimidate some of our political leaders, file lawsuits, seek injunctions and stage scare tactic rallies," he said. "These people oppose nuclear power plants and choose to ignore the unparalleled safety record. They oppose coal fired power plants, ignorant of the fact that new safeguards minimize the impact of coal on our environment."

Arnold reported that a leader of a demonstration against the Midland nuclear plant said if he had the power, he would go through much of American's style of living with a wrecking ball.

"If he had his way, Sunday drives would become a luxury," said Arnold. "Individually owned homes would be a thing of the past. There would be more bicycles, wood stoves and candles. Solar power would be the only way to dry clothes. It is unfortunate that some of these remarks are not made public. If they were, more people would realize the need to speak out against the anti-growth advocates. There are places in the world now where individually owned homes don't exist, where candles and bicycles predominate, and where solar energy is used to dry clothing.



MFB President Elton Smith (right) greets Stan Arnold, chairman of the Michigan Committee for Jobs and Energy. Arnold met recently with the MFB board of directors to explain the concerns of the coalition of labor, business and industry, education and energy producers.

They call these places underdeveloped countries."

One way to turn the anti-growth movement around, Arnold suggested, would be to remind those involved that without sufficient energy when it is needed, "everything from cauliflower to chickens is an endangered species." To flirt with an energy shortage would make PEOPLE, not just plants and animals, an endangered species, the labor leader warned.

"The farm bloc doesn't use a great amount of energy directly, but when it needs energy for

planting and harvesting, it is imperative that energy be available," he said. "Because if farmers are denied energy at these critical times, then the livelihoods of not only farmers will suffer; also included in the suffering will be an estimated 27 percent of the state's population which receives some portion of its income from agriculture."

Arnold concluded: "No matter if you are a labor leader, business leader or agricultural leader, the time has come for intelligent people to stand up and be counted."

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# WATER

Something very serious is happening to water that should be causing widespread concern.

The availability of fresh water — our access to fresh water — is rapidly diminishing.

Our seemingly inexhaustible supplies of water are being strained by the demand for commercial, industrial, recreational and residential uses in our society. We are using, wasting and polluting water on a scale unprecedented in the history of man.

It is diminishing because the total amount of fresh water available on earth is not the same today as it was at the beginning of time. Fresh water amounts to less than 1% of the total water supply. The balance — the other 99% — is in the oceans or locked up in the polar ice caps.

## Averting a Crisis

It is unfortunate, but true, that our society has become crisis oriented. It takes some catastrophic event or some other action that deeply affects large numbers of us in a personal way before we react with sufficient, collective force.

And then our reaction tends to be hasty and impatient — demanding quick solutions.

A case in point, of course, is the recurring energy crisis. In spite of the severe disruptions caused by the 1973 oil embargo and in spite of repeated admonishments to curtail use, we continue to act as though the supply of fossil fuel were unlimited.

The same kind of attitude has followed the disastrous drought four years ago that disrupted lives and livelihoods in southern California. There are other similarities between the energy crisis — which is real — and the potential use for a water crisis — which is not yet with us, but which could be far more disruptive and harmful.

Both have deep seated implications. We experience the consequences of conflict with respect to oil almost everyday. Conflicts over water reach much further back into history — to Biblical times — but the forces of the conflict continue unabated to this day, as you well know.

We are not, at this point, talking about survival. We are talking about potentially crippling consequences of water shortages on a local, regional, national and international scale.

## Natural Cycle Disrupted

There are atmospheric anomalies and phenomena occurring that no one seems to understand fully, but which could further compound our water supply problems and disrupt historic distribution patterns.

In a natural state, water that is taken away is soon replenished by the hydrological cycle. But we have upset the normal, natural balance to such an extent that the hydrological cycle can not replenish or purify our water at the rate we are using it and polluting it.

Prior to the invention of mechanical energy, most water was drawn from surface water — rivers, lakes and streams — from rainfall or from shallow, underground water tables.

In more recent times, we have literally mined away many of the great aquifers; for example the Ogallala Aquifer, which underlines much of the Central Plains. Water is being pumped from the aquifer and other underground water sources for residential, industrial and agricultural purposes at rates far greater than they are recharged, resulting in subsidence — the sinking of land. That is happening at a frightening pace in many parts of the United States.

In addition, of course, we have contrived countless ways to impound and collect water and to divert it for various purposes.

All of this upsets the normal hydrological cycle.

Precipitation on land and sea and the melting of the glaciers and snow caps produces fresh water that enters the water sheds, recharges the

# DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**  
Manager, Member Relations

underground tables and flows into the sea. Condensation, evaporation and transpiration sends moisture back from the land and the oceans into the atmosphere to produce more precipitation — that entire cycle is driven by solar energy.

Beyond man's practice of depletion and contamination, the scientific community now warns that something more fundamental may be happening to distort the normal hydrological cycle.

The Food and Climate Forum of the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies is attempting to determine, among many other related objectives, the extent and in what way the world's climate is responding:

- to changes in the sun, i.e., radiate intensity.
- changes caused by man's injection of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, thereby creating a greenhouse effect.
- and by changes caused by the irregular solar pattern and sun spot activity such as those suspected of diverting the jet stream and obstructing the flow of moisture bearing air masses over California in 1972 that resulted in drought and huge losses to farmers.

The Forum has stated that "increased availability of water will not improve a future drought if the additional resources are employed wastefully or are used as a means of justifying further urban growth."

What all of this means is that potential for crisis — based upon our waste and misuse of water and based upon baffling occurrences in the solar system that effect weather and climate — is pending.

What should we do about it?

## Proposed Solutions

All sorts of solutions have been proposed: iceberg towing, cloud seeding, construction of new dams, canals and reservoirs. Some of these proposals are feasible, but most are controversial.

There is cautious optimism that we'll find ways to desalinate the oceans economically. The consensus in the scientific community, however, that day is a long way off.

Until that day comes, the most viable alternatives are water conservation and management practices, which means we must: stop wasting fresh water resources; stop polluting it so we don't have to spend as much time and money repurifying it; and learn how to use it and reuse it, over and over again.

It has been suggested that since agriculture accounts for approximately 80% of the water consumption in the United States today, it is an obvious place to look for opportunities to improve water use efficiency.

Historic practices in farm irrigation have been to apply water in large amounts relatively infrequent-

ly. This not only wastes enormous amounts of water, but, if continued over time, can reduce the productivity of the land according to some experts. Modern equipment makes it possible to control the application of water so that the total amount needed to produce a crop and to protect the productive potential of the soil is much less on a seasonal basis, resulting in conservation of both water and soil and reduced consumption of energy.

Another very important method of water conservation is recycling. It is one of the most effective ways for expanding the availability of our finite water resources to sustain the needs and economic sufficiency of a growing world population.

There exists today the expertise and technology to take waste water from virtually any source, purify it and use it again for any purpose: to swim, bathe and even drink.

The most common use of recycled water in this country today is irrigation. When waste water is used for irrigation:

- the cost of treatment is reduced.
- the soil provides the third stage treatment and returns the wastewater, thoroughly cleansed, to the water table.
- in the process, nutrients in the effluent fertilize the turf and other vegetation.
- the amount of potable water discharged into the oceans is significantly reduced.

As with everything in our complex world, there are some pitfalls associated with the recycled fluid. Effluent must be properly managed. That is a small price to pay for the advantages gained, the most important of which is the conservation of a priceless, indispensable, very limited resource.

## What We Can Do

All of us can help by treating that resource with the respect it deserves. We can stop wasting it and stop polluting it unnecessarily. We can urge those government authorities that manage our treatment plant to recycle the effluent — at least a few times before it is dumped into the ocean.

There's no large scale immediate threat of anyone dying of thirst any place in the world. But it appears that a false sense of security is inspired by the vast amounts of water that surrounds us. We look at the oceans and we see water. But it is not water that we can drink or use for irrigation.

It is the appearance of plenty that deceives us into believing that our water supply is more than adequate. Evidence to the contrary is abundant. We do not have access to sufficient quantities of fresh water to allow us to waste it and abuse it in the way that we have. We must treat it with respect.



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# Beef Referendum Dates Are Set

The voting dates for the proposed beef research and information program will be February 19-22.

The four-day voting period will follow a registration period of 12 days, from January 26 to February 6.

This year's referendum will require that cattlemen approve the measure by a simple majority, rather than the two-thirds vote required in the 1977 referendum. The 1977 referendum failed to obtain the two-thirds vote needed for passage.

Absentee voting will be allowed in the referendum as it was in 1977.

## Women in Spotlight

(Continued from Page 28)

the cost of the total system." Another alternative, Moser says, would be to guarantee every retired person a minimum Social Security benefit, plus whatever benefits the retiree earned as a worker in their own name.

A third alternative would be to put a dollar value on work at home so that homemakers would be eligible for retirement and disability benefits in their own right, she says.

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