

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS



December 15, 1991



Farmers Call for Restrictions on Local Wetland Rules

Testifying before a packed Senate hearing room in Lansing on Dec. 3, Michigan Farm Bureau leaders called for passage of S.B. 522, a measure that would prohibit local units of government from enacting their own wetland ordinances.

"There are over 1,700 local units of government in Michigan," said Dick Leach, Saginaw farmer and a member of the MFB Board of Directors. "Without S.B. 522, there could conceivably be over 1,700 ordinances in this state dealing with wetlands.

"Please for a moment place yourself in my position," Leach told the Senators. "I farm fields in five different municipalities. I would have to deal with different wetland rules in each field."

Twenty-five percent of the farms in Michigan are experiencing financial difficulties due to high input costs, environmental regulations, tight lender requirements, taxation and low commodity prices, according to Leach. "Why does the state want to allow local units of government to increase the regulatory burden on our in-

dustry?" he said. "I also have concerns as a member of the Spaulding Township Board. If we adopt an ordinance to regulate wetlands, how much will it cost to enforce the ordinance, and will the township have to defend itself if the ordinance isn't enforced? I also think that most township boards do not have the expertise to deal with the kinds of pressures being applied by environmentalists and wetland activists," he said.

Barry County farmer and MFB Board member Tom Guthrie also offered a local perspective on S.B. 522. "There should be a uniform and centralized system across the state for dealing with wetlands," he said. "As a member of our planning and zoning board, I know people want to do what's best for their township and the overall interests of society. It would be much easier if they operate with a common wetland definition that could be administered by the state."

Earlier in the week, MFB President Jack Laurie said that local regulation of wetlands is not needed because current state law, if enforced, should adequately protect "truly valuable" wetlands.

"S.B. 522 will permit all landowners to operate under a uniform set of standards," Laurie said. "Farmers are concerned that when it comes to wetlands and other environmental issues, such as pesticide regulations, local units of government can be susceptible to emotional scare tactics from well organized pressure groups. Farmers, although major landowners, are usually a minority of the voting population and can have their voices drowned-out in these debates," said Laurie.

Passage of S.B. 522 will not weaken wetland regulation, according to Laurie. "Most agricultural wetlands are protected under the 'swampbuster' provisions of the 1990 farm bill," he said.

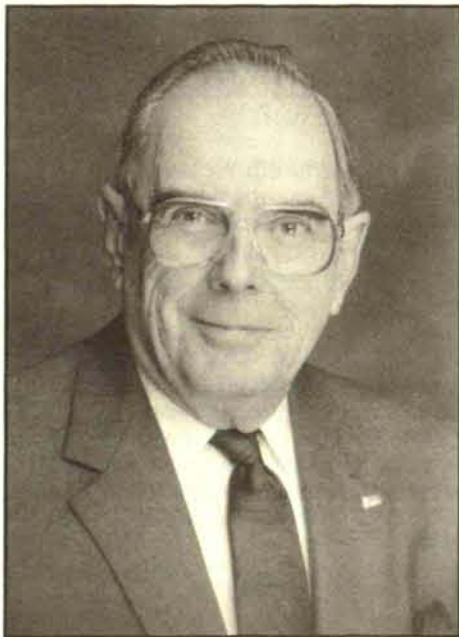
"In addition, under the Goemere-Anderson Wetland Protection Act, if a wetland is contiguous to an inland lake or pond, river or stream, or the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) deems the wetland to be essential to the preservation of the natural resources for the public interest, it cannot be drained for agricultural purposes without a permit from the DNR," he said.



Dick Leach, presenting testimony during a Senate hearing on S.B. 522, expressed support for the measure to prohibit local wetland ordinances, and allow for consistent statewide standards instead.

"We don't have a problem with local control and enforcement of wetland regulations, if those regulations are statewide in scope and based on science," he said. "But it's too much to expect people, without technical or scientific backgrounds, to be in charge of developing complex regulations for their local units of government."

Russ Mawby to Fill Reed Vacancy on MSU Board of Trustees



Russ Mawby has accepted an appointment from Gov. John Engler to fill a vacancy on the MSU Board of Trustees, left by the surprise resignation of current trustee chairman Tom Reed. Mawby, president of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan, was awarded Michigan Farm Bureau's Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award in 1981.

"As our organization noted when we presented him with our Distinguished Service to Agriculture award, Russ Mawby has been instrumental in developing leadership programs for the rural community," said MFB President Jack Laurie.

Mawby grew up on a farm in western Michigan and holds degrees in horticulture and agricultural economics from Michigan State and Purdue universities, serving as a faculty member at both institutions. He has also held positions as assistant director of the Cooperative Extension Service, director of the Agriculture Division at W.K. Kellogg Foundation, becoming vice president in 1967 and president in 1970.

Reed, whose resignation will be effective January 1992, cited personal and growing business obligations as general manager of the Michigan Live Stock Exchange in his announcement to resign. Reed had been a strong supporter of agriculture's interests in the land grant system while serving as an

MSU Trustee since 1981, and received overwhelming support and endorsement by MFB's AgriPAC. Laurie said that MSU, as a pioneering land grant university, has a special relationship with the people of rural Michigan as a result of Reed's leadership.

"We feel the land grant philosophy has been understood and supported by the MSU Board of Trustees, as demonstrated by their backing of the Animal Agriculture Initiative and the appointment of an Extension director and dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources who support production agriculture," Laurie said. "We hope that the newly structured Board of Trustees will maintain MSU's commitment to serving the needs of rural Michigan."

Putting the Wraps on Another Busy Christmas Tree Harvest Season!

Employees at the Fischer Tree Farm in Oceana County had a busy Thanksgiving weekend cutting and baling Christmas trees for retail customers. According to Glen Fischer, however, the wholesale portion of their business starts in early November, when semi-loads of the Douglas fir Christmas trees are harvested for shipment to southern Illinois and the Chicago area, although one load does find its way clear to Texas! Wholesale activity accounts for about 50 percent of their annual sales.

Glen estimated that when they're "going full steam" nearly 100 trees an hour are squeezed through the chute to be wrapped with a string and stacked for shipment. Depending on the size, it can take nearly 1,000 of the baled trees for a full semi-load.

Glen said retail sales had been good despite an over-abundance of scotch pine trees. Fischers grow and sell only fir varieties of trees which, along with the recent addition of Christmas wreaths to their product line, has proven very popular with cutomers.



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Private Property Rights — A Fundamental Right

(Excerpted from Dec. 12, 1991 annual address at MFB annual meeting.)

The future is still perilous for the people of the old Soviet Union. We hope and pray that they will be successful in their efforts to obtain full political and economic freedom.

One of their greatest challenges, and perhaps the key to keeping their freedom, is obtaining full private property rights. Up to now, there have been no property rights in the USSR. Everything has been owned by the state. The people had no right to own property, no right to protect, from government confiscation, what they had earned or saved.

Without property rights, there is no political freedom. Property rights give people the ability and power to stand on their own and oppose the power of the state.

Our Founding Fathers understood this. That's why the Constitution includes clauses that are designed to protect commerce and contracts, and why there's a Fifth Amendment that prohibits the government taking your property without due compensation.

It's difficult to believe that now, just as the formerly enslaved Soviet people are emerging out from under the crushing burden of state control, we here in the United States are witnessing ominous signs of subtle and not-so-subtle threats to the private property rights that are the keys to our economic and political freedoms.

Private property rights of farmers are being threatened and eroded by governmental and social influences: from wetland regulations, to overly-stringent controls on pesticide use, to the animal rights movement, to local zoning and land use decisions.

These threats have profound implications for the future prosperity of our industry and for the future quality of the environment in which we all live.

Two conflicting concepts underlie the law of property rights. The first belief is that property owners have a fundamental and natural right to use and develop their property and to gain economic benefit from it, as long as they do not cause direct harm to others.

The other notion is that all land is held in trust for the benefit of the public, otherwise known as the Public Trust Doctrine, and no landowner has the right to develop the land if to do so is not in the "public interest." Under this second approach, extensive government regulation diminishes or eliminates the freedom to use or develop property.

With the advent of extensive environmental regulations in the last two decades, legislatures and the courts have increasingly given up the concept that a property owner has some fundamental rights to use and develop the land as long as there is no harm to others. This change in legislative and regulatory policy has already affected farmers and, if allowed to continue, will seriously erode our ability as farmers to farm efficiently -- or even to remain in business.

We, as farmers, need to stop apologizing for our production practices. We believe in a sound environment, we believe in preserving valuable wetlands, and yes, we even have sympathy for endangered species. But agriculture should not have to indirectly foot the entire bill for these worthy causes through unfair "takings" of our property rights.

Jack Laurie

Jack Laurie, President
Michigan Farm Bureau

In Brief...

Farm Bill Corrections Awaiting Presidential Approval

At press time, the U.S. House and Senate had approved a package of technical corrections to the 1990 farm bill. Farm Bureau supports the legislation and believes that Pres. Bush will sign it soon. The major provisions will:

- Allow farmers to interchange planting of corn and grain sorghum on base acres for those crops.
- Accelerate the payment of deficiency payments to farmers participating in the wheat, barley and oats program so that initial payments will be made in December, rather than in July.
- Eliminate the requirement for dairy producers to comply with a conservation plan in order to receive refunds of assessments collected from them.
- Correct the flaw in the farm bill that prevented USDA from making loans to farmers under the high moisture corn loan program.

According to MFB Commodity Specialist Kevin Kirk, perhaps the most important correction and concern to Michigan farm operators is the high moisture corn loan program. "Without the correction, farmers with high moisture corn were not able to apply for and receive loans on high moisture corn, even though they may have met all the other requirements of the farm program," said Kirk.

Assessments Refunds - Check Production Levels

Dairy farmers have from Jan. 1 to March 15, 1992 to file for a 5 cents per cwt refund at their local ASCS offices if they didn't increase their 1991 production compared to 1990 levels. If a producer's 1991 levels did increase, the assessment can't be refunded.

For those who did increase 1991 production levels, the good news is that you'll have a larger production base to work with in 1992 to recapture refunds of assessments, if your 1992 production doesn't increase. The assessment increases to 11.25 cents in 1992 (a 6.25 cents net gain over the 5 cents paid for 1991 production). USDA will also be tacking on the cost of 1991 assessment refunds to 1992 assessments to offset their costs to the budget.

Two Dairy Drugs Withdrawn

FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine has withdrawn the approval of two nitrofurantoin animal drugs, effective Jan. 31, 1992. They are nitrofurazone and furazolidone. These drugs have been used in an extra-label manner in veterinarian formulated mastitis mixes and intrauterine infusions. After Jan. 31, their presence will be in violation of the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance, and subject to state and/or federal regulatory action. FDA is urging all dairy producers to cease using extra-labeled preparation containing these drugs immediately.

MEMS Health Monitoring System Ready

Thanks to a cooperative industry effort, the health monitoring phase of Michigan's Equine Monitoring System (MEMS) begins in the next few weeks, according to the Michigan Department of Agriculture. MEMS was developed as a result of a concerted group effort of the MFB, Michigan Horse Council, Michigan Veterinary Medical Association, MSU, USDA, Michigan Agriculture Statistics Service, and MDA. Additional support was provided by the various equine associations throughout the state.

The health monitoring phase will identify major disease/health problems and their associated economic effects, and the major management and environmental risk factors that may affect the health performance of horses. Two hundred randomly chosen equine operators will be surveyed by personnel from MDA's Agricultural Statistics Service, with confidentiality of all those surveyed maintained.

Expected benefits of MEMS include: increasing the number of healthy equine species within Michigan; helping equine veterinarians, MDA, and MSU respond effectively to disease conditions; maintaining a serum bank to improve tracking, origin, and spread of disease; allowing research priorities to be based on need; and providing information for all segments of the industry for future planning. The results of phase one, the number of equine, equine operations, and their economic characteristics in the state should be available sometime in December. For additional information, contact Dr. Michael Chaddock, MDA Animal Industry Division Director and State Veterinarian, at (517) 373-1077.

Possible Railroad Sale Under Negotiations

Grain elevators and businesses along a 42 mile stretch of railway between Owosso and Ionia may soon breathe a sigh of relief after the Mid-Michigan Railroad was given permission by the Interstate Commerce Commission to purchase the track last month, according to a Mid-Michigan Railroad spokesman.

Controversy began when the owner of the line, Central Michigan Railroad, filed for abandonment of the rail, which would have eliminated the main source of transportation for grain elevators and small businesses along the line. Mid-Michigan Railroad stepped in shortly after that and tried to purchase the line. "We are currently negotiating a purchase with the Central Michigan Railroad," explained Dale Carlstrom, general manager of the Mid-Michigan Railroad. "We should know the outcome by the end of the year," he added.

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CAPITOL

CORNER



Dairy Legislation

MFB Position

The House and the Senate bills included several Farm Bureau sought objectives.

MFB Contact

Al Almy, Ext. 2040

In mid-November, the leadership of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee dashed any hopes of 1991 dairy legislation by deciding not to send legislation to the House Rules Committee because of insufficient support.

Under terms of the proposal, the milk price support level would have been increased to \$11.10 per hundredweight for 1992-1998, and provided for a voluntary diversion program if CCC purchases were projected to exceed 4.5 billion pounds. Contracts would have required reductions of 5 to 30 percent in output for a 24 to 36 month period. Assessments collected from all milk marketed would have funded the diversion program.

Milk solids levels would have been raised for all milk sold under federal or state marketing orders. USDA would have been required to purchase red meat in 1992 and 1993 to minimize the impact of the diversion program on the livestock markets.

The Senate defeated a similar dairy package in late November by a 47 to 51 margin, representing the end to Senate dairy legislation for some time to come.

Lamb Price Reporting

MFB Position

Farm Bureau supports S.B. 1935. The report would require recommendations to establish a complete information gathering system that reflects the market structure of the U.S. lamb industry.

MFB Contact

Al Almy, Ext. 2040

Senate Bill 1935, sponsored by Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyoming), would require the USDA to submit a report to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees within 90 days, on measures to improve USDA's lamb price and supply reporting services, as well as examination of the following:

- Price reporting of wholesale, retail, box, carcass, pelt, offal, and live lamb sales in the U.S.
- Sheep and lamb inventories including on-feed reports.
- Price and supply relationships between retailers and brokers.
- Viability of voluntary or mandatory reporting of sheep prices.
- Information on the import and export of sheep analyzed by weight, carcass, box breeder stock, and sex.

The bill requires that within 180 days of submission, USDA must develop a price discovery system formula for the lamb market such as carcass equivalent pricing.

Disaster Assistance

MFB Position

Farm Bureau supported the funding for agricultural disaster including damage from fireblight. The bill is awaiting President Bush's signature as of press time.

MFB Contact

Al Almy, Ext. 2040

Congress has approved a supplemental appropriations bill for fiscal year 1992 that authorizes \$1.77 billion for agricultural losses in 1990 and 1991 due to natural disasters. To be eligible, a producer had to have incurred a loss of 35 percent or greater, and allows for a claim in only one of the 1990 or 1991 crop years.

Sen. Don Riegle (D-Mich.) offered an amendment at the request of Michigan Farm Bureau that expanded natural disaster eligibility to include fireblight, which severely damaged Michigan apple orchards in 1991. The bill will also prove helpful to fruit and vegetable producers who were hard hit by freeze damage in 1990 and 91.

Health Insurance Premium Deduction

MFB Position

Farm Bureau supported extension of the health insurance deduction and continues to support a full 100 percent deduction.

MFB Contact

Al Almy, Ext. 2040

The Dec. 31, 1991 deadline for the 25 percent federal tax deduction of health insurance premiums by self-employed persons has been extended to June 31, 1992. The extension was one of many tax extensions included in an omnibus tax bill that is now awaiting presidential approval.

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dan Rostenkowski (D-Illinois) has said this will be the last extension that will be granted for the deduction. Next year is considered do-or-die for the health insurance deduction.

Private Property Rights

MFB Position

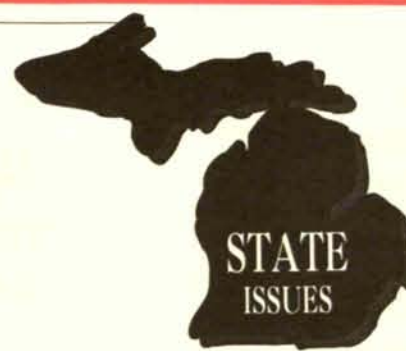
Farm Bureau urged the conference committee to support private property rights by keeping the language in the Highway Reauthorization Act.

MFB Contact

Al Almy, Ext. 2040

During consideration of the Highway Reauthorization Act, members of a House-Senate Conference Committee were required to reconcile Senate approved language to protect private property rights, but wasn't included in the House version.

The language would have required federal agencies to consider the impact of their activities to private property rights and consider alternatives. The conference committee, however, rejected the Senate language, striking another blow against private property rights.



P.A. 116 Farmland Assessments

MFB Contact

Ron Nelson, Ext. 2043

House Bill 5314, as introduced, would require local property tax assessors to assess property enrolled in P.A. 116 using the same factors used to assess agricultural property not enrolled in P.A. 116.

MFB Position: Farm Bureau supports the concept of H.B. 5314 and believes quality assessing based on actual factors is important for all real property, including farmland.

Trucking De-Regulation

MFB Position

Farm Bureau is evaluating the bill to determine its impact to Farm Bureau members.

MFB Contact

Darcy Cypher, Ext. 2048

Senate Bill 325, introduced by Sen. David Honigman (R-West Bloomfield) would de-regulate Michigan's trucking laws in hopes to enhance competition, reduce shipping costs and increase safety.

Under Michigan's present law, the state Public Service Commission oversees "economic" regulation of the trucking industry by controlling costs, routes and loads which are transported within the state. Farmers hauling their own commodities are exempt from the economic regulation.

Supporters of the bill claim that present regulations are forcing truckers to travel several hundred thousand miles empty and that the state is spending millions of dollars to enforce those trucking regulations. They contend that the economic enforcement costs would be better spent on safety enforcement practices.

Opponents of the bill say that de-regulation would limit hauling to remote areas of the state, and that fierce competition would reduce truck maintenance, increase driving hours and result in greater hazards on the road.

DNR Reorganization

MFB Position

Farm Bureau asked Gov. Engler for assurances that public input into the rule making process be maintained in the new system. Farm Bureau has also requested agricultural representation on the new Environmental Code Commission.

MFB Contact

Vicki Pontz, Ext. 2046

Gov. John Engler has announced a plan to reorganize the Department of Natural Resources through a series of Executive Orders. The orders call for the elimination of 19 boards, several commissions and committees, including the Water Resource Commission (WRC) and the Air Pollution Control Commission (APCC). Permit appeals will be handled by the Natural Resources Commission.

The Executive Orders also create a Natural Resources Management and Environmental Code Commission to study and codify Michigan's 200 laws relating to natural resource management and environmental protection. The commission is to recommend new statutory language in the form of a single comprehensive body of law, such as an environmental code.

Automobile Insurance Reform

MFB Position

MFB supports no-fault reforms that will reduce automobile insurance costs and strongly opposes premium rollbacks and rate subsidies for urban drivers.

MFB Contact

Darcy Cypher, Ext. 2048

A House-Senate Conference Committee has not yet reached an agreement on a no-fault reform package, as the Dec. 31 expiration date of Michigan's current no-fault law draws nearer. If the present no-fault provisions are allowed to expire, insurers will be forced to alter policy rates and to increase premiums for many rural drivers to subsidize premiums for urban drivers in high risk areas.

Reforms being considered would

1. Prevent no-fault provisions from expiring on Dec. 31 and avoid urban subsidization.
2. Allow drivers to select medical coverage limits.
3. Limit lawsuits and attorney fees.
4. Control medical costs.
5. Roll back premiums.

Insurer Solvency

MFB Position

Farm Bureau supports continued state regulation of insurance companies and is examining this package of bills to determine their impact on Farm Bureau members.

MFB Contact

Darcy Cypher, Ext. 2048

Three House bills, H.B. 5213, 5214, and 5215, dealing with insurance company financial regulations, have been introduced. The bills are intended to bring Michigan's insurance laws in line with financial standards established by state insurance commissioners. Commissioners hope that enactment of these state standards will deter efforts to federally regulate the insurance industry.

Many of the provisions included in the bills are considered, by some, to be unnecessary and expensive. Michigan's insurance industry is one of the most strictly regulated in the country. In many instances, Michigan's present insurance laws are more stringent than the proposed standards.

Weather

Michigan and Major Commodity Area Extended Weather Outlook

T - Temp.	12/15 ... 12/31	12/15 2/29
P - Precip.	T P	T P
Michigan	B A	A B
W. Corn Belt	B A	A N
E. Corn Belt	N A	A/N B
Wint. Wheat Belt	B A	N A
Spr. Wheat Belt	B A	A B
Pac. NW Wheat	B N	A B
Delta	N A	B N
San Joaquin	B N	N N

A-Above Average, B-Below Average, N-Normal, MA-Much Above, MB-Much Below, NP-No Precip. Source: National Weather Office

Michigan Weather Summary

11/1/91 to 11/30/91	Temperature		Precipitation	
	Observed Mean	Dev. From Normal	Actual (inch.)	Dev. From Norm
Alpena	35.0	-0.5	0.87	-1.70
Detroit	37.8	-1.8	1.39	-1.00
Escanaba	31.8	-3.4	2.30	-0.35
Grand Rapids	36.0	-2.5	4.07	+1.28
Houghton Lake	34.4	-1.1	0.96	-1.41
Lansing	35.8	-2.8	1.25	-1.07
Marquette	28.2	-2.2	1.27	-1.27
Muskegon	37.4	-1.7	2.40	0.47
Saginaw	36.1	-2.0	1.78	-0.56
Sault Ste. Marie	32.5	-0.4	1.40	-1.25
South Bend	37.9	-2.4	1.74	-1.13
Traverse City	36.4	-0.4	1.71	-0.98

90 and 30-Day Forecasts

Cooler and drier than normal weather covered nearly all the state during November, with mean temperatures generally ranging from 0.5 to 2.5 degrees below 30-year normals. Weather during the month was best characterized as highly variable, with the average storm track bringing a series of strong winter-type storms to the west of the state. This pattern brought several spells of much above normal temperatures and rainfall, followed by unseasonable cold and lake-effect snowfall, especially in the favored areas of the western Upper and western Lower Peninsulas.

The latest extended outlooks indicate variable weather will likely continue for much of December through February. According to the Climate Analysis Center, December is likely to average colder and wetter than normal, with an active storm track from the southwestern U.S. bringing frequent rounds of winter weather.

In contrast, the new 90-day outlook for December-February indicates almost the opposite, with warmer and drier than normal weather expected as an average over the entire period. This year's mild winter outlook is due largely to an abnormal warming of the Pacific ocean surface near the equator, commonly referred to as El Nino.

El Nino events are correlated with changes in seasonal weather in many low latitude areas of the world, including a wetter and cooler than normal winter in the Gulf Coast region of the U.S., which is also part of the current 90-day outlook. During the last El Nino event in 1987, winter temperatures across Michigan averaged 4-8 degrees F above normal and precipitation was only 50-75 percent of normal.

Jeff Andresen, Ag Meteorologist, MSU

Michigan's Potato Crop Down

Michigan's 1991 fall potato crop is forecast to produce 8.8 million hundred-weight (cwt.), a 4 percent decrease from last season. Harvested acreage at 34,000 increased 1,000 acres from 1990 levels. Yields averaged 260 cwt. per acre, down 20 percent from last season, according to Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service.

A wet spring followed by a hot dry summer, resulted in lower yields in non-irrigated fields. The top four potato varieties in Michigan and respective percentages of acreage planted include: Russet Burbank with 16.1 percent, Onoway with 12.9 percent, Ontario with 12.5 percent and Atlantic with 11.8 percent.

Nationally, fall production is forecast at 371 million cwt., up 5 percent from last year and 14 percent over 1989 figures. Harvest is expected from 1.17 million acres this year, up 1 percent from last year. The average yield is forecast at 316 cwt. per acre, up 14 cwt. from last year's average. Acreage, yield, and production are each the highest recorded since the fall season records began in 1949.

Dry Bean Growers To Consider Assessment Increase

During the first two weeks of March 1992, Michigan dry bean growers will be asked for their approval to increase the Michigan Bean Commission's dry bean assessment from \$.05 to \$.10 per hundredweight on beans sold by growers, an estimated investment of \$1.75 per acre. The increase, if approved, will begin with the 1992 crop.

For this proposal to pass, over 50 percent of the growers voting, or growers representing more than 50 percent of the total hundred-weight sold, must vote in the affirmative.

The commission intends to use the increased revenue to fund more aggressive international and domestic promotion of Michigan grown dry beans, according to a commission statement. Emphasis will be placed on the Russian, Eastern Europe and North African markets, along with efforts to increase the use of Michigan grown dry beans by agencies involved in famine relief efforts around the world.

For more information regarding the assessment proposal, contact the commission office at (517) 589-5540.



High Productivity Tillage Tools for Farm Bureau Members

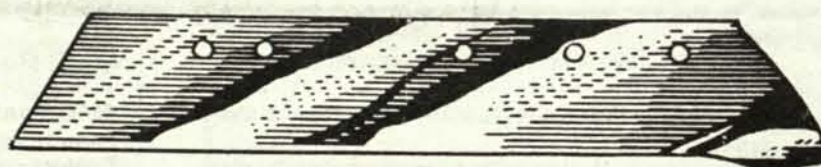


These Winter Sale Prices

20% Off
From Regular Prices



Twisted Slash Point Starting at \$7.32



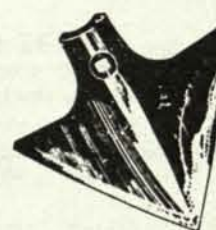
IHC	Rock Share	
JD	LWI164	\$8.75
	LWD164	\$8.75



Twisted Spike Starting at \$5.04

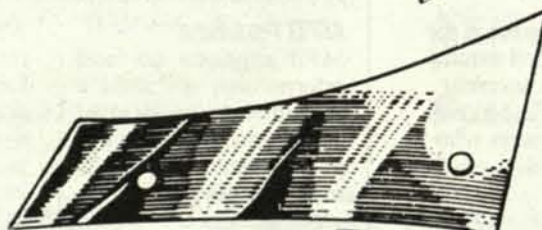
Sweeps

WCC4B7	\$2.64
WCC6B7	\$2.86
WCC9B7	\$2.96



Sweeps

WK1	\$.81
WK44	\$1.44
WK4	\$1.20
WK47	\$1.82
WK7	\$1.47

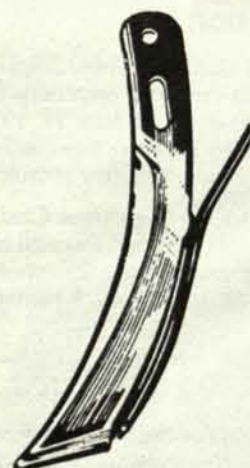


Shin

IHC	WI-25	\$68.36
JD	WD-6	\$6.68
White	WO-9	\$6.31

Anhydrous Knife

A50UV	\$ 9.54
A50UVX	\$10.80



Notched Disc Blade

26" x 5/16"	\$49.70 (Miller)
24" x 1/4"	\$33.50 (Miller)



Plain Disc Blade

22" x 1/4"	\$26.13
22" x 7 ga.	\$18.36
20" x 3/16"	\$16.78
20" x 7 ga.	\$15.33
18" x 7 ga.	\$13.18



1991-92 Winter Steel Sale

December 2 — January 4

Contact Your County Farm Bureau or 1-800-292-2680, ext. 2015

Complying with the New Milk & Dairy Beef Quality Assurance Program

In just the first eight months in 1990, stories on the presence of animal drug residues in milk reached 19 million readers. Of the stories written, 70 percent negatively characterized the milk monitoring system. The possible health implications of animal drug residues on consumers was the issue raised most frequently in the coverage.

In 1989, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) formed an AVMA/NMPF Joint Liaison Committee. Representatives from three private sectors of the dairy industry — producers, processors, and veterinarians were chosen. They were charged to develop a program to reduce illegal levels of drug residues in milk and dairy beef by educating the responsible parties on management practices related to the proper use of drugs.

At the 1991 National Conference of Interstate Milk Shippers (NCIMS), delegates received a draft copy of the producer manual titled, the "Milk and Dairy Beef Quality Assurance Program." Delegates approved the program which requires producers shipping milk with an illegal drug residue to participate in the program before their Grade A permit is restored.

The NCIMS board set an implementation date of July 1, 1992, to allow ample opportunity for the program to be implemented on a voluntary basis before the regulatory aspect becomes effective.

USDA Announces USSR \$1.25 Billion Commodity Credit Breakdown

USDA has announced details of \$600 million in new farm credits immediately available to the USSR as well as the specifics of an additional \$650 million in credits to be made available beginning next February, reports *Knight Ridder News*.

USDA announced last month that it would guarantee the total \$1.25 billion to help the rapidly disintegrating Soviet Union, which is in danger of severe food shortages throughout the winter.

Of the \$600 million in fiscal 1992 GSM-102 credits made immediately available; USDA said \$275 million will be allocated for wheat; \$138 million for feed grains, including corn, barley, sorghum and oats; \$67.5 million for protein meals; \$22.5 million for soybeans; and \$22.5 million for vegetable oils.

In addition, USDA said \$70 million of the credit package was earmarked to cover freight charges; \$2.25 million for almonds and \$2.25 million for hops.

F. Paul Dickerson, general sales manager for USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, said the department had intended to make only \$500 million in credits immediately available. But after consulting with Soviet officials, USDA decided to make \$600 million available now "to satisfy immediate needs in the Soviet Union," USDA said.

Of the remaining \$650 million in credits, USDA said \$220 million will be allocated for wheat; \$200 million for feed grains; \$101.5 million for protein meals; \$45.5 million for soybeans; \$22.5 million for vegoils; and \$55 million to cover freight charges. In addition, \$2.75 million is allocated for almonds and \$2.75 million for hops.

Dickerson said \$200 million of the remaining \$650 million dollars in credits will be made available on Feb. 1; \$200 million on Mar. 1; and the last \$250 million on Apr. 1.

USDA said its Commodity Credit Corp. will guarantee 100 percent of the principal of the \$600 million in credits allocated. USDA will also provide interest coverage equal to the coupon equivalent yield of the 52-week U.S. Treasury bill auction average, the department said.

Critical Control Points

The program includes 10 areas (critical control points) in the dairy production process where drug residue problems would most likely occur, including:

- Practice healthy herd management.
- Establish a valid veterinarian/client/patient relationship.
- Use only FDA-approved over-the-counter or prescription drugs with veterinarian's guidance.
- Make sure all drugs you use have labels that comply with state and/or federal labeling requirements.
- Store all drugs correctly.
- Administer all drugs properly and identify all treated animals.
- Maintain and use proper treatment records on all treated animals.
- Use drug residue screening tests.

- Implement employee/family awareness of proper drug use to avoid marketing adulterated products.

There are a number of common areas on the dairy farm which cause drugs to end up in the milk supply. Several of the more repeated areas are:

- Failure to follow withholding time.
- Treated cow not properly identified.
- Fail to use separate equipment for milking treated cows.
- Use part-time employees more frequently.
- One quarter treated, milk from other quarters used.
- Exceeding recommended dosage.
- Feeding medicated feeds to cows.
- Failure to test milk of newly acquired cows.

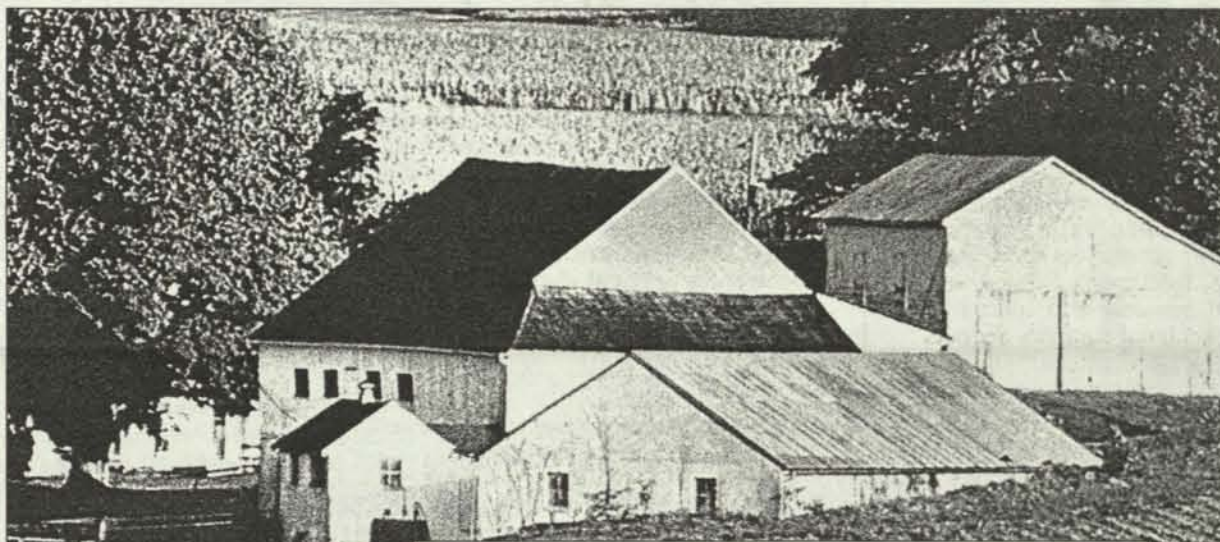
Survey—Causes of Drug Residues

Failure to observe proper withholding time	61
Use of unapproved drugs	10
Feeding contaminated feed	9
Lack of records	6
Exceeding label dose	6
Other	8

Source: Nationwide Drug Data from Check Ratings Period Oct. 1, 1990 to Sept. 6, 1991

- Failure to inform employees of treated cows.
- Failure to test cows after proper withholding period.

During the next several months, dairy producers will be learning more about the Milk and Dairy Beef Quality Assurance Program. Meetings will be scheduled to review this program before the implementation date of July 2, 1992.



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6

Market Outlook

Corn

Late on Dec. 2, the USDA announced the allocation by commodity of the \$1.25 billion credit package to the Soviet Union which had been announced two weeks earlier after weeks of delay and was smaller than originally asked for. After all the anticipation, the announcement was not particularly positive for the corn market. Of the nearly \$600 million to be allocated immediately, \$138 million will be for feed grains, less than expected and much less than the \$275 million allocated for wheat. The feed grain allocation out of the \$650 million of credit to be released in the Feb-April period will be again less than expected and less than the \$220 million for wheat. One should note that the Soviets could ask for a change in allocations if the relative prices between commodities really gets out of line.

The corn market had already been in a poor mood as the November crop report projected U.S. corn production was marginally larger than the October report had suggested. On top of this, the USDA had lowered their estimate of 1991-92 corn exports by 75 million bushels in the November Supply/Demand Report. Together these items led to an increase in the projected 91-92 corn ending stocks.

Yet, despite these negatives, I still feel the corn market will increase by at least the cost of on-farm storage sometime over the winter-spring period. The reason for my optimism is threefold, all tied to the potentially tighter ending stocks. One, I expect exports to be a little higher than the USDA projection given the low relative price of corn. Two, feed use is likely to increase, relative to present projections, with less

Dr. Jim Hilker, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University

Seasonal Commodity Price Trends (long term)

Wheat	↑ ?
Corn	↑
Soybeans	↑ ?
Hogs	↓
Cattle	↑ ?

Index: ↑ = Higher Prices; ↓ = Lower Prices; TP = Topping; BT = Bottoming; ? = Unsure

higher priced wheat being fed next summer and large increases in livestock numbers. And three, ending stock projections are still tight enough that a weather scare could significantly move the market next spring.

The difference now is that you may need to be ready to pull the pricing trigger on some of your stored corn a little quicker on rallies as the upside potential may not be as high as previously thought. **For those storing commercially, and convinced they want to stay in the market, consider basis contracts, selling cash and buying calls, or minimum price contracts versus storage. Neither the fundamentals nor the basis indicates commercial storage will pay.**

Soybeans

The allocation for soybeans, meals, and oils out of the Soviet credit package was even more below expectations than corn. Twenty-two million dollars was allocated for soybeans in this first round and \$45.5 million in the February-April period. Allocations were made for meals and vegoils, but not enough to make up for the disappointing soybean amount.

The November USDA Production and Supply/Demand Reports basically neutralized each other out. Projected 1991 soybean production was increased 28 million bushels, but expected exports and crushing were increased 35 million bushels leaving projected 1991-92 ending stocks nearly the same. Exports are fairly strong and it is important that they remain strong through

Wheat

Wheat was the big winner in the allocations of the Soviet credit package. As stated earlier, wheat received \$275 million of the \$600 million immediately available and \$220 million from the \$650 million to be spread out from Feb. 1 to April 1. The wheat market has reacted positively as expected.

USDA's November Supply/Demand Report for wheat shows a projected 1991-92 wheat ending stocks of only 514 million bushels. The credit allocation means the USDA may need to increase their projected wheat exports by 25-100 million bushels.

Cattle

It now seems that we won't be getting as strong a recovery in the cattle market as expected given the low placements this summer and fall. Carcass weights have been running over 5 percent higher than a year ago, when they were near or at record levels. Combine that with weak demand due to the economy and competition from other meats and it does not lead to a pretty price picture. The reduction in placements seems to have come from the calves versus yearlings which doesn't help either. If about as many yearlings were placed over this period as the previous year, we would not see a large drop-off in slaughter.

the winter; come spring, we will have competition again from South America.

Be ready to price portions of your remaining soybeans on rallies this winter. While projected ending stocks are not real burdensome, they are adequate. I believe the soybean market will increase enough to pay on-farm storage by sometime this spring, but I am not sure it's the best pricing alternative. **With the narrow basis we see now, it's unlikely the basis will tighten enough to pay storage. Pencil out the returns for your on-farm storage versus a basis contract. For those using commercial storage the choice is clear. If you want to stay in the market on some of your production, consider a basis contract or perhaps a minimum price contract.**

Look for the Dec. 11 USDA Supply/Demand Report for more information. U.S. wheat stocks much under 500 million bushels is considered tight, however, Canada and the EC are projected to carry a heavier percentage of stocks than normal.

Consider spreading out remaining old crop sales over this rally. Remember, the 1992 wheat set-aside drops from 15 percent to 5 percent indicating a considerable larger crop next year. Keep a close eye on forward pricing opportunities for new crop wheat over the winter.

About the only advice is for feedlots to keep current. Prices may gradually climb into the \$71-74/cwt. range over the winter, but without some help on the demand side, it may be tough to get any higher. **This isn't advice that will sound good to the stockers and cow-calf producers, but feedlots better remember that we're on the downside of the cattle price cycle and they better budget through carefully what they are willing to pay for feeders. We are unlikely to be pulled out of trouble by higher than expected prices at slaughter time on the downside of a cycle like we were on the way up.**

Farm Credit Entities Merge

In a special stockholders meeting held in November, the Federal Land Bank organizations in North-Central Michigan and Mid-Michigan voted to merge the two organizations to become a Federal Land Credit Association (FCLA) Jan. 1, 1992.

The new organization will be known as "Michigan's Heartland" and will be one of the largest FCLAs in the Seventh Farm Credit District. The new organization will serve 40 Michigan counties covering the central and entire northern portion of Michigan's lower peninsula.

According to Shiawassee County dairy farmer Gerald Cole, chairman of the Mid-Michigan FCLA Board of Directors, "The combining of operating costs and risks of two organizations into one should result in lower interest rates for our membership."

The new organization will have offices in Traverse City, Cadillac, Alpena, Mt. Pleasant, Hemlock, Bay City, Lakeview, Alma, Ionia, St. Johns, Corunna, Charlotte, Mason, and Howell. The headquarters of the organization will be in Lansing.

Abolish the USDA Milk Marketing Order System?

USDA Secretary Edward Madigan is asking for public comment on whether the federal milk marketing order system should be abolished, according to a recent USDA statement. "Concerns have increased about the cost, efficiency and rationale of milk marketing orders," Madigan said. USDA is also proposing making a pricing system standard for all federal milk marketing orders nationwide to make the program more consistent.

Madigan said there have also been concerns if there is a better way to ensure consumers get a dependable supply of milk other than the marketing order system, administered by the USDA. Madigan said comments should be sent to USDA by March 2, 1992.

Changes recommended previously had dealt with uniformity of classes of milk in all orders, treatment of intermarket shipments of concentrated and non-fat dried milk between markets to be reconstituted for Class I use, and a change in pricing of Class I milk to the basis in the originating market rather than in the market where it is reconstituted.

Agricultural Perspective on Free Trade a Mixed Bag

A study released by the American Farm Bureau Research Foundation indicates that much, but not all, of U.S. agriculture would benefit from the establishment of a free trade zone between Mexico, the U.S., and Canada. The study's findings point to increased U.S. exports to Mexico under a North American free trade agreement (NAFTA) in areas such as dairy products, grains, and oilseeds, fed cattle and hogs, seasonal fresh vegetables, and fruits, such as apples and pears. Removal of trade barriers and an expected boost in income growth from Mexican citizens are expected to boost Mexican imports of U.S. farm products.

"This study provides some insights into the pluses and minuses for agriculture in a free trade agreement," said Ken Nye, director of Commodity Activities and Research for MFB. "Farmers in Michigan would probably benefit from increased exports to Mexico of products like dry beans, dairy products, and grains. On the other hand, our asparagus producers would likely face increased competition from Mexico." Nye said Farm Bureau supports the NAFTA negotiations. "Whether or not we will support a North American free trade agreement rests on the outcome of those talks," he said.

Hogs

Hogs, hogs, and more hogs. That is what we have been seeing and are likely to continue seeing relative to last year for some time to come. While we do expect to pull back into the \$41-46 range this winter due to the seasonal nature of things, we will not see the strong prices of the past couple years for the next 1.5-2 years.

At this point, keep current and watch for rallies for forward pricing. We are likely to see prices back in \$30's both next April and next fall, with prices not getting out of the mid-\$40's either this winter or next summer. This should be some guideline in determining reasonable forward pricing opportunities.

Table Egg Market

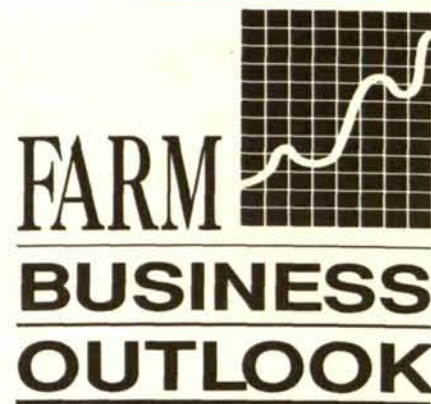
By Allan Rahn, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University

The number of table egg type layers in November was up 1.4 percent from last year and table egg production was up .7 percent. Egg prices in the latter part of November rallied into the low 80 cent per dozen range, but were still around 5 cents per dozen below 1990 levels. The cost of feed ingredients are running above a year ago with the increased corn and soybean meal prices alone pushing egg production costs up 1 to 2 cents per dozen over last year.

Egg prices (Grade A, white, cartoned, to volume buyers in New York) are expected to strengthen further into December, but are likely to weaken as we go into 1992.

Prices in the first quarter of 1992 are projected to average in the mid 70 cent range, 10 to 12 cents per dozen below the same period this year. Prices in the second and third quarters of 1992 are also expected to be below the same periods this year.

Production moderation in the near future is also unlikely. The egg type chick hatch in September and October was up 9 percent and 6 percent, respectively, while the number of layer type eggs in incubators on the first of November was up 7 percent from last year. A minor strengthening of demand may develop from the Lenten season being later in 1992 than 1991. Easter 1991 was on March 21, but will be on April 19 in 1992.



Changes Approved in P.A. 116 Subchapter S-Corporation Refunds

Farm operations organized as a subchapter S-corporation, with a P.A. 116 agreement prior to Jan. 1, 1989, now have an opportunity to file an amendment to their income tax returns. Those operations can now file under the Single Business Tax Act on form C-8022, or the individual shareholders may file under the Income Act on Form MI-1040CR-5.

According to MFB Legislative Counsel Ron Nelson, the change will likely impact a small percentage of P.A. 116 agreements, since it applies strictly to S-corporations. "If the S-corporation can work with their accountant or an attorney to file an amendment, the financial payoff could be significant. However, once a choice is made, the option cannot be reversed in future years," he cautioned.

Any S-corporation that entered into a P.A. 116 contract before Jan. 1, 1989, may claim the credit on their single business tax return, or the corporation's shareholders may claim the credit on their individual income tax returns for years beginning after 1987.

If the S-corporation opts to claim the P.A. 116 tax credit, the individual shareholder cannot also claim the credit in future years. To claim credits from 1988 through 1990 tax years, S-corporations should claim the credit by amending their single business tax return and filing form C-8022.

Likewise, if the shareholders elect to claim the credits, then the S-corporation is prohibited from claiming the credits. If shareholders claimed a credit on their income tax returns, the S-corporation will not receive the credit until shareholders who claimed the credit file an amended income tax return. The tax due by the shareholders will be deducted from the credit claimed by the S-corporation in those cases.

For more information, members are encouraged to contact the Michigan Department of Treasury and speak with Floyd A. Schmitzer, Manager, Operations Section, Individual Taxes Division at (517) 373-2916.

New Product Profile

CIBA-GEIGY's New "Bulk" Packaging for Soybeans

Ciba-Geigy Seed Division introduces Value Pak -- an innovative bulk packaging system for its premium Funk's G brand soybeans. The new "pak" features high performance, easy-handling, value-priced seed.

Value Pak contains 54 bags of one premium soybean variety, enough to plant approximately 54 acres, shrink wrapped on an easy-to-handle pallet. All Ciba-Geigy Seed Division soybean varieties are available in the new Value Pak.

According to Barry Osborne, soybean and alfalfa product manager for Ciba-Geigy Seed Division, the new bulk package fits the needs of both small and large-acre growers. "Growers can order one Value Pak of a single variety or several pallets of several varieties," he said.

He adds that Value Pak is a result of Ciba-Geigy Seed Division's commitment to its customers. "Our packaging is designed with the grower in mind," he explained. "Value Pak gives soybean growers the value and convenience they want in their current soybean program."



Continued Malathion Use on Stored Grains in Jeopardy

The National Food Processors Association and the Miller's National Federation are moving as quickly as possible towards a goal of malathion-free grain.

Malathion, a mild organophosphate and classic neurotoxin, is relatively inexpensive and widely used to prevent insect damage on stored grains. Unfortunately, malathion has several strikes against it including:

- Despite residue data which indicates only a small percentage of residues are actually over the Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI), EPA's theoretical calculations indicate that malathion residues are at 500 percent ADI.
- Malathion is frequently found in grain moving between states.
- Media coverage of an upcoming National Academy of Sciences report on pesticide residues in the diets of children and infants will likely stir up public concern about neurotoxins such as malathion.
- Internationally, several countries such as Japan are aggressively opposing the postharvest use of chemicals on commodities exported from the U.S.

There are two possible substitutes for malathion, Reldan and Actellic. Both are more effective than malathion, but are also more expensive. Both chemicals are organophosphates and are similar to malathion in their mode of action.

For more information on substitutes and on integrated pest management programs for stored grains, producers should contact their local CES office.



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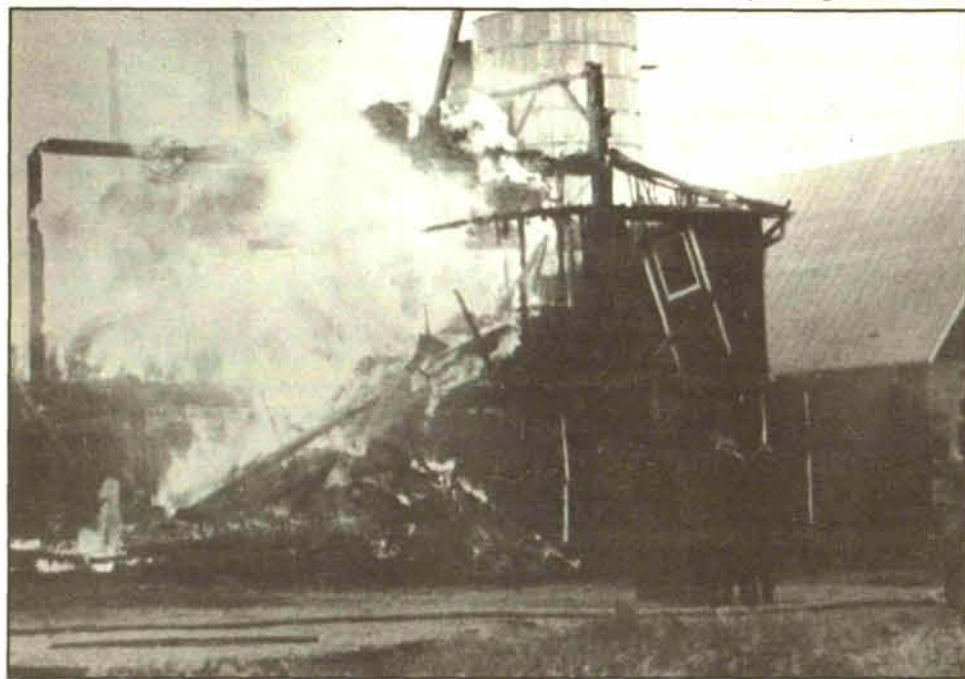
For your nearest Farm Bureau office call 1(800) 292-2680 extension 3237

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8 Do You Practice Electrical Safety On Your Farm?

The use of electrical energy presents unique safety problems to agriculture today. The average farm uses far more electrical equipment than ever before that's far more complex than what was available only a few short years ago.



What follows is a collection of common sense ideas for electrical equipment safety in a changing agricultural environment.

Service Entrance Inspections

The logical place to begin is the farm service entrance, where electrical energy is delivered to the farm from the utility company. Your service entrance should be inspected yearly by your electrician, who should:

- Inspect and redo all splices. Check all connections for tightness and corrosion.
- Check grounding connections and rod.
- Check total load on the panel for overloaded circuits. Balance 120-volt loads.
- Replace and secure all covers.
- Inspect main conductors for insulation deterioration.
- Inspect for moisture in the panel and redo conduit sealant if necessary.

Service Entrance Installations

When planning a new or replacement service entrance, keep these points in mind:

- The service entrance should be as close as possible to your farm's electrical center, or place of largest usage.
- It should be large enough to serve your increasing electrical needs for the foreseeable future.
- Choose three-phase power if you have a number of motors and if it is available. It can cost more to use, but can also pay for itself in decreased motor maintenance and replacement costs.
- Make sure the panel enclosure matches the environment. Avoid service panels inside animal confinement buildings.

A carefully installed and well-maintained service entrance is the first step to safe use of electricity on the farm. And if you follow the rules above, you may also avoid stray voltage exposure in animal areas.

Transfer Switches

As more farms rely more heavily on electrical equipment, many farm operators install standby generators to power vital equipment during power outages. Any such generator absolutely must be installed with an appropriate transfer switch or other approved means to ensure that the generator can never energize the utility electrical dis-



From Farm Bureau Insurance

tribution system accidentally. Double-male extension cords are dangerous and are never appropriate for connecting generators. Installing a generator is not inexpensive, and it is not a do-it-yourself project.

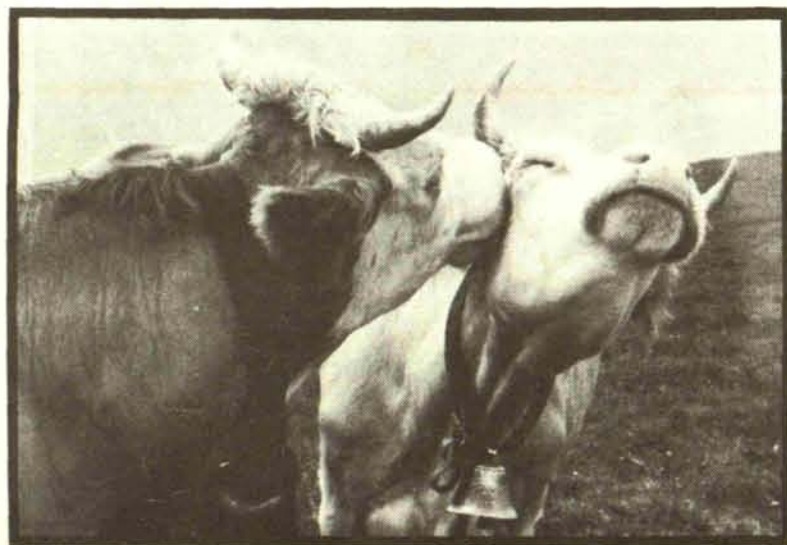
Wiring

The next concerns are the feeders and branch circuits that carry electricity from the service entrance to the electrical equipment around your farm. Here are things to look for in new and existing wiring:

- Check for insulation deterioration. Old, cloth-covered cables are unsafe and should be replaced.
- Inspect cable staples. If the cable cannot be moved under the staple, it is too tight.
- All wiring in farm buildings other than the residence should be exposed on the inside surfaces so that deterioration or damage is immediately visible. PVC conduit and type UF cable are preferred wiring systems for agricultural buildings.
- Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) must be installed in bathrooms and in certain parts of the kitchen, basement, and garage. GFCIs are also required for outdoor receptacles and near swimming pools or hot tubs. These inexpensive devices are lifesavers.
- Never use three-to-two adapters to insert a three-prong (grounded) plug into a two-prong (ungrounded) receptacle. Have the receptacle rewired with a grounding conductor properly installed. Never cut the round grounding prong off a three-prong plug.
- Replace receptacles that do not firmly grip the prongs of plugs. A recent study by the Consumer Product Safety Commission suggests that loose connections at plugs and on the terminals of electrical devices account for as many as half of all reported electrical fires.

More Electrical Tips Next Time!

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Adams Re-elected Vice President of 4-H Board

Faye A. Adam of Snover was re-elected 1991-92 vice president of the Michigan 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees at the Foundation's annual meeting at Michigan State University.

The Michigan 4-H Foundation, a non-profit public foundation, supports statewide 4-H programming through Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Youth Programs in Michigan's 83 counties. The foundation, headquartered in East Lansing, uses funds solicited from individuals and organizations to support youth development initiatives and to train Michigan's 33,000 adult and teen volunteer leaders.

Adam, a foundation trustee since 1988, was first elected vice president of the board in 1990. She's a partner in Pleasant View Farms in Snover, and has been an active 4-H leader in her community for years. Adams also serves as a director on the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

The foundation board of trustees consists of 24 elected members and three non-



elected members. The board has the corporate powers and responsibilities to oversee the activities of the foundation staff members. Board members work on committees developed to facilitate foundation operations.

USDA's 1992 Agricultural Outlook – Good News & Bad News

Editors Note: The United States Department of Agriculture held its 68th annual Agricultural Outlook Conference Dec. 3-5. The conference features department officials and agricultural industry experts, who provide forecasts on production, international trade and prices for various commodities. The information presented here is a brief summation of several reports furnished by *Knight Ridder Financial News*.

1992 U.S. Food Prices Up 2-4 Percent

U.S. retail food prices are forecast to rise 2-4 percent in 1992 compared with an increase of slightly above 3 percent this year, according to James Donald, chairman of the World Agricultural Outlook Board. He estimates the increase in food prices this year would be well below the rise of 5.8 percent in 1990. It would also be less than the gain of about 4 percent expected in the overall Consumer Price Index for 1991.

He said the easing in food prices this year reflected increased meat supplies and a slowing of overall inflation. In 1992, larger supplies of food, particularly meat, will dampen food price increases, he said.

1992 Farm Exports Up 4 Percent

U.S. farm exports are forecast at \$39 billion in fiscal 1992 (Oct.-Sept.), up 4 percent from fiscal 1991, according to James Donald, chairman of the World Agricultural Outlook Board. He said higher grain prices and increased volume of wheat and oilseed exports will contribute to the increase, along with exports of high-value products, including horticulture and poultry, which will push U.S. sales higher.

Agricultural imports are expected to ease in fiscal 1992, reflecting lower volume and prices for livestock and products and for some tropical products, including sugar, he said.

Donald gave no specific forecast of prices or amounts for those various commodities. But he said large exports and smaller imports will result in a trade surplus of around \$17 billion for fiscal 1992, up 14 percent from a year earlier.

92 Farm Income at \$52-\$57 Billion

U.S. net cash farm income is forecast at \$52-\$57 billion in fiscal year 1992 (Oct. - Sept.), down from \$58 billion in 1991, and well below the record \$62 billion in 1990, according to James Donald, Chairman of the agricultural Outlook Board.

Donald cited lower livestock revenues, particularly for dairy, as primary causes for the decrease. He also predicts expenses will be higher due to more planted acreage, and rising energy, fertilizer and pesticide costs.

1992 Wheat Acreage to Increase

U.S. wheat output could hit nearly 2.4 billion bushels in 1992, up from 1.98 billion in 1991, if yields return to normal averages of 37-38 bushels per acre, according to Craig Jagger, wheat program specialist with ASCS.

USDA has set the 1992 acreage reduction program at 5 percent down from 15 percent for the 1991 crop, which Jagger said should increase wheat plantings by nearly 6 million acres. Farmers planted 69.9 million acres of wheat in 1991, harvesting 57.7 million acres with a 34.3 bushel average.

Corn to Reach 8.5 Billion Bushels

Corn production could rise to 8.5 billion bushels in 1992, up from 7.48 billion in 1991, resulting in lower prices and increased demand, according to USDA Ag Economist Thomas Tice. He predicts corn yields will average 120 bushels per acre based on a 31-year trend.

Farmers will be required to idle only 5 percent of their corn acres in 1992, instead of the 7.5 percent required this year, pushing corn acreage to 79 million acres, or 3 million more acres than in 1991, said Tice. He concluded that if the weather and yields

hold, ending stocks could increase by as much as 800 million bushels by the end of 1992.

Soybeans Acres/Price to Decline

Low soybean prices will continue to discourage an expansion of soybean acres in 1992, according to Lockwood Marine, vice chairman of the National Oilseed Processors Association. He said weak prices – relative to other crops – next spring will likely result in a decline from this year's 59.8 million acres, although he would not predict by how much.

Marine was also skeptical of USDA's forecast of 1.05 million pounds of soyoil exports in 1992. He added that unless the USDA is willing to aggressively use the export enhancement program, "the U.S. has little chance of achieving that goal."

Large soyoil stocks are also depressing prices and profits for processors. According to Marine, if that trend continues, processors are likely to reduce their soybean crush, resulting in higher soymeal prices for livestock producers.

Marine said the loss in U.S. soybean acreage has been captured by the European Community and South America. He predicts that over the next 10 years, Brazil and Argentina could expand output by 10 to 15 million metric tons.

Red Meat Consumption Up in 1992

Red meat consumption in 1992 is expected to increase nearly four pounds per person, while the calf crop will see the strongest expansion since 1980, according to USDA analyst John Ginzel. He said the four pound per capita increase in red meat will push overall consumption per person up to 216 pounds.

Cattle to See Continued Expansion

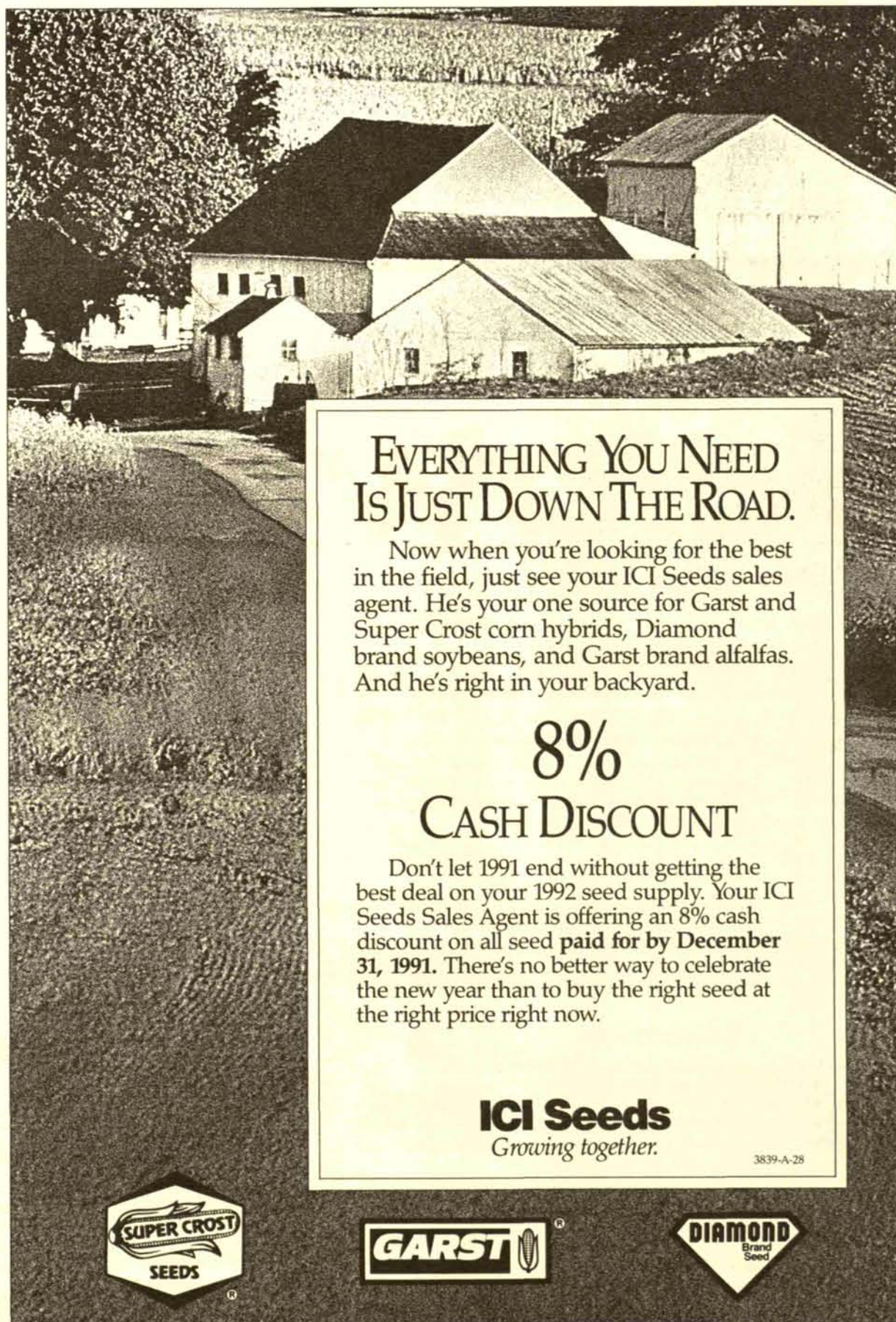
Ginzel predicted that favorable cash return for cow-calf operators would spur the beef cow expansion. The 1992 calf crop is expected to expand more than 2 percent to around 41.1 million head. He also expects that 1992 will be the first year since 1986 that year-to-year commercial slaughter will increase, possibly by as much as 2 percent from 1991 levels.

Fed cattle will see the greatest expansion in 1992, estimates Ginzel, representing 79 percent of the slaughter mix, up from 78 percent this year. Overall beef production is projected to increase approximately 1 percent in 1992.

Hogs to See Record Output

Ginzel predicts that the number of hog producers will continue its downward trend, but still anticipates record pork output from those remaining in business. Pork production is forecast at 17.2 billion pounds carcass weight, surpassing the previous record of 16.4 billion pounds in 1980, and up 8 percent from 1991. Ginzel is predicting the greatest year-to-year increases will occur during the spring and summer quarters.

Pork imports are projected to increase to about 865 million pounds carcass weight, up 3 percent from 1991. Pork import activity from Canada is expected to grow, while shipments from Denmark and Poland will hold steady, unless pork prices increase or the dollar weakens.



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10

Car/Deer Accidents Continue to Take Their Toll on Michigan Drivers

Michigan Farm Bureau members can get deer warning devices at considerable savings from Farm Bureau Insurance, to protect against the hazards of car-deer incidents on Michigan roads. Nearly 46,000 car-deer related accidents took place in Michigan during the 12 months ending June 1991, killing one person and injuring 1,957 people.

The device, activated by on-rushing air, emits an ultrasonic tone, inaudible to humans, that startles deer and usually stops

BST Receives Pediatrician Support

The American Academy of Pediatrics in their *PEDIATRICS* journal declared, "Milk from cows treated with Recombinant BST or rBST is safe for infants and adults." The article's author, Norman Kretchmer, M.D., Ph.D. Department of Nutritional Sciences, University of California, Berkeley, concluded in the closing paragraph:

- "Genetically engineered rBST is the same as natural BST..."
- "Milk derived from cows treated with rBST is safe for the human infant and adult and is nutritionally similar to ordinary milk."
- "Meat derived from cows treated with rBST is safe."

The FDA is expected to decide on the commercial availability of rBST sometime this winter. The American Academy of Pediatrics joins the federal government, National Institute of Health, Congress' Office of Technology Assessment and the Journals of the American Medical Association, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science in confirming the safety of milk from BST-treated cows.

them in their tracks before they cross roads. The deer alert device is available from Farm Bureau Insurance agents and county Farm Bureau offices across the state.

More than two-thirds of car-deer accidents occur at night, so police advise motorists to be especially careful after dark. Michigan State Police also advise:

- If you see more than one deer, watch for more. They often travel as a group.
- If a deer runs in front of your car, don't swerve to miss it. You could lose control of your car, creating a more dangerous situation than hitting the deer, such as hitting a tree.
- Don't go near a deer after you hit it. A stunned deer can suddenly leap up and inflict serious injury.
- Report the accident to police immediately.
- Remember that even though half of all car-deer accidents occur in the fall, deer are a year around danger.

1990 Car/Deer Accidents

	Total Accidents	Persons Injured
Alcona	619	12
Alger	152	6
Allegan	733	32
Alpena	78	11
Antrim	394	18
Arenac	489	16
Baraga	191	6
Barry	841	35
Bay	296	15
Benzie	240	9

	Total Accidents	Persons Injured	Total Accidents	Persons Injured	
Berrien	593	38	Mackinac	354	4
Branch	691	22	Macomb	441	31
Calhoun	1,368	52	Manistee	283	11
Cass	659	25	Marquette	521	24
Charlevoix	527	14	Mason	439	21
Cheboygan	315	10	Mecosta	865	24
Chippewa	290	7	Menominee	883	33
Clare	665	24	Midland	758	33
Clinton	652	31	Missaukee	303	7
Crawford	301	12	Monroe	249	17
Delta	698	23	Montcalm	1,268	58
Dickinson	586	13	Montmorency	213	11
Eaton	801	41	Muskegon	576	18
Emmet	382	21	Newaygo	648	33
Genesee	756	34	Oakland	945	54
Gladwin	482	25	Oceana	419	15
Gogebic	135	11	Ogemaw	689	23
Gr. Traverse	335	13	Ontonagon	262	10
Gratiot	419	26	Osceola	643	21
Hillsdale	612	25	Oscoda	306	8
Houghton	142	6	Otsego	273	13
Huron	739	29	Ottawa	732	29
Ingham	822	35	Presque Isle	401	15
Ionia	851	36	Roscommon	445	10
Iosco	607	13	Saginaw	646	30
Iron	469	16	St. Clair	624	36
Isabella	722	28	St. Joseph	612	42
Jackson	1,228	64	Sanilac	740	37
Kalamazoo	925	40	Schoolcraft	182	13
Kalkaska	246	6	Shiawassee	636	33
Kent	1,613	68	Tuscola	657	40
Keweenaw	8	0	Van Buren	562	22
Lake	291	14	Washtenaw	952	42
Lapeer	744	39	Wayne	223	20
Leelanau	236	5	Wexford	339	14
Lenawee	564	32	TOTALS	45,945	1,957
Livingston	959	45			
Luce	90	2			

Prepared by Department of Highway Safety Planning

Getaway

with Member Travel Services

WINTER TOURS

Ski Colorado, at Winter Park, the Premier Ski Center

Cost: \$355 per person, based on double occupancy.

Starting January 1992 through mid February '92 you can stay at Iron Horse Lodge which includes pool, hot tubs, health club, restaurant, and lounge. Fireplace and kitchen is included in the suites. This 5 night package includes 4 days of ski lifts valid at Winter Park, Mary Jane and Vasquez Mountains. This package is land only but for approximately \$338 per person you can add on round trip airfare from Lansing.

Quaint Quebec City

Cost: \$459 per person.

February-March 1992 you can travel to Quebec City Via Rail and stay at the charming Le Chateau Frontenac Hotel. This package includes 5 days at the hotel plus round trip rail from Windsor. You can travel everyday except Friday and Sunday. This is a very popular package and has limited seating, so call early!

Bahamas Weekend

Cost: \$414 per person (Add \$40 per person for ocean view room)

All rates are based on double occupancy, departure tax not included.

Starting February 7th, 1992 you can book a great Bahamas Weekend at a great rate. Your package includes leaving Detroit on Friday and staying 2 nights at the British Colonial Beach Hotel. Special charter airfare service is included so that you fly non-stop to the islands.

London, On the Town

Cost: \$628 per person.

One of the best packages this year is London. Round trip airfare from Detroit on British Airways, 6 nights at the Travistock Hotel, transfers from the airport, taxes and continental breakfast. The Travistock Hotel is located in the Bloomsbury area and all rooms have a private bath, TV and radio. This trip starts Jan. 3rd and expires March 31, 1992. London is famous for their theatre, restaurants, sight seeing and most of all history.



Jamacia, Jamaica

Cost: \$1359 per person.

This package includes everything under the sun. You will stay 7 nights at the Jamaica Hotel, which has been called one of the "Super Club" resorts. This hotel includes three meals daily, bar drinks, use of all sports facilities including instruction, four tennis courts, shopping shuttle and sight-seeing tours. It is located on the white sand beach at Runaway Bay. Round trip airfare from Detroit is included.

Spa Week in Mexico

Cost: \$1052 per person.

Pamper yourself at the Hotel Ixtapan Delasal, a world known Spa facility that features deluxe accommodations. Included are 8 days of full spa facilities like three meals daily, unlimited facials, massages, manicures and exercise programs. Airport transfers are approximately \$72 per person - one way and gratuities are not included for spa week. This is a very special package for very special people. Pamper yourself!

Cancun, the Jewel of the Caribbean

Cost: \$569 per person.

Cancun is a great warm weather destination because of it's 14 miles of beautiful beaches and the friendliest people in the world. The Playa De Oro Hotel has a great special starting January 1 through January 24th, 1992. This package includes round trip airfare from Detroit, hotel for 7 days, airport transfers, baggage and handling service, hotel tax and a Welcome reception. This hotel is known for it's great location on the beach. Cancun is the perfect get-a-way for anyone seeking the sun and relaxation.

Disney World, It's Everyone's Favorite Vacation!

This package includes anything that you prefer at a member only discount. You can pick the number of nights you want to stay, you can stay on the Disney grounds or off premise, and you have the option to fly or drive. Farm Bureau has admission tickets available. Customize your Disney Vacation just the way you want, and still get a great discount!

Note: All packages are subject to availability. Prices are subject to change or variation for 1991-1992

For more information on how to book your GETAWAY CALL 1-800-748-0289 or 517-339-4390



January's Discussion Topic: "The Gas Tax"

Roads and bridges are vitally important to agriculture. If the agricultural industry is going to thrive in the 1990s, farmers must have an outstanding transportation network that will allow them to flexibly respond to changing consumer needs.

Michigan farmers need good roads to take advantage of our proximity to Midwest consumer markets. Farmers, like other rural residents, also depend on good roads and bridges for use by school buses and emergency vehicles, and for transporting farm inputs, and for moving farm equipment.

Our farm markets and "pick-your-own" businesses also must have quality highways to encourage tourists to travel the picturesque Michigan countryside.

Everyone in Michigan needs a good transportation system. And it's generally agreed that the fairest way to pay for roads and bridges is through a fuel tax. The motorists and truckers who use the highways help pay costs to build and fix the system.

In its early days, the infant Michigan Farm Bureau was formed to fight for a fuel tax instituted in the state. The governor wanted to continue taxing landowners along roads to pay for construction and repair. But that level of taxation bankrupted many farmers. After a bitter political battle, Michigan Farm Bureau was victorious and a more equitable fuel tax was signed into law.

Michigan's fuel tax has remained at its present level since 1983. But more fuel-efficient vehicles mean less fuel sold, so revenues generated from the fuel tax have not kept up with repair and construction needs. At 15 cents a gallon (9 cents for diesel trucks with a special sticker), the Michigan levy is under the nationwide average of 16.8 cents a gallon. Thirty-five states (including all the Midwest states except Indiana) and the District of Columbia have higher rates.

Adding urgency to the issue is the November passage by Congress of a new transportation bill. The legislation will return to

Michigan about \$1.2 billion more in transportation funds over the next six years if matching funds are provided, according to the Gongwer News Service. The package would mean about a 50 percent increase a year over what the state has been getting. Michigan's total allocation of \$3.2 billion over six years is the 11th largest among all states, the Service said.

But at our current fuel tax level, there may not be enough money generated to qualify for all the matching funds. The County Road Association of Michigan said that another \$200-\$300 million must be collected through the state fuel tax over the next six years in order to receive the funding.

As this goes to press, delegates to the Michigan Farm Bureau's annual meeting will be discussing a recommendation from the state Policy Development Committee to support efforts to increase the state fuel tax by as much as five cents a gallon. Watch for details of this important discussion in the next issue of your *Michigan Farm News*.

Discussion Questions:

1. Are local roads and bridges in your county adequately maintained?
2. Are there bridges needing repair or total replacement in your county?
3. If so, how many have been closed and how long have they been closed?
4. What percentage of your county roads are paved?
5. Do you feel that fuel tax funds should be used for mass transit purposes?

6. Do you approve of how funds are currently re-distributed for local road maintenance and construction needs? If not, why not?

7. Do you believe that it's appropriate for diesel trucks to receive a 6 cent special exemption?

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Kellogg Center, MSU, East Lansing
January 13
sponsored by
Rodale Institute
Michigan Agriculture Stewardship Association
To register, write or call:
Barbara May
Rodale Institute, 611 Siegfriedale Rd.
Kutztown, Pa. 19530, (215) 683-6383
Registration before January 9: \$15; At the door: \$20
(Lunch included in registration fee)

Washtenaw County Farm Bureau's Project R.E.D. Going to Kansas City!

Washtenaw County Farm Bureau's Rural Education Day (R.E.D.) was recently selected as one of 20 national finalists in the American Farm Bureau's County Idea Exchange contest. The Idea Exchange program recognizes exceptional county Farm Bureau projects from across the country.

Thanks to Washtenaw's Project R.E.D., 906 third graders and 106 adults gained exposure and hands-on learning about production agriculture, farm animals, and conservation and preservation of natural resources. Nearly 120 Farm Bureau volunteers spent two days helping conduct "classes" at the county fairgrounds. Each classroom teacher was given an information packet with reading materials, questions, and puzzles for the classroom.

As part of the recognition, Washtenaw County Farm Bureau will be competing with 19 other state winners during the January AFBF Annual meeting in Kansas City in national competition. Farm Bureau members attending the AFBF annual meeting's product trade show will vote on the program they feel was most effective. Congratulations Washtenaw County Farm Bureau, and good luck!

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Shake the Winter Blues
at the **Illinois Specialty Growers Convention and Trade Show**
January 13, 14, 1992

New Location:
Pheasant Run Resort and Convention Center
St. Charles, Illinois

If you're a fruit, vegetable, irrigated, herb, or ginseng grower, the Illinois Specialty Growers Convention is your best chance to cure cabin fever and get the latest information you need to make your operation as successful as it can be!

Here's What You Get:

- 125 Trade Show Exhibits
- 50+ Educational Sessions on fruits, vegetables, irrigation, herbs, and ginseng
- Cider Judging Contest
- Free Accessible Parking
- All Activities Under One Roof
- Network with Growers from Other States
- Family mini-vacation at resort

Registration is \$30
(\$20 for ISGA members)
Trade show only pass: \$5 each

Hotel Rates:
 \$62 Single;
 \$72 Double for Standard Rooms
 \$77 Single;
 \$87 Double for Deluxe Rooms

Make Hotel Reservations by contacting Pheasant Run Resort at (708) 584-6300. Room Block released Dec. 19, 1991.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
 LOWELL LENSCHOW,
 CONVENTION MANAGER
 C/O ILLINOIS SPECIALTY GROWERS ASSOCIATION
 1701 TOWANDA AVE.
 BLOOMINGTON, IL
 61702-2901
 (309) 557-2107

Special Added Attraction:
 Herbal Craft Bazaar, Sunday, January 12 (Noon - 6p.m.)
 Sponsored by Illinois Herb Association

12 Educational Winter Conferences — Take Your Pick!

Sustainable Farming Practices at MSU

A day-long workshop entitled Sustainable Farming Practices will be held at MSU's Kellogg Center in East Lansing on Jan. 13. The conference will kickoff the seventh annual winter TAKE CHARGE workshop series co-sponsored by Rodale Institute, a non-profit organization.

The meeting is jointly sponsored by the Michigan Agricultural Stewardship Association (MASA), a statewide, non-profit educational organization committed to the development of sustainable agriculture.

The workshop will focus on helping farmers develop sustainable agricultural practices by providing them with opportunities to learn and discuss techniques they can adapt to their own farm.

Speakers include Dr. Rhonda Janke and Peggy Wagoner, agronomist at the Rodale Institute Research Center, to discuss reduced tillage practices and perennial grain production. Dr. Doug Landis, entomologist at MSU, will address biological and cultural insect control methods. Farmer representatives from MASA and Bob Fogg, Rodale Farmer's Network member, will discuss their farming practices.

The workshop runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with registration at 8:30 a.m. You can preregister for the workshop for \$15 per person or pay \$20 at the door, which covers lunch and materials. For more information, contact Barbara May, Rodale Institute Research Center, by calling (215) 683-6383, and let her know you're calling about the East Lansing meeting.

Illinois Specialty Growers Extends Invitation to Michigan

More than 2,500 specialty growers, those who produce fruit, vegetables, shrubs, herbs, and ginseng - from across the Midwest, can cure cabin fever in early January at the Illinois Specialty Growers (ISGA) annual meeting at the Pheasant Run Resort and Convention Center in St. Charles, Illinois.

The two-day seminar, set for Jan. 13-14, promises more than 50 educational seminars on fruits, vegetables, irrigation, herbs, ginseng, and aquaculture, along with 125 trade show exhibitors.

General subject areas for the educational workshops include marketing trends, community farmers' markets, security at farmers' markets, herb culture and marketing, irrigation, integrated pest management, labor regulations, and producing and marketing ginseng. Other topics on the agenda include utilizing plant interference to manage weeds, pest identification, marketing apples and value added products, vegetable pest management, and alternative apples insect control.

Featured speakers include experts in the fields of fruit and vegetable production and pest management, and specialists in irrigation, herbs and ginseng.

Registration to attend the two-day conference is \$30. Lodging accommodations are: \$62 for single; \$72 for a double standard. To make reservations, contact the resort at (708) 584-6300. To register for the conference, or for more information, contact Lowell Lenschow, ISGA manager, at (309) 557-2107.

Great Lakes Vegetable Growers Convention

Plans are well underway for the Great Lakes Vegetable Growers Convention to be held in Grand Rapids, Jan. 28-30. The Vegetable Council has taken a fresh look at the educational programs this year with several interesting topics on tap, including:

The Future of Michigan's Vegetable Industry by the Year 2000, on Tuesday afternoon, will include comments from several industry experts willing to share frank comments with Michigan growers about preparing for the future.

Packer/Shipper Issues on Wednesday afternoon will look at the potential of export markets. Issues surrounding the Federal/State inspection service will headline another workshop that afternoon.

In addition to these special topics, Tuesday morning sessions will focus on asparagus, pickling cucumbers and processing tomato production. Wednesday morning will include sessions on production and marketing of potatoes, vine crops, onions, and sweet corn while Wednesday afternoon's sessions will focus on production of peppers, carrots, and fresh market tomatoes. Thursday's workshops will also include a roadside marketing session throughout the day.

Registration fees are \$15 to cover materials. As in past years, many of the sessions will carry credits towards private applicator recertification and 1992 pest control guides will be provided as a part of your registration fee. For more information, contact Tom Stebbins, Convention Coordinator, Department of Horticulture, MSU, at (517) 353-3774 or 353-6637.

Central Michigan Family Ag Day — Lake Odessa

Once again, Barry, Eaton and Ionia counties Cooperative Extension Services have combined forces to sponsor Central Michigan Family Ag Day on Sat. Jan. 18, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Dr. Gail Imig, director of the Cooperative Extension Service, MSU, is the keynote wrap-up speaker.

Planned workshops include: "Weed/Herbicide Update," with Dr. Karen Renner, MSU; Landscape to Beautify Your Farm; From Farm to Consumers; Quick Crafts for Kids; Pre-Retirement Planning for Farmers; and Keeping Hired Help, with Dr. Al Shapley, MSU.

In addition to the workshops, and business exhibits, there's several fun activities planned such as a Farm Obstacle Course, a Dairy Products Taste Test, and a Remote Control Obstacle Course. Lunch is provided courtesy of the exhibitors. Reservations are needed by Jan. 10, so call the Eaton CES office at (17)543-2310 today!

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Call CFS District Managers Stu Watt in Owosso at 725-6668 or Jim Hitz in Jackson at 764-3240. And while you're talking, ask about the discounts available right now. **Do it today.**

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