

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

March 30, 1991



Distinguished Service to Agriculture Awards

Prominent leaders in agriculture and natural resources received Distinguished Service to Agriculture Awards March 21 from Michigan State University, during ANR Week.

The recipients included Jack Laurie, Michigan Farm Bureau President; Thomas Reed, Michigan Livestock Exchange CEO and general manager; and Marion Van Slooten, owner of Van's Pines in West Olive.

The awards were presented by James Anderson, MSU vice provost and dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The ceremonies were part of the President's Luncheon during Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Week, March 16-23 at MSU.

Laurie began his rise through Michigan Farm Bureau's organization shortly after his graduation from MSU in 1962. He was elected president of the organization in 1986. Laurie was cited for his leadership in helping to resolve agricultural and rural issues, and his efforts to bolster Michigan animal agriculture, and his support of research and teaching programs at MSU.

In part, the presentation read, "Jack Laurie's career as one of Michigan's agricultural leaders has won him national recognition. His ability to resolve state and national-level issues across a broad range of diverse interests, particularly those relating to human and environmental concerns. He has been adeptly able to resolve conflicts between non-farm and farm interests and so contributes to a stronger Michigan agriculture."

Reed was an Extension agricultural agent and a Farm Bureau employee before joining Michigan Livestock Exchange in 1977 as an assistant manager. Under his leadership as general manager and chief operating officer, the organization has tripled its sales volume since 1984 and has become a major animal agriculture cooperative in the Midwest.

Reed is also a second-term member of the MSU Board of Trustees and was recently elected its chairperson. He was cited for his accomplishments in bolstering Michigan animal agriculture and supporting the land-grant tradition in higher education.

Van Slooten developed an 80-acre Christmas tree farm into Van's Pines, a seedling tree nursery business that has become internationally known. He was cited for his support of forest plant research at MSU and innovative leadership in Michigan's tree nursery industry.

Van Slooten is also a nationally known environmentalist. He founded the World Wildlife Fund, which is dedicated to wildlife preservation.

The award winners each received engraved plaques in recognition of their support for MSU agricultural research, Cooperative Extension Service programs and service to Michigan agriculture. A photograph and a citation outlining each recipient's contribution will be on permanent display in Agriculture Hall at MSU.



James Anderson, MSU vice provost and dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (left), presents Jack and Betty Laurie with the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award, for dedicated service to Michigan's agricultural industry.

Engler Calls for One-Year Funding of Livestock Initiative

Governor John Engler, speaking to livestock producers at the recent Michigan Livestock Exchange annual meeting, called for a one year funding effort for Michigan's Livestock Initiative, as opposed to a "piece meal approach of funding over four to five years." It's estimated the one-year funding proposal could shave up to \$10 million off the final \$67 million tab for the project.

"One of the things we want to do as soon as we're in a position to do so, is to get the whole livestock initiative funded up front," said Engler, referencing a "very tight budget" this current year. "My commitment to this is very firm and I know that Senator Posthumus and Speaker Dodak share that commitment as well. I'm confident we'll get it done."

Engler also hinted about things to come at the Department of Natural Resources, claiming that the department's image must improve so that it's no longer considered "Department of No Response." Engler called for a concept where the department would work cooperatively with the people of Michigan.

"I've talked about splitting the department. The natural resources mission that historically was the role of the department would be left with the department, but environmental enforcement functions would be put into a different organizational alignment," said Engler. "I'm more and more convinced that's the right approach, and I hope that we'll be able to talk with the people of Michigan in a few weeks about the DNR of the future."

Engler said that it was clear that the DNR has to do a better job in working with agriculture and that he's committed to having agriculture represented on the Natural Resources Commission. "I consider changes at the DNR to be as significant to the agricultural community as anything else," Engler said. "Never, under any administration that I'm leading, will you have to have a permit to be in farming."

MFB President Jack Laurie, also speaking at the MLSE annual meeting, said the livestock initiative shows great promise for benefitting animal agriculture, but livestock producers must develop solutions to animal waste disposal problems in order to prosper in the future.



Members of the Michigan Milk Producers Association celebrated its 75th anniversary at the state annual meeting held March 16 on the Michigan State University campus. A highlight of the occasion included a report by Gov. John Engler.

At left, Elwood Kirkpatrick gave a special presentation to Harold Drake, the member who has the longest held membership within the association. Mr. Drake, from the Ann Arbor area, began shipping milk to MMPA in 1936. Three other member-farms were honored for long-standing membership. The families of Gordon Greer, Augusta; William Bamber, Howell; and David Wood, Saline; were all recognized for their involvement in the association since 1916.

Kirk and Julie Traver received their award as MMPA's Outstanding Young Dairy Couple during ceremonies also. The Travers represent District 4 and milk 64 Jersey cows and operate 250 acres. They're members of the Webberville Local. Galen and Suzanne Schalk of Hillman were also recognized as runner-up couple in the contest and represent District 12 and the Hillman Local. Selection is based on the couple's farming operations, farm-related and community activities and demonstrated leadership abilities.

Harold Gremel, MMPA director, presented the G-B Dairy Farm with the highest quality production award. G-B Dairy Farm, owned by Gerald and Barbra Koeltzow of Millington, obtained the best quality measurements of the over 3,000 dairy farms belonging to MMPA.

Other business transacted at the day-long meeting was the reelection of Elwood Kirkpatrick to an at-large position on the board of directors and the adoption of resolutions.

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2 In Brief...

Increased EEP Funding Plan Getting Complicated

A proposed funding increase for the export bonus program was linked with a temporary price increase for milk. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., objected to EEP funding increases during debate in the Senate unless his "no-cost" dairy proposal was included.

The U.S. Senate approved an emergency spending bill to cover war costs and added by a 60 to 40 vote, a temporary hike in the price of fluid (Class I) milk. The price of other milk classes used in manufacturing wouldn't be changed. The emergency funding measure also included removal of the \$425 million cap on export bonus spending for fiscal 1991.

American Farm Bureau did not support the Leahy amendment, cautioning against a short-term solution, saying the proposal moves the dairy program away from market oriented pricing. AFBF called for a congressional study of the price relationship between farmers and retailers. A study of possible price gouging at the retail level is currently underway. Leahy's proposal would also encourage USDA to promote exporting dairy cattle if such a program would provide additional savings for the federal dairy subsidy program.

The Senate action is not final since a House-passed supplemental appropriation bill didn't include the dairy price amendment. A conference committee will reconcile the differences. Meanwhile the House Ag Committee sent a message to the House Budget Committee requesting an additional \$475 million in export enhancement program funding be granted as requested by the Bush Administration.

Higher Child Labor Violation Fines in Effect

Higher civil money penalties for child labor violations became effective March 1. There is now a two-tier child labor assessment structure, with the first tier of existing fines applying to violations prior to Nov. 5, 1990. The second tier of fines applies to violations occurring on or after Nov. 5, 1990.

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) was changed by Congress to incorporate the increased penalties. During 1990, the department significantly increased its child labor enforcement efforts, conducting four nationwide strike forces resulting in identification of more than 28,000 illegally employed young workers. Resulting fines of more than \$10 million are estimated to be assessed for those violations.

To make sure you're meeting legal requirements for child labor laws, contact:
U.S. Department of Labor, Employment Standards Administration
Wage and Hour Division
2930 Fuller, N.E., Suite 100
Grand Rapids, MI 49505-3409, Phone (616) 456-2183, c/o Bruce Wisner
or
Wage and Hour Division, Bureau of Employment Standards
Michigan Department of Labor
7150 Harris Drive
Lansing, MI 48926, Phone (517) 322-1825, c/o Marsha Bowers.

Members should ask for "Child Labor Requirements in Agriculture Under the Fair Labor Standards Act," Bulletin No. 102, or ask for the entire labor packet which contains copies of all labor laws and information bulletins, as well as posters.

Chippewa County EDC Selling Elevator Operation

The Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation (CCEDC) is seeking bids for the lease or purchase of a 75,000 bushel grain elevator/storage facility located in Kinross, Michigan, according to Tami Beseau of the CCEDC. Beseau says the corporation is asking for bids on or before April 8, 1991.

To request specific information, phone (906) 495-5631, or write to; Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation, 119 Culley, Kincheloe, MI 49788. All proposals must be in writing. The CCEDC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

Right-To-Farm Under New Management

Michigan's Right to Farm Act will be directed from MDA's executive offices until further notice, according to Bob Craig, MDA Director of Ag Policy, who assumed overall responsibility for administering the act and, in the meantime, is coordinating a thorough review and refinement process.

Keith Creagh has been appointed temporary deputy director of Right to Farm, while Kurt Thelen will serve as program manager. Reassignment of responsibilities also means that Right to Farm is no longer under jurisdiction of MDA's Environmental Response Division as it had been previously.

Craig called the recent changes "significant," adding that the attitude surrounding Right to Farm is "much more positive." Craig said the review and refinement process could mean expansion of Right to Farm to address areas other than livestock producers. Craig said that all recommendations will ultimately be decided on by the Michigan Ag Commission.

Broad Based Support For Fast Track

In a letter to all members of Congress, the American Farm Bureau Federation, along with 50 other agricultural organizations, emphasized the huge stake American farmers have in more open world markets and fairer trading rules. The groups also urged Congress not to support or co-sponsor resolutions disapproving the President's request for an extension of "fast track" negotiating authority.

U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills told a Senate Finance Committee that U.S. trading partners would not negotiate knowing that Congress could ultimately amend a final agreement. "Failure to complete a new GATT agreement would cut \$5 trillion from the global economy over the next decade," Hills said. "The U.S. share of that loss would total \$1 trillion."

Meanwhile, a resolution has been introduced in the U.S. House to deny "fast track" extension and now has 15 co-sponsors. A simple majority of votes in support of such a measure, in either the House or Senate, will be sufficient to terminate fast track, killing both the Uruguay Round and the North American Free Trade Agreement. A similar resolution is expected to be introduced in the Senate. Opponents of fast track include the NFU, NFO, American Ag Movement, Cotton Council, Milk Producers Federation, National Family Farm Coalition, AFL-CIO, American Textile Manufacturers Assn., the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and Green Peace.

AFBF Excess Dairy Output Strategy Unveiled

The American Farm Bureau Board of Directors voted to support a milk pricing program established on a base/excess concept tied directly to commercial utilization and market reserve. The proposal would establish a separate market clearing price for excess milk. Acting on a recommendation from the Dairy Advisory Committee, the board said the plan should be designed to allow a profitable relationship between supply and demand.

The program would be initiated on an annual basis, only if estimates of industry controlled purchases exceed the 7 billion pound trigger level. The program should be administered by an industry controlled board consisting of dairy farmers.

The board also reiterated its opposition to program assessments which are diverted to deficit reduction. In other dairy action, the AFBF board advocated a move toward higher standards for solids content in fluid milk and urged that milk producers be included under the Packers & Stockyards Act to provide protection against dairy plant bankruptcies.

Golden Arches Leaning

Move over Tower of Pisa, McDonald's Golden Arches may soon become the hottest architectural attraction on earth that has anything to do with a lean. In McDonald's case the lean is its new low-fat hamburger -- the McLean Deluxe.

After only four months of test marketing, McDonald's has announced a nationwide rollout of McLean Deluxe, a quarter-pounder burger with less than half the fat of the chain's regular Quarter-Pounder. Meat for the new burger is selected from leaner cuts and the fat content is further reduced by a new process using a common food additive made from seaweed, permitting the removal of most fat.

The additive, carrageen, holds the meat together with water, allowing the fat to be removed without losing flavor or texture of the product, according to industry officials. The McLean Deluxe's cost is expected to be \$1.79 to \$1.84 -- on the pricier end of McDonald's menu.

Japanese Retailers Plan Beef Blitz

Japan's consumers will face a nationwide beef bonanza as some of the country's largest retailers kick off the April 1 beef market liberalization with celebratory price slashings. Major retail outlets plan to cut prices between 20 to 60 percent in hopes of fostering demand among Japanese consumers. Nearly all beef going on sale will be U.S. produced.

"The beef we import is high quality and well-suited to Japanese tastes," said Toshiyuki Mori, a spokesman for The Diaei Inc., Japan's largest supermarket retailer with 204 outlets. "By lowering our prices we are giving the consumers a chance to taste for themselves. Diaei's objective is to boost beef sales by 200 percent in the first year after liberalization."

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Officers: Michigan Farm Bureau President, Jack Laurie, Cass City; Vice President Wayne Wood, Marlette; Administrative Director, Charles Burkett; Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, Tom Parker; Secretary, William S. Wilkinson.

Directors: District 1, Marlin Outman, Constantine; District 2, Blaine VanSickle, Marshall; District 3, Diane Horning, Manchester; District 4, Tom Guthrie, Delton; District 5, Mark Smuts, Charlotte; District 6, Wayne Wood, Marlette; District 7, Larry Snider, Hart; District 8, Richard Leach, Saginaw; District 9, Joshua Wunsch, Traverse City; District 10, Margaret Kartes, West Branch; District 11, Robert Wahmhoff, Baraga. At-Large: Douglas Darling, Maybee; Jack Laurie, Cass City; Faye Adam, Snover; Jan Vosburg, Climax. Promotion and Education, Holly Porter, Manchester. Young Farmers, Steven Gorynea, Spruce.

Getaway

with MEMBER TRAVEL SERVICES

Shipshewana - Saturday, April 13

Cost: \$69.00 per person.

More chances for you to spend your money shopping! After a pleasant and relaxing drive, we'll arrive at the Dutchman Essenhaus in Middlebury, Indiana. Here we will be treated to a marvelous Amish style lunch. Bring your appetite and save room for home made pie for dessert! After lunch, we will take a short drive to the famous Shipshewana outdoor flea market where you can find many treasures, new or antique!

Holland Tulip Festival - Thursday, May 16

Cost: \$69 per person.

The festival will be in full swing today as we visit Windmill Island and Dutch Village. We will view the parade from our comfortable lawn chairs, enjoy our included dinner at the Old School House and much more. A memorable spring day!

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

For more information on how to book your GETAWAY call 1-800-354-4272

 MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU



Comprehensive Wetlands Conservation and Management Act of 1991

Status: The Comprehensive Wetlands Conservation and Management Act of 1991 has been introduced in the U.S. House to enact major reform of the Clean Water Act Section 404 program. House Resolution 1330 contains several major themes including compensation for wetland takings, wetland classification, exclusion of prior converted cropland, expanded exemptions for normal farming practices and a significantly narrower definition of wetland. The following is a summary of the primary agricultural provisions in the bill:

Realistic Wetlands Definition

Under the new bill water must be saturated at ground surface for 21 consecutive days during the growing season in years of normal rainfall instead of the old Section 404 interpretation of saturation within 18 inches of the surface for a period of seven days. As called for by AFBF policy, the new bill's growing season has been defined as the historical average of frost-free days within a particular geographic area.

Prior Converted Cropland Exclusion

The bill will exclude in statute "prior converted cropland" from land eligible to be delineated as wetland. In addition, the realistic wetlands definition would effectively exclude all prior converted land by virtue of its inability to meet the necessary criteria.

Expand Normal Farming Practices

H.R. 1330 includes language restating Congress' intent to exclude normal farming practices from any permit requirements. In addition, the bill allows the Agriculture Department in consultation with the state Extension Service, the land grant colleges and agricultural production groups to determine normal practices. This is currently being determined by Army Corps of Engineers field personnel.

Wetland Classification

Current law does not weigh varying wetland values and functions. Consequently, all wetlands are considered equal in importance and protected to the same high standard. The concept of classification is generally recognized as a needed reform by many members of Congress. H.R. 1330 would classify wetlands into three groups according to their value and functions: types A, B and C. The bill sets forth criteria used to define each of the three categories. Type A wetlands must be truly unique and significant wetland areas and generally could not be altered. Owners of Type A wetlands would be automatically entitled to compensation. On the other end of the scale, Type C wetlands would be considered very common and have only marginal values or importance. No permits would be required of Type C wetlands.

Compensation Provision

The issue of compensation of landowners for lost economic use of private land is generating much discussion and would constitute a major precedent in any wetland legislation. H.R. 1330 recognizes the importance of this concept and would automatically require compensation to the landowner as a result of a Type A wetland designation by federal officials. The compensation must represent fair market value, including attorney's fees, without regard to any diminution in values stemming from its designation as a wetland.

Exclusion of Man-made Wetlands

H.R. 1330 excludes from regulation and permit requirements all farm ponds, stock ponds, irrigation ditches and drainage ditches. The bill also excludes any incidentally created wetlands exhibiting wetland values and functions for less than five years as well as any temporary or incidental wetland created as a result of adjacent development activity.

Compatible Wetland Crops

Some crops, such as cranberries, can be produced compatibly with wetland conservation, and in fact often enhance the wetland area. Such activities should be encouraged and not impeded by wetland regulation. H.R. 1330 would allow cranberry growers to expand productive acreage by ten acres annually without permit requirements.

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau supports H.R. 1330 and has worked very closely with the sponsors for the past six months in the development of this legislation. H.R. 1330 addresses virtually all of the primary and secondary reforms that have been identified by Farm Bureau as important and necessary. Farm Bureau anticipates a hearing on H.R. 1330 in the Public Works Committee sometime in April.

Farm Bureau Contact: Al Almy, extension 2040.

CFTC Reauthorization Bill Possible by Late April

Sen. Alan Dixon, D-Ill., says he expects a bill reauthorizing the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and laying out guidelines for certain futures margins to be signed into law by late April. The Senate Agriculture Committee version of the bill, passed early this month, provides that futures exchanges continue to set margins on a day to day basis for stock index contracts but gives general oversight on those margins to the Federal Reserve.

The bill is expected to end a longstanding feud between the CFTC and the Securities and Exchange Commission over which body will regulate margins in stock index futures and goes to the Senate floor for debate. Dixon, a member of the Senate Banking Committee, said he sees little opposition to the measure in the Senate.

Solving Rural Doctor Shortage No Easy Task

Doctors practicing in rural areas treat more patients, work longer hours and receive less compensation than their urban counterparts, according to AFBF President Dean Kleckner. Speaking in Florida to the Association of Departments of Family Medicine, Kleckner said 2,300 new family physicians enter practice each year to fill an estimated 15,000 opportunities. More incentive is needed to lure enough of the newcomers into rural areas, many of which lack sufficient doctors and health care facilities.

Since World War II, more doctors have opted to become specialists instead of general practitioners. Lower Medicare reimbursement rates in rural areas often negatively affect incomes of doctors practicing there, according to Kleckner.

Roadway Deicing Alternatives

Sponsor: Sen. VanRegenmorter (R-Jenison)

Status: S.B. 46 would require various state departments to conduct studies to establish alternatives to using salt for snow and ice removal. One of the alternatives identified for study includes the agricultural product, Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA).

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau supports the use of CMA on roads and bridges when feasible and will continue to monitor developments of S.B. 46 before announcing a position on the bill.

Farm Bureau Contact: Darcy Cypher, extension 2048.

No-Fault Auto Insurance Reform and July 1 Sunset

Sponsor: Sen. Wartner (R-Portage)

Status: S.B. 154 presently contains only technical amendments to deal with the no-fault auto reform/rollback issue. The bill is intended to address the rising auto insurance costs. At this writing, S.B. 154 has been passed by the Senate Commerce and Insurance Committee and is awaiting Senate approval.

S.B. 138 would extend the July 1, 1991 sunset date to Dec. 31, 1991 for provisions in current law which would enact restrictions in auto insurance territorial rating structures. Those restrictions would subsidize urban insureds by non-urban insureds. S.B. 138 passed the full Senate in mid-March and has been referred to the House Insurance Committee.

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau anticipates consideration of S.B. 154 and 138 in a joint House/Senate Conference Committee established to address rising auto insurance costs. Farm Bureau remains firm in the position of supporting "Reform, Not Rollbacks" and strongly opposes mandated auto insurance rate rollback legislation. Farm Bureau policy supports meaningful reform which would have the effect of reducing rates.

Farm Bureau Contact: Darcy Cypher, extension 2048.

O.R.V. Legislation

Sponsor: Rep. Alley (D-West Branch)

Status: As amended in the Senate Natural Resources Committee, H.B. 4010 would require the O.R.V. Trail Improvement Fund to be used for the signing, improvement, maintenance, and construction of O.R.V. routes or areas and for the administration and enforcement of current law regulating O.R.V. use. The bill would prevent use of the fund until the Legislature approves a comprehensive system to be submitted by the DNR for O.R.V. use.

H.B. 4010 would establish an Upper Peninsula Task Force on O.R.V. use to evaluate the extent of O.R.V. use. The bill would increase the processing fee assessed by the Dept. of State for an O.R.V. title from \$10.50 to \$11.00. A provision of interest to agriculture would permit courts to require a convicted person to restore any damaged land or water area and impound an O.R.V. of a person who committed a misdemeanor violation of the bill.

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau supports H.B. 4010 and is seeking Senate approval.

Farm Bureau Contact: Vicki Pontz, extension 2046.

Property Tax Reform

There are five different property tax cutting proposals ranging from a 20 percent cut on school operating to total elimination of property tax. A package of bills has cleared the Senate and basically encompasses Gov. Engler's proposal. The Headlee rollback petition is being verified for valid signatures. Sen. Virgil Smith's proposal offers substantial cuts for residential property tax, while the Nye-Oxender proposal calls for total elimination. Consensus has not been reached on how to fund property tax reforms and reductions. There appears to be little support for increased or new taxes, but a cut in property tax will mean an increase in taxes elsewhere.

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau policy supports state revenues pay a greater portion of school operating funds and reduce the reliance on property taxes for financing.

Farm Bureau Contact: Ron Nelson, extension 2043.

Red Tart Cherry Marketing Program Hearing Set

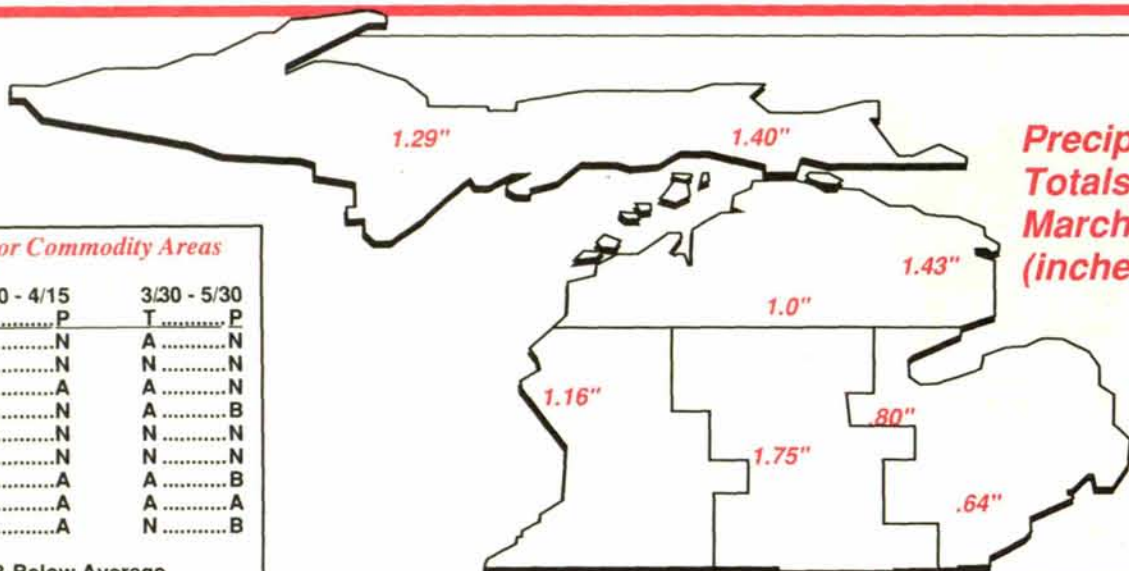
A public hearing to discuss the establishment of a Red Tart Cherry Marketing Program under Public Act 232 has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, 1991, by the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA). According to Dr. Burton D. Cardwell, MDA's chief deputy director, the hearing will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Training Room, South Ottawa Tower, 608 W. Allegan Street (corner of Allegan and Pine) in downtown Lansing.

The hearing will deal with a proposed program supported by a petition signed by 200 cherry producers and submitted to the MDA on Feb. 22, 1991. The proposal calls for: determining the existence and extent of any surplus red tart cherries in any marketing period or of any grade, size or quality thereof; for the disposition of such surplus; for equitably sharing the cost of such disposition of the surplus among producers of red tart cherries; and to create more orderly marketing in the industry, stabilize the supply and price of cherries to consumers and improve economic returns to red tart cherry growers.

Interested persons who cannot attend the hearing may submit testimony in writing until 5 p.m., Wed., April 7, 1991. Written comments should be sent to:

Nancy Walter
Michigan Department of Agriculture
Center for Agricultural Innovation and Development
P.O. Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909

4



Precipitation Totals For March 1 - 16 (inches)

Outlooks For Major Commodity Areas

T - Temp.	3/30 - 4/15	3/30 - 5/30
P - Precip.	T.....P	T.....P
W. Corn Belt	N.....N	A.....N
E. Corn Belt	N.....N	N.....N
Wint. Wheat Belt	N.....A	A.....N
Spr. Wheat Belt	A.....N	A.....B
Pac. NW Wheat	N.....N	N.....N
Delta	N.....N	N.....N
Southeast	N.....A	A.....B
West Texas	N.....A	A.....A
San Joaquin	B.....A	N.....B

A-Above Average, B-Below Average, N-Normal, MA-Much Above, MB-Much Below, NP-No Precip.

For 3/1/91 to 3/16/91	Temperature		Dev. From Normal	Precipitation	
	Avg. Max.	Avg. Min.		Actual (inch.)	Dev. From normal
Alpena	38	18	+6.0	1.43	+0.52
Detroit	44	28	+4.0	0.64	-0.56
Flint	42	26	+4.5	0.80	-0.18
Lansing	42	26	+4.5	1.75	+0.67
Grand Rapids	42	27	+4.0	1.16	+0.04
Houghton Lake	38	20	+4.5	1.00	+0.13
Pellston	36	18	+5.0	1.87	+0.90
Sault Ste. Marie	32	15	+3.0	1.40	+0.39
Traverse City	37	23	+5.0	1.33	+0.50
Marquette	32	14	-1.0	1.29	+0.03

High Temp. = 63 at Detroit on 3/3/91
Low Temp. = 0 at Sault Ste. Marie on 3/3/91

Wetter than normal weather developed across much of Michigan during early March, reversing a drier than normal trend that persisted over the state since January.

A slow moving area of low pressure brought widespread heavy rain to most crop areas on the 2nd and 3rd, eliminating snow cover on all but the Upper Peninsula and northern lower Michigan, and bringing many topsoils back to near saturation levels. Temperatures continued mostly above normal.

The latest 30-day outlook calls for a continuation of warmer and wetter than normal weather. While above normal temperatures will likely lead to earlier than normal spring development of fruits and other overwintering crops, continued wet weather will probably result in a later than expected start of spring field work.

Continued warm weather may also leave most crops more vulnerable to damage from potential late season subfreezing temperatures, which can occur as late as mid to late May.

Jeff Andresen
Agricultural Meteorologist
Michigan State University

Weather

Swan Water System's T.V. Ads "Misleading"

When Cheryl Cargill of Hart saw a television ad by Swan Water Systems suggesting that people who live on or near farms may have contaminated water supplies, she made a phone call to Swan Water where she was told that "Farm Bureau has looked all the ads over and approved them."

Upon further investigation by MFB, a letter was drafted from MFB's Legal Department to Swan Water Systems. The letter notified Swan Water Systems to "immediately cease and desist" from telling anyone that Michigan Farm Bureau or Farm Bureau had reviewed and/or approved the ads. The company was also advised that MFB will be taking appropriate steps to determine whether Swan has ceased making such "inaccurate and misleading statements."

Thanks to Cheryl and other alert members who reported this situation to MFB. Other members who see the ad should contact Michigan Farm Bureau, c/o Donna Wilber at 1-800-292-2680, ext. 6584.

Conservation Compliance Getting Serious

The USDA has several new compliance requirements for farm program participants. Four additional farm program benefits are scheduled to be reduced or denied to producers who fail to meet conservation compliance deadlines on highly erodible land. These include dairy assessment refunds, Agricultural Conservation Program payments, emergency conservation payments and water bank payments.

USDA proposes new cut-off dates and several new provisions dealing with mitigation on wetlands, tenants rights and added requirements for certification, plus a possibility of losing all USDA payments.

Getaway

with Member Travel Services

APRIL TOURS

Las Vegas Weekend

From \$399 per person, based on double occupancy.

Experience life in the fast lane with a four day, three night get-away in Vegas! Package includes roundtrip charter air from Detroit, hotel accommodations, round-trip airport/hotel transfers, baggage handling, tax and a Las Vegas discount book.

Departure Friday and return on Monday.

MAY TOURS

Holland Tulip Festival - Thursday, May 16

Cost: \$61 per person.

The festival will be in full swing today as we visit Windmill Island and Dutch Village. We will view the parade from our comfortable lawn chairs, enjoy our included dinner at the Old School House and much more. A memorable spring day!

Washington, D.C. and Gettysburg - May 16-20, 1991

Cost: \$369 per person.

Enjoy American history and beauty via deluxe motorcoach with the services of an experienced travel escort. Also included are hotel accommodations, baggage handling, taxes & some meals.

JUNE TOURS

Steamboat Charm

Cost: From \$699 per person, based on double occupancy.

Enjoy steamboating and the splendor of The Old South for four days and three nights on the DELTA QUEEN. Your trip includes roundtrip airfare from Detroit, accommodations on the boat, sailing from New Orleans, all meals, entertainment and activities while aboard. Ports of call include Nottoway Plantation and Rosedown Plantation in St. Francisville, Louisiana. Optional pre or post hotel stopovers available in New Orleans. Departure on Friday, return Monday.

Mackinaw Island Lilac Festival Time - Monday, June 12, 13, 14

Cost: \$280 per person.

Experience the magic that is Michigan on Mackinaw Island. Enjoy spectacular accommodations at Mission Point, the largest resort property on the Island, located on the southeastern shore. This specially designed mini vacation includes a host of interesting stops, along with outstanding lakeview accommodations, daily breakfast, one dinner with full choice of the menu, a carriage tour of the island and much more! Also included are hotel accommodations, guided tour, baggage handling, taxes and some meals.

JULY TOURS

Murder Mystery Train

Cost: \$97.50 per person, one-day trip

Enjoy dining and detecting aboard the Murder Mystery Train! Depart from Detroit's Amtrak Station to begin your odyssey of intrigue. Solve clues on a seven hour tour of Michigan and conclude with dinner when the murderer and motives are revealed! Private parties provide excellent entertainment for any occasion. Available at \$309.50 per person for weekend excursion.

Deadwood Ramblin' and Gamblin'

Cost: From \$694 per person, based on double occupancy

Explore the exciting history of South Dakota during Mt. Rushmore's 50th anniversary. Price includes roundtrip motorcoach tour from Chicago, five nights hotel accommodations, five dinners, Deadwood gaming halls, Boot Hill, Black Hills Passion Play, Mt. Rushmore, Custer State Park jeep tour and Badlands National Park. Departures in June and August as well.

For more information on how to book your GETAWAY call 1-800-354-4272

Note: All packages are subject to availability. Prices are subject to change or variation for 1991. Airport/pier transfers not included in New Orleans.

FFA State Star Farmers Announced

The naming of the FFA Star Farmer and Star Agribusinessman of Michigan highlighted the 63rd annual FFA state convention held at Michigan State University March 18-20. Kelly Jo Siemen, 18, of Harbor Beach and Scott Hilton, 19, of Caledonia were recognized for their exceptional Supervised Occupational Experience Programs.

Kelly Jo Siemens, daughter of Larry and Bonnie Siemens, was named Star State Farmer for her role in the family's 500 acre registered Holstein dairy farm. Kelly Jo worked in all aspects of the dairy operation to earn her State Star Farmer designation including milking, registration paperwork

for new-born calves, maintaining cow and calf health records, and administering medications.

Kelly Jo's other activities included captain of the track team, DAR Good Citizens, class president, National Institute on Cooperatives, Farm Bureau Citizenship Seminar, 4-H, showing her dairy cattle, various FFA activities, and she will be graduating class valedictorian. She will attend MSU this fall enrolling in the Food Systems Management and Economics program.

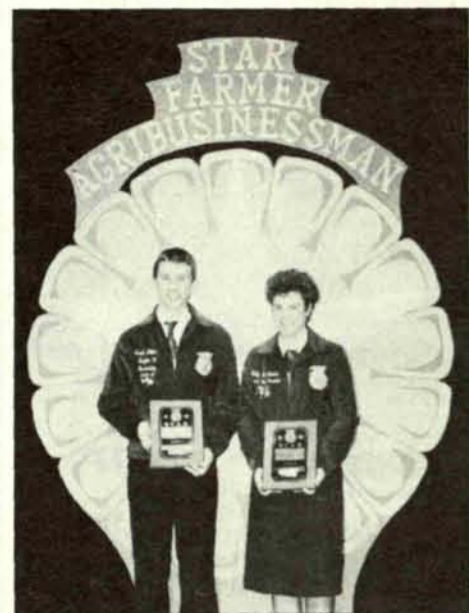
Scott C. Hilton, son of Donald and Lynn Hilton, was named Star State Agribusinessman for his work with Hilton's Apple Acres, a family owned orchard and retail store. The operation includes 20 acres of produce and specialty crops, 45 acres of apples, 15 acres of peaches and 10 acres of pears. Scott's responsibilities include field work, planting, cultivating, and harvest of the operation's crops as well as supervising labor.

Scott also plays an active role in promoting tours and a petting zoo at the family retail center. In his spare time, Scott works at Caledonia Farm Equipment in customer service and parts. During his four years in FFA Scott has served as chapter president and Region Five secretary. He plans to attend Michigan State University this fall entering into the Agri-Business, Ag-Technology program.

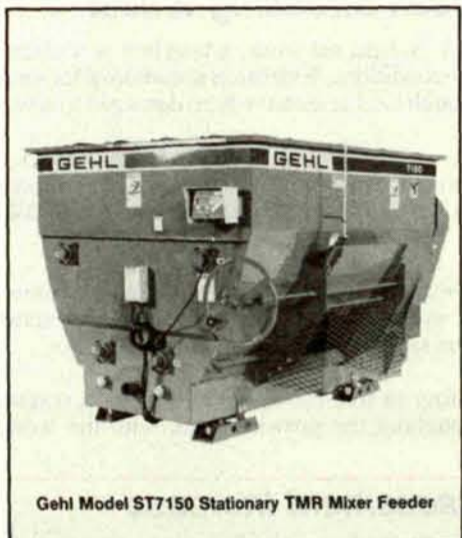
The State FFA Degree, the highest degree of achievement in the Michigan FFA Association, was presented to 217 outstanding members. Students receive the degree in either production agriculture or agribusiness. The State FFA Degree is limited to the top three percent of the state's membership.

Scott and Kelly Jo each received a \$300 award from the National FFA Foundation in recognition of their achievement.

Gov. John Engler and National FFA Central Region Vice President Julie Glassen were both keynote speakers at the convention.



Scott Hilton (left) said, "This is something I've wanted since I was a freshman." Kelly Jo Siemen (right) called the award a "great surprise that I'll never forget!"



GEHL Model ST7150 Stationary TMR Mixer Feeder

GEHL Company has introduced a new stationary mixer feeder for Total Mixed Rations (TMR). The model ST7150, with a mixing capacity of 150 cubic feet, is designed for smaller-scale dairy producers who want to take advantage of TMRs to increase production.

Advanced features of the new mixer feeder include:

- A four-auger blending system for fast, complete mixing
- Patented star coupler that absorbs shock loads on the bottom augers for increased durability
- Energy efficient planetary gears to reduce horsepower needs
- A choice of electronic scales
- A heavy duty 3/8-inch thick steel auger trough bottom.

Wanted — Ag Professionals

A critical need in agriculture and natural resource areas is to attract and educate professionals for scientific and technical needs, says a USDA report developed at Purdue University. College students looking for career choices should not overlook preparing for scientific and technical careers in agriculture. There's a steady and growing need for such jobs.

Charles Hess, USDA assistant secretary for science and education, said the report is not surprising since there is a projected annual shortfall of 11 percent in highly trained people to fill agri-science and agri-business positions.

Highly skilled professionals are required to address concerns on food safety, environmental quality, natural resource conservation and economic competitiveness, all high priority interests among the American public, Hess said.

Jane Coulter, deputy administrator for higher education of the Cooperative State Research Service, USDA, says "We aren't talking about the next 10 to 20 years. We have a shortage now, and with the growing strategic importance of our food, agricultural and natural resource system, the problem is becoming critical."



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Name: _____ Member I.D.# _____

Address: _____

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Kings Island



6

MARKETS

**Seasonal Commodity
Price Trends (long term)**

Wheat	↑
Corn	↑
Soybeans	↑
Hogs	TP
Cattle	TP

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

Corn

Seasonally, this is the time of year when prices usually rally. Cycle lows for corn are due in mid-to-late March. Like last year, old crop stocks are adequate but not burdensome. Talk of corn catalogues is circulating now that reserve loans are expiring. Catalogues should have little impact on prices because bushels should be small compared to years past.

Soybeans

Cash soybean movement has been very slow this winter. Futures have been under pressure due to the heavy rains in Brazilian growing areas. Lack of export sales for soybean meal created additional pressure.

Dairy

Expanded milk output, smaller disappearance of skim milk solids, and continued government purchases of butter, nonfat dry milk, and cheese are expected to keep 1991 farm and wholesale prices relatively steady, but much lower than a year earlier during most of the year.

Key factors that could reverse the current situation include: California drought, stepped-up culling rates and a stronger economy as the recession turns around.

Cattle

Cash cattle prices have been gradually edging back up above the \$80 mark with some extreme tops at \$84. The key to the market's ability to "move on up" is the consumer's willingness to buy beef at these levels. Packer margins are tight and have forced a minor curtailment in slaughter activity in some locations.

March 18th USDA Cattle-on-Feed Report was the largest March 1st on-feed inventory since 1974. Critical areas in the report were larger-than-expected February placements and lighter-than-expected marketings. USDA pegged on-feed numbers as of March 1 at 108 percent of year-ago levels, February placements into feedlots were put at 106 percent and marketings in February were pegged at 99 percent.

Hogs

Futures markets are exploding to new heights, the cash markets are struggling to maintain status quo. On a weekly basis, pork belly storings are keeping pace with last year, even though slaughter is running 4-5 percent below year-ago levels. Tight packer margins and seasonal increase in slaughter numbers suggest that the industry is on the verge of the seasonal spring decline in hog prices.

Dry Beans

The dry edible bean market has been holding steady with trade very slow. Domestic trade continues to be limited to fill-in-needs. Export demand is very light.

Canada's tripartite bean price stabilization program is in economic trouble. If the program, which is \$30 million in debt, is discontinued, it could devastate the Canadian bean industry, according to the Ontario Bean Producer's Marketing Board. U.S. growers and dealers await the outcome to see how it will affect Canada's acreage this year.

European Community (EC) Ag Spending

The EC is expected to spend a record \$46.2 billion for agricultural support in 1991, up 31 percent from last year. This does not include outlays for structural improvements, which amounted to \$2.9 billion in 1990 or expenditures by individual member states, estimated to be in excess of \$14 billion.

Reasons why outlays are escalating this year include:

- The inability of EC policies to adequately control surpluses
- Weakening world commodity prices
- Weakening dollar relative to the ECU
- Sluggish world markets and a lack of export opportunities, resulting in large stocks
- The high cost of integrating former East Germany into the Common Agricultural Policy.

From MFB's Commodity Activities and Research Division (517) 323-7000

Wheat

The 1990's huge wheat crop still provides plenty of wheat, bins are bulging and competition for export sales is hot. No new customers have come to the market.

India will harvest a record wheat crop this year adding to concerns over slack export demand.

Soviet credit and export bonus funding are both nearly exhausted. Congress is working on additional export bonus funding but the process is complicated and time consuming.

The wheat market can already be called a weather market. A large portion of the rally two weeks ago has evaporated with the onset of rain in the hard red wheat area. The latest six-to-ten-day forecast also calls for above normal precipitation for the plains.

Milk Production Growing

Dairy herds in Michigan produced 410 million pounds of milk during February, 1 percent over a year ago. Milk production rates average 1,195 pounds, a 20 pound increase. The Michigan dairy herd, estimated at 343,000 head, is down 1,000 from last February.

The preliminary value of milk averaged \$11.80 per hundredweight (cwt.) in February, \$3.30 less than last year and falling \$.20 below January 1991 levels. Mid-month slaughter cow prices averaged \$49.50 per cwt., off \$2.80 from the previous year.

Milk in the 21 selected states totaled 9.96 billion pounds, 2 percent above production in these same states in February 1990. Production per cow averaged 1,174 pounds for the month, a 33 pound increase over February 1990. The number of cows on farms was 8.49 million head, down 22,000 from January 1991 and 35,000 less than February 1990.

Heavy Army Cutworm Outbreak Stressing Wheat

Severe infestations of the army cutworm in the U.S. hard red winter wheat belt is doubling the stress on plants already suffering from dry conditions, Extension entomologists said. However, agents are uncertain as to whether enough total acres have been damaged to affect this season's overall yield.

This season's army cutworm outbreak appears to be the most severe since 1976, when about 1.0 million acres were treated statewide, says Leroy Brooks, Extension entomologist at Kansas State University in Manhattan.

"This year, there are field after field where we have infestations of four to five (worms) per foot," Brooke said. In many cases, 10 to 12 worms per foot have been noted, and some spots have registered 20 to 30, at which point he said it's easy to lose count.

The economic threshold for treating fields is four to five larvae per square foot, several agents said. Problem areas are scattered throughout the growing area, with the worst infestations reported in the Texas Panhandle.

Pork Producers May See Assessment Increase

The National Pork Board recently voted to assess producers and importers of pork products an extra tenth of a percent on the value of each animal marketed. The additional assessment, when it becomes effective, would raise the checkoff to .35 percent on the value of each animal sold, and on all pork imports.

The board's 164 delegates, representing producers and importers from 46 states, approved the resolution by an 85 percent margin, and asked that the increase be implemented by no later than Jan. 1, 1992. In 1990, the checkoff of .25 percent of value marketed raised \$31 million. The new rate is expected to generate an additional \$10 to \$12 million, according to the National Pork Board. The proposed increase doesn't require a producer referendum, but must go through USDA approval, including publication in the Federal Register and a 30-day comment period.

Meanwhile, the USDA recently announced that higher domestic pork prices warrant an increase in the assessment on imported pork and pork products. The proposal calls for an increase of .04 to .05 cents per pound, reflecting a 23 percent increase in hog prices at major U.S. markets this past year, USDA said.

The assessment is required under the Pork Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act of 1985. The "check-off funds" are used for advertising and other efforts to promote pork consumption. Under the act, USDA must recalculate the assessment on imported pork to keep it consistent with the one-quarter of 1 percent paid by domestic producers.

Government Prosecutors Flunk Fraud Trial Test

Twelve Chicago Mercantile Exchange traders accused of defrauding customers were exonerated, while government prosecutors and a few trader-impersonating FBI agents wound up with egg on their faces. The trial against 12 Yen futures traders ended in a mistrial after a jury acquitted them on nearly 120 charges of defrauding customers, and could not decide on another 80 counts. Federal prosecutors were rebuffed in their efforts to win convictions against the 12.

CME officials seized the opportunity to criticize federal prosecutors and investigators, claiming the results showed the exchange was best qualified to police itself and its members.

Potato Stocks Up

Potato growers and processors in Michigan held 2 million hundredweight (cwt.) of potatoes on March 1, according to Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service, reflecting a 25 percent increase over a year ago and representing 22 percent of 1990 production.

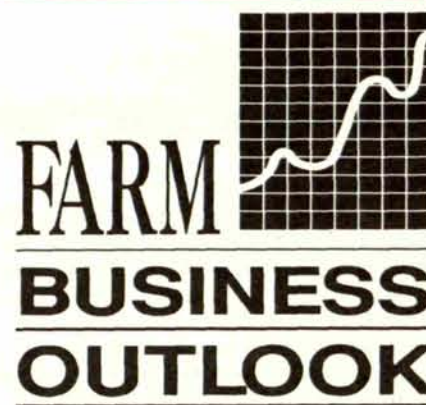
Fall potato stocks on hand March 1 in the 15 major states are estimated at 126 million cwt., up 8 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 38 percent of the 1990 crop. Disappearance of potatoes from the 15 states so far this season is a record 210 million cwt., up 5 percent from a year ago and 16 percent ahead of 1988. Shrink and loss to date is estimated at 22.3 million cwt., up 13 percent from last year and 9 percent above 1988.

Soil Testing Pays in Big Way

Farmers who used the results of MSU's soil testing recommendations reduced the amount of fertilizer applied in Eaton County last year by an average of 141 pounds per acre. The increased profit exceeded \$428,000 county-wide.

According to Allen Krizek, Eaton County CES Director, one way for farmers to improve profitability is to reduce input costs but still maintain yields. Krizek claims that MSU's soil testing and fertilizer recommendation program has a proven record of doing just that.

Farmers are encouraged to soil test early to avoid the spring rush. Soil testing fees are \$6.00 per sample for the regular test and \$10.00 per sample for the regular plus manganese and zinc test. For more information on soil testing, contact your county CES office.



APRIL DISCUSSION TOPIC: "Wetlands From the State's View"

Say the word "wetlands" and most people visualize a swamp, complete with frogs, ducks and cattails. But to environmental activists and government regulators, the wetlands vision may include not only the traditional swamp, but parts of your farm that may retain surface water during certain parts of the year.

Farmers in Michigan, like most citizens in our environmentally aware state, recognize wetlands have environmental and recreational value. Farmers respect the desire to preserve wetlands. But confused interpretation and enforcement of Michigan's wetland regulations have farmers puzzled about what's more endangered: wetlands or agricultural production.

"One reason there is so much confusion about wetlands is that there is a multiplicity of laws governing the use of wetlands in the state," said Vicki Pontz, a Michigan Farm Bureau legislative counsel who specializes in natural resources issues. "The Goemere-Anderson Wetland Protection Act set overall state wetlands policy, established a permit program and authorized local ordinances. But other state laws affecting wetlands include the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act, the Michigan Environmental Protection Act, and the Flood Plain Regulatory Act. Plus, there are applicable local, county and federal regulations on wetlands."

The Wetland Protection Act defines regulated wetlands as those areas: where water is present; where there is wetland vegetation and aquatic life; which are contiguous to a lake or stream; or are areas which the Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

determines are essential to be protected in order to preserve natural resources. After the DNR completes its statewide wetlands inventory, non-contiguous wetlands over five acres in size will also be regulated.

"Farm Bureau members recognize that wetlands have value for maintaining water quality, and for flood storage and runoff delay," Pontz said. "But our farmers also think that ambiguous, discretionary language in the law gives too much arbitrary authority to district and regional enforcement personnel. And farmers believe current wetland regulations are short sighted in failing to recognize that the value of some wetlands must be balanced against private property rights and the value of potential agricultural production."

Farm Bureau policy suggests several possible solutions to the wetlands dilemma, including: establishing statewide standards for wetlands determination to ensure uniform application in all locations; developing rules to facilitate more reasonable and expeditious application of the Wetlands Act; and compensating landowners when application of the Wetlands Act results in a substantial or total loss to the value of property. Such compensation could come in the form of a wetlands reserve program. "With new members to be appointed to the Natural Resources Commission and a new Department of Natural Resources (DNR) director to be hired, the agricultural community has an opportunity to pursue some of these changes administratively within the DNR," said Pontz.

Farm Bureau members can play a role in the wetlands issue by providing Farm Bureau with information on unfair or inequitable

enforcement of state wetland laws. "They can also keep an eye on local or county wetland ordinances," Pontz said. "Farmers can also talk to legislators about the importance of consistent enforcement and the need for compensation, perhaps through a Wetlands Reserve Program."


Society has come a long way since the 1850's when farmers were deeded land in Michigan in exchange for draining wetlands. Today, farmers recognize that wetlands have a new value to society. But farmers hope that society also values the private property rights of agricultural land and is willing to consider a balanced view of the controversial wetlands issue.

Discussion questions:

1. Would members of your CAG be in favor of voluntarily placing privately owned wetlands in a reserve program if they were compensated for the loss of that land?
2. How do members of your group feel wetlands should be determined?
3. Are you aware of proposed or enacted local wetland ordinances?
4. What action should Farm Bureau members take when local wetland ordinances are proposed?
5. Have there been situations in your community where recognized wetlands have stopped development, and if so, briefly describe the situation.

Yes _____ No _____

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Winter wouldn't be complete without a little time out for fun and bowling. Nineteen teams from five county Farm Bureaus participated in the "Saginaw Valley Community Action Group Bowl-a-Rama" recently at the Stardust Lanes in Saginaw. MFB Regional Representative Trisha Tuggle, said the event was a "social activity for existing CAGs that allowed farmers to meet other farmers and enjoy each others company." The event included a buffet dinner, where Leo Danzer was awarded men's high score with a 234 and Becky Somers was awarded women's high score with a 221. High County Average honors went to Isabella County with a 163 average, while High Team Average honors went to the "Frankensteins CAG" of Saginaw County.

YPCS — Student Search is On!

"The seminar made me appreciate my country more and realize that we have an important job in the future," past Young People's Citizenship Seminar program participant.

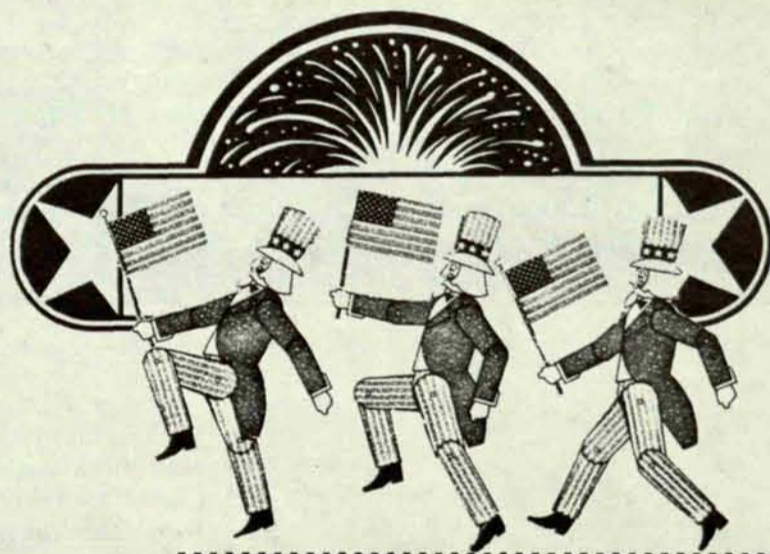
Outstanding high school students eligible to attend the Michigan Farm Bureau Young People's Citizenship Seminar, June 17-21, at Olivet College, will be participating in one of the finest programs for young people in our state. YPCS "graduates" return to their communities with the knowledge, commitment and enthusiasm for participating in our democratic way of life.

Eligible students are: high school juniors and seniors in the 1991-92 school year; interested in government, social and economic issues, and/or politics; potential leaders or those who participate well in large group settings; articulate and willing to speak to groups after the seminar; and from either a farm or non-farm background.

During the conference, over 200 young men and women will participate in mock voter registration, political party conventions, campaigns, and voting. Dynamic speakers who are recognized experts in the fields of economic, world cultures and governments and personal growth will background the students on their role as citizens of the United States and the world.

The selection process varies, according to program coordinator Julie Chamberlain. "Some students are asked to prepare a written essay or take part in a personal interview. In some cases, student selection is based on recommendations from high school administrators."

County Farm Bureaus pay registration fees with support of local businesses, leaving only transportation costs to be covered by the students. For application and additional program information contact your county Farm Bureau office. But hurry! Registration deadline is May 1, 1991.



It's going to be a **Star Spangled Celebration** at Farm Bureau Center in Lansing. You'll want to be part of, so plan to attend Michigan Farm Bureau's

Summerfest Ticket Order Form

We're ready to celebrate at the 1991 Star-Spangled Summerfest! Send us tickets for Summerfest at Farm Bureau Center, July 17. A check or money order made out to Michigan Farm Bureau for _____ tickets at \$4 per person totalling \$ _____ is enclosed.

Send tickets to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

County _____

- SUMMERFEST July 17**
- ★ Grilled Steak Dinner with all the trimmings
 - ★ Cold drinks
 - ★ Apple pie and other sweet treats
 - ★ Games
 - ★ Music

Mail by June 21 to: Summerfest, Michigan Farm Bureau, P. O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909. Only 2,000 tickets are available and will sold on a first come-first served basis.

8 Making Pesticide Storage Safe

Concerns about the environment and concerns about the possibility of accidents that might harm people and animals are causing farmers to seek safer ways to store pesticides. Government agencies are also in the process of developing guidelines and regulations for pesticide storage facilities. Larry Olsen, pesticide education coordinator at Michigan State University, offers these general recommendations:

Storage site and building guidelines.

- Store pesticides in a locked, secure place. Consider fencing around and in the storage building.
- It is preferable to have a separate building for pesticide storage. If it's necessary for pesticide storage to be a part of a building used for other purposes, the storage area should be on the ground floor. Offices and valuable equipment should not be located in the building or area.

- When constructing a storage facility, consider soil and land surface characteristics to prevent contamination of surface or groundwater by drainage, runoff, or leaching. Locate your storage area where water damage (flooding) is unlikely to occur. Keep it downwind and downhill from sensitive areas such as houses, play areas, gardens, and ponds. Locate the facility a safe distance away from wells.

- Exhaust fans directed to the outside reduce the temperature and dust or fume concentrations. Fans should provide three to six air changes per hour. Large storage areas, when occupied, may require up to 20 air changes per hour.

- Use fire resistant building material when possible. A sealed cement floor is best. Seal the walls and floor with a substance such as epoxy paint to prevent absorption of spilled pesticides.

- Sinks or showers are needed for cleanup. Drains that may contain pesticide solutions from cleanup, mixing or maintenance operations must not connect to water sewer systems or be openly discharged. Water should be stored temporarily in holding tanks until it can be used as a dilutant for the next spray of similar materials or disposed of properly.

Storage Guidelines

- Keep all pesticides out of reach of children, pets, livestock and irresponsible people.

- Within the storage area, separate pesticides by group (herbicides, insecticides, etc.) to prevent accidental misuse or contamination. Store pesticides away from food, feed, potable water supplies, veterinary supplies, seeds, and protective equipment. By doing so, you'll prevent contamination from fumes, dust, or spills.

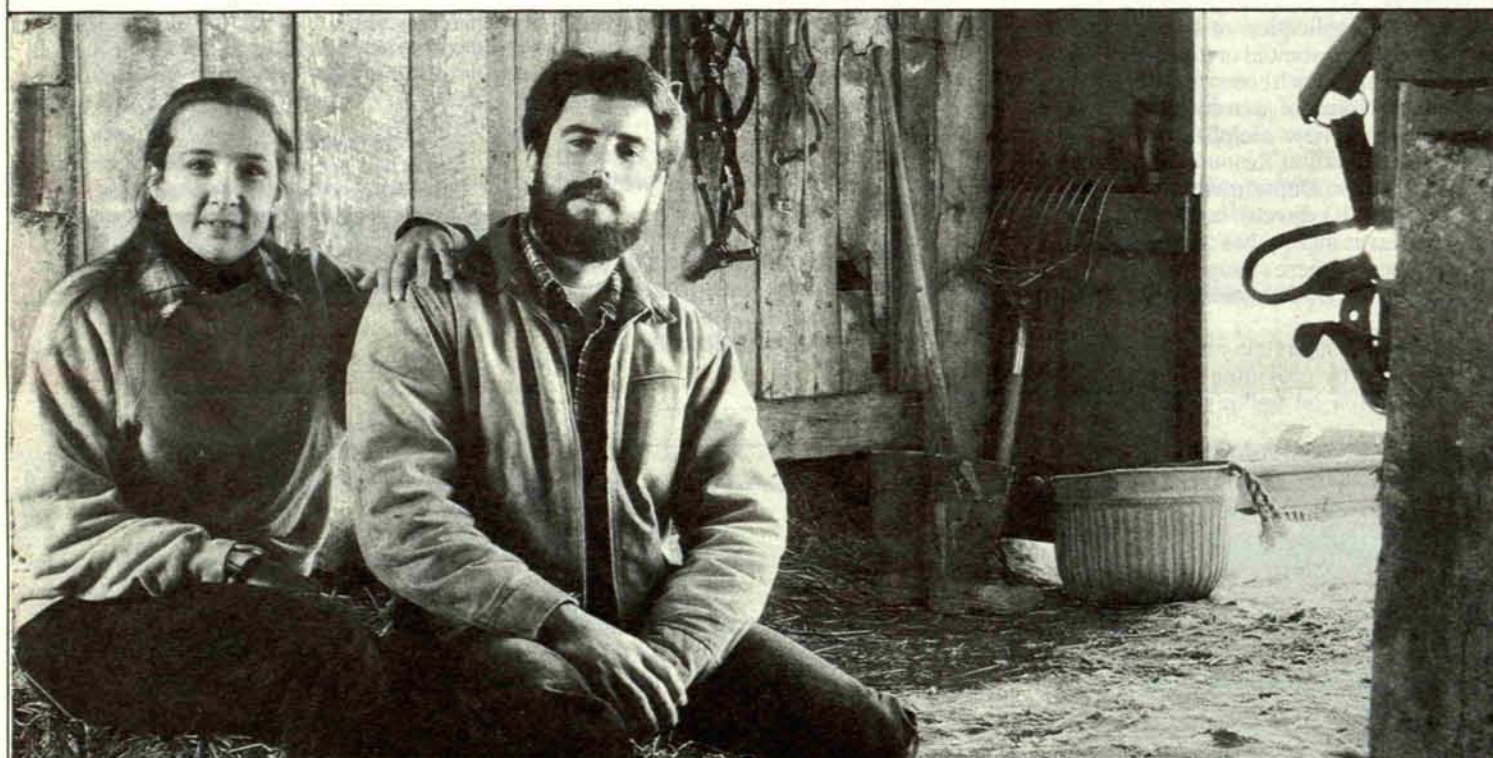


From Farm Bureau Insurance

- Ventilate the storage area and keep it relatively free from temperature extremes. Very high or low temperatures can cause pesticide deterioration. Generally pesticides should be stored between 40 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Never place pesticide containers in front of windows. Humidity should be kept low.
- Post highly visible, weather proof warning signs on walls, doors, or windows to indicate to anyone entering the facility that pesticides are stored there. Also post NO SMOKING signs.
- Store liquid formulations and small containers of dry formulations on metal shelving. It will not absorb spilled pesticides and is easier to clean than other surfaces.
- Store glass containers under cool conditions on lower shelves. Too much heat can break a glass container or cause it to explode.
- Containers should not extend beyond shelving where they could be bumped or knocked off. Place larger metal drums and nonmetallic containers on pallets.
- Store protective clothing in a convenient location away from pesticides and their fumes.
- Store pesticides only in their original, labeled containers to minimize the potential for accidents. Mark pesticide containers with the date of purchase to ensure that the oldest container is used up first.
- Consult pesticide labels for special storage instructions.
- Have cleanup materials and equipment (kitty litter, sawdust or other absorbent material, plastic-lined containers, small shovel, broom, dustpan, etc.) readily available. A fire extinguisher approved for chemical fires should be easily accessible. So should first aid equipment. Install smoke detectors, alarms, or sprinklers as needed.
- Give the fire department a floor plan showing the location, names, and amounts of pesticides stored.

Keep this information at the storage facility and in your home;

1. A list of emergency phone numbers
 - Police
 - Fire
 - Poison Control Center
 - Pollution Emergency Alerting System (1-800-292-4706)
 - DNR Waste Management Division (517-373-4706)
 - A spill cleanup company
2. An inventory of pesticides.
3. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for each pesticides on site.
4. A map of the building floor showing the location of pesticides.
5. A site plan indicating building sewers, wells, direction of runoff, and other environmental hazards.



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For further information call 1-800-292-2680 or contact your local Farm Bureau agent.