

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

June 15, 1991



Farm Pesticide Collection - Successful

Photos: Courtesy of MDA

A Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) program to collect banned and unusable farm pesticides netted 109,000 pounds of pesticides from 322 farms in 23 Michigan counties, according to Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division Director Dr. Chuck Cabbage.

A project summary released to the Ag Commission at its May meeting shows, an average of 338 pounds of pesticides per participant was collected, at a cost of \$621 per participant or \$2.00 per pound of material collected. The average age of the pesticides collected was 20 years and included the likes of DDT and lead/arsenic pesticides.

The 1990-91 program, modeled after a successful 1988 pilot farm collection program in Northwest Michigan, was financed by \$200,000 of MDA funds in the form of grants to eight regional collection sites, to cover transportation and disposal of the chemicals.

Cabbage attributes the success of the program to the team effort approach that included representatives from the Cooperative Extension Service, MDA, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Department of

Natural Resources, and county Environmental Health Divisions.

"The team approach was critical in getting farmers interested in and trustful of the program, which naturally increased participation," says Cabbage. "It was also a great educational opportunity to let farmers know what each agency is doing in dealing with this issue."

Process

Recommended regional collection sites were selected based on a number of factors, including crop types and pesticides used. Surveys were then mailed to farmers in the region asking if they had unusable pesticides they wanted to dispose of and, if so, how much. According to Cabbage, 10 to 15 percent of those who could have participated did so.

"The survey forms were either returned to the county CES agents, or the county environmental health departments," said Cabbage. "CES agents then made follow-up phone calls to farmers, who returned the surveys, to gather more information."

The follow-up phone calls were used to determine the safety of the pesticide containers, and repackaging and safety tips for proper handling were also given. The calls also helped determine the type and amount of material to be brought in, explained Cabbage.

"If a farmer wanted to get rid of a pesticide, whether they didn't feel comfortable with it or didn't have a use for it, they could bring it in regardless if it was a banned chemical or not," said Cabbage. "In a number of cases, if the chemical was still



registered for use, the Extension agent would try to find a use for the pesticide."

To assure higher participation, MDA was able to arrange for modified EPA manifesting requirements that allowed farmers to transport banned pesticides to the regional collection site. According to Cabbage, a delay in getting this agreement may have hindered participation in the program because of farmer liability concerns.

Once chemicals were delivered to regional collection sites, material was transported by a licensed hazardous waste contractor to be disposed of in a licensed hazardous waste incinerator, with the exception of lead/arsenic and mercury compounds, which had to be disposed of in a hazardous waste landfill because of heavy metal compounds.

Future Program Efforts

A 1990 MDA national survey of other state agricultural collection programs indicated that a third collection effort would result in substantially heavier participation than either of the prior collections in a given region, possibly as much as 2 million pounds statewide, because of a greater trust and understanding of a collection program.

Results of MDA's 1990-91 collection seem to support that projection. Participation in Northwestern Michigan increased 66 percent from the 1988 pilot program levels. Cabbage also noted that participation in the 1990-91 program increased as the program proceeded from region to region.

See "Collection" - continued on page 8

1990-91 Farm Pesticide Collection

Site	Cost	Lbs	Users
Adrian	\$18,000	10,600	30
Escanaba	\$11,000	6,218	33
Posen	\$6,000	1,512	8
Traverse City	\$76,000	34,400	105
Muskegon	\$48,000	23,525	69
Clarksville	\$18,000	20,609	32
Watervliet	\$23,000	11,855	45
Total	\$200,000	108,719	322

Avg. Cost \$621/participant
 Avg. Collected 338 lbs./participant
 Disposal Cost \$1.84/pound

Counties Involved - Alpena, Antrim, Barry, Benzie, Berrien, Cass, Cheboygan, Delta, Grand Traverse, Ionia, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Mason, Monroe, Montcalm, Montmorency, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Presque Isle, St. Joseph, Van Buren.

Canola Research and Production Tour on June 27 - St. Johns

Farmers interested in growing canola can get updated agronomic advice during a June 27 tour and educational program scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. at Smith Hall on the Clinton County fairgrounds in St. Johns. The event is being sponsored by MSU's Cooperative Extension Service.

demonstrations will be discussed. Economic comparisons between wheat and canola production will also be discussed. More information about the tour can be obtained from Larry Copeland at MSU by calling 517-353-9545, or from Giles Roehl at the Clinton County Cooperative Extension Service, at 517-224-5240.

Photo: MSU Outreach Communications



Included in the morning session will be tours of two sites where the crop is being grown near St. Johns. Robert Kissane is growing three varieties of canola on 80 acres, and Stanley Thelen is growing six varieties of canola on 25 acres. A growers' panel will discuss canola production before the luncheon in Smith Hall.

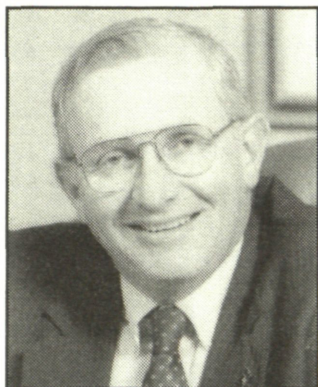
Speaking during the marketing session will be Bill Campbell of Countrymark in St. Johns; Dale Jury, Michigan Agricultural Commodities, Lansing; and Carol McKeegan, Archer Daniels Midland, Ltd., Windsor, Ontario.

Tours of the canola research plots at MSU will begin at 1:30 p.m. During the research tour, canola variety trials, disease control and nutrient management research plots, and canola and sugar beet compatibility

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Fast-Track Opportunities for Expansion in a Competitive Environment

Thanks to recent action by Congress, fast-track trade negotiating authority is now a reality. International trade negotiations in the GATT and the beginning of talks with Mexico and Canada had been stalled while lawmakers debated the fast-track issue. But now, Bush administration negotiators can do their best to hammer out a successful conclusion to these trade talks without worrying about being "second-guessed" and micro-managed by Congress. We don't know if the talks will result in successful agreements, but Farm Bureau's concern all along has been that the talks at least be given a chance to succeed.

U.S. trade representative Carla Hills recently noted that "U.S. farmers are the most productive in the world. A freer and fairer trading system will enable U.S. producers to maximize that competitive advantage. Agricultural exports currently account for more than \$40 billion a year in sales, providing about one-fifth of farmers' cash receipts. About one-third of U.S. harvested crop acreage is produced for export each year. These exports create a half-million farm jobs plus another half-million processing, packaging and shipping jobs."

American farmers clearly have a great stake in reforming the current trading system. Agriculture Undersecretary Richard Crowder, testifying before the House Agriculture Committee, said that "foreign countries shut out imports and stimulate high production and low consumption with artificially high domestic prices. Then they dump their surplus production on the already overburdened world market. The strong competitive advantages of U.S. farmers and agriculture firms are too often stymied, resulting in world market prices which are chronically low and unstable."

Farm Bureau will follow the GATT and Mexico/Canada free trade negotiations closely to determine whether eventual agreements represent fair and equitable treatment for farmers. We will be sending a delegation to Switzerland this month to monitor the GATT. In addition, Farm Bureau will be especially interested in ensuring the Mexican market will be open to U.S. agricultural commodities. We certainly intend to carefully watch formation of the transition period to free trade and the safeguards that must be built in for import-sensitive commodities like Michigan asparagus.

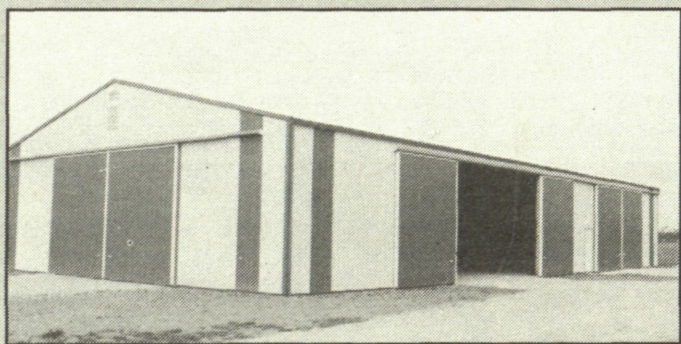
Agriculture as an industry should encourage our trade negotiators to continue to work diligently in positioning us in a more fair trading environment in the world market. Anything less would cheat farmers out of their potential for economic prosperity in the future.

Jack Laurie

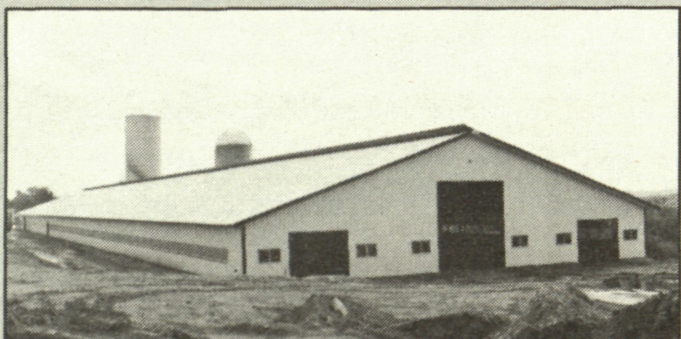
Jack Laurie, President
Michigan Farm Bureau



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In Brief...

Iowa Seeking Disaster Declaration

Iowa Gov. Terry Brandstad has asked USDA Secretary Edward Madigan to declare 44 Iowa counties disaster areas because of wet conditions that have delayed corn plantings. In the 44 counties that Brandstad is asking to be declared disasters, about 47 percent of the crop was not planted as of May 29 because of extreme wet conditions, according to the governor's office. That means some 2.55 million acres have not been planted and many will not be planted this year.

The disaster status would allow Iowa farmers to seek special treatment under 1991 farm programs. The north and south central counties have been hardest hit by wet weather. According to Brandstad's plea, it is "highly probable" that nearly one-half of the corn crop acres in the 44 counties will not be planted by June 10, with a yield loss of 30 percent or more.

Yields on corn not planted by June 1, on average, will drop 16 percent below normal, according to Iowa State University Extension Service specialists. If corn is not planted by June 10, yield losses of 29 percent can be expected, and if not planted until June 20, yield losses could reach 45 percent or more. Rain continues to be a factor in the Iowa weather forecast. Recent rainfalls in Iowa are expected to cause further planting delays.

On March 28, USDA predicted Iowa farmers would plant 13 million acres of corn and U.S. farmers 76.12 million corn acres. So the 2.55 million acres in the 44 Iowa counties left unplanted could make up 3.3 percent of intended U.S. corn acres and almost 20 percent of Iowa's intended plantings.

Health Care Costs Continue Soaring

A survey of 15 leading insurance firms indicates an average comprehensive corporate medical plan will cost 24 to 32 percent more this year than last, according to a recent *Wall Street Journal* report.

Costs for a major medical plan with basic hospital coverage will rise 25 to 34 percent, while a preferred-provider managed-care network could cost from 20 to 25 percent more.

Major contributors to the overall 24 percent increase are a 35 percent increase in outpatient care, a big increase in new medical technology and the use of new services and equipment. More modest increases will be for AIDS treatment, hospital room and board, drugs and aging population.

USDA Reports Little Reform in Soviet Agriculture

The USDA report on Soviet agricultural reform says little progress has been made. Political columnist David Broder, in a *Washington Post* editorial, says aid we give to the Soviets should be in forms other than money. The Soviets need better technology, better organization and a different political climate.

The Soviets have wasted no time in using the \$1 billion francs in credit offered by France, according to a *Reuters* report. Neither did they wait long to cash in on the \$1 billion in loan guarantees from the United States to buy agricultural products. Extension of additional U.S. credit to the Soviets is still under consideration by the administration.

MDA Hearing on Onion Program Amendments

Petitions signed by 39 producers were submitted to the Michigan Department of Agriculture requesting an amendment to change the current assessment rate from 2 cents per bag (4 cents per hundredweight) to 3 cents per bag (six cents per hundredweight) for each bag of onions shipped.

According to MDA Director Bill Schuette, a public hearing is scheduled June 17 at MDA's hearing room, 611 W. Ottawa Street, corner of Ottawa and Pine Streets in Lansing, beginning at 1:30 p.m., to consider the amendment.

Interested persons who cannot attend the hearing may submit testimony in writing, which should be sent to Nancy Walter, MDA, Center for Agricultural Innovation and Development, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909.

1992 Conservation Reserve Program Signup

Farmers will soon have another opportunity to bid (apply) for enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The next sign-up period for 1992 contracts will run from July 8 to July 19, 1992.

In Michigan, any land that has been used to produce crops two or more years out of the last five years is eligible for enrollment. Bids accepted to date have been comparable with local rental rates. Priority consideration is given to bids that include conservation easements for long-term conservation practices such as windbreaks, grassed waterways and filter strips.

Landowners and operators interested in the program should contact their local ASCS office for program details and to place a bid for enrollment.

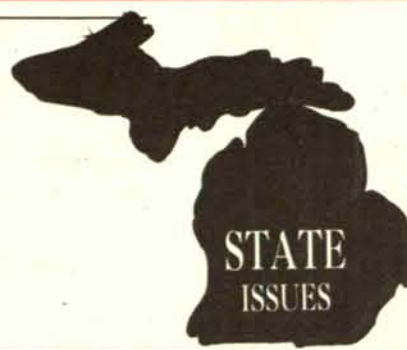
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Farm Animal and Research Facilities Protection Act of 1991

Status: House Resolution 2407, pending in the House Agriculture Committee, would make it a federal offense to disrupt the business of a biomedical or agricultural research facility, destroy property, or steal animals. The legislation is in response to animal rights activists who have broken into research facilities, released animals involved in research and damaged laboratory equipment and facilities.

The violence is spreading to agricultural facilities, including a large livestock auction facility in California that was burned earlier this year by an animal rights group. Cosponsors of the proposal from Michigan include Representatives Dave Camp, Bob Davis, Paul Henry, Fred Upton, Guy Vander Jagt, and Howard Wolpe.

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau supports the legislation, which is similar to a package that cleared the Senate last year and was cosponsored by 235 members of the House.

Farm Bureau Contact: Al Almy, extension 2040.

Dairy Assessments and Conservation Compliance

Status: Under the Budget Reconciliation Act, dairy farmers are being assessed 5 cents per hundredweight to help reduce the federal budget deficit, and is scheduled to increase to 11 cents per cwt. effective Jan., 1992. Producers who do not increase their milk production are eligible for a refund.

USDA, however, recently issued an interpretation that the assessment will not be refunded unless the producer complies with the conservation provisions of the 1990 farm bill including sodbuster and swampbuster.

House Resolution 2189, pending in the House Agriculture Committee, would eliminate the requirement that a dairy producer be in compliance with the conservation provisions in order to get a refund of the dairy assessment.

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau supports H.R. 2189 and opposes the linkage of dairy assessment refunds to conservation compliance because dairy producers do not receive direct farm program payments for milk produced.

Farm Bureau Contact: Al Almy, extension 2040.

Retirement Account Rollover

Status: Identical bills pending in the Senate Finance Committee (S. 1130) and in the House Ways and Means Committee (H.R. 2470) would allow a farmer, other business owners and self-employed taxpayers to invest proceeds from the sale of capital assets into an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), Keogh plan or similar retirement account. Taxes would be paid only at the time the funds are withdrawn.

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau supports both pieces of legislation.

Farm Bureau Contact: Al Almy, extension 2040.

Wetlands Delineation Manual

Status: The Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Army Corps Engineers, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are working to revise a 1989 wetlands delineation manual. The 1989 manual's wetlands definition included even small areas which are only occasionally wet, and were considered subject to federal wetlands regulations.

The revised manual will be released in the next few weeks. Farm Bureau, however, has been able to obtain advance draft copies. The new wetlands definition requires water at the surface for 14 consecutive days during the three weeks before or after the frost-free period.

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau supports a wetlands definition that includes only land that has water at the surface for 21 consecutive days which will clearly distinguish soils saturated by heavy rains and true functioning wetlands. Farm Bureau also supports narrowing the saturation time period to the average frost-free period because early spring soil is still "winter wet" and dormant.

Farm Bureau Contact: Al Almy, extension 2040.

Highway Legislation

Status: The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee recently reported a \$105 billion highway and mass transit bill. The bill, if approved by Congress, will provide states and local governments far more freedom in deciding how to spend federal transportation dollars.

The legislation is a 5-year program but far more flexible than the legislation proposed by the administration. The proposal approved by the committee overlooks the traditional highway program by allocating more funds to states and localities for highways, mass transit and rail projects of their choice.

Before approving the legislation, the committee passed an amendment to block expanded operations by long and heavier trucks. The trucking companies were in hopes that the federal government would permit states to decide for themselves whether to allow the operation of bigger trucks (doubles and triples) on the national highway system.

The Senate bill is expected to be programmed for full Senate action in June. The House Public Works and Transportation Committee has not yet introduced its version of the highway reauthorization program.

Farm Bureau Contact: Al Almy, extension 2040.

Michigan Corn Utilization Commission Act

Status: Rep. Muxlow has introduced House Bill 4868, calling for a Corn Utilization Commission consisting of 16 voting members in addition to the MDA Director and the MSU Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Under terms of the bill, the state would be able to mandate a 1/4 of 1 percent assessment on the net value of corn sold in Michigan starting this year to promote corn. A referendum would be held in three years to consider an increase to 1/2 of 1 percent.

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau supports the rights of producers to initiate a referendum by petition, as provided by the Michigan Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act of 1965 (P.A. 232). Farm Bureau opposes H.B. 4868 because a producer referendum would not be held before the check-off begins, but supports commodity organizations organizing under P.A. 232.

If individual commodities wish to organize, the Legislature could well be burdened with up to 125 or more requests for enactment of legislation to conduct promotional programs. **Farm Bureau is encouraging members to contact their respective Representative and voice opposition to H.B. 4868.** **Farm Bureau Contact:** Ron Nelson, extension 2043.

Michigan State University Funding

Status: Legislation has been referred to a House/Senate Conference Committee that includes increased funding of 6.5 percent for the Cooperative Extension Service and 7.7 percent for the Agricultural Experiment Station. The increases are considered noteworthy since the increase for other institutions ranges from 4.7 to 6 percent, and the fact that CES and AES don't have access to tuition increases at MSU.

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau supports the increased funding and is grateful to Sen. Schwarz and the Senate Higher Education Subcommittee for its efforts.

Farm Bureau Contact: Ron Nelson, extension 2043.

P.A. 116 Funding

Status: Senate Bill 296, awaiting action on the Senate floor, would open the P.A. 116 restricted fund established by farmer-payback of P.A. 116 credits to fund the administrative costs of P.A. 116. The fund was originally intended for the purchase of development rights on unique or critical land areas. P.A. 116 administrative costs had previously been funded out of the General Fund.

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau opposes the bill, concerned that once the fund is opened up for purposes other than what it was originally intended for, that other agencies will look to the restricted fund as a source of revenues during tight budget times. There is also considerable discussion on P.A. 116 and property tax reform measures that could seriously alter the financial condition of the fund.

Farm Bureau Contact: Ron Nelson, extension 2043.

P.A. 116 Amendments

Status: Senate Bill 333, has passed the Senate, containing a number of amendments to P.A. 116 including:

- Up to three years to request termination following the death of a member to a P.A. 116 contract, including children that are active participants in the operation.
- Development of an advisory review panel.
- Payback options, including a seven-year reduction of the lien, if the property remains in active agriculture.
- Clarifies that hardships may be a reason to terminate contracts.
- Requires that an outside management expert be involved in hardship determinations.
- Clarifies that in cases of an individual with multiple parcels, that the payback on any given individual parcel will be the amount of credit received on that parcel.
- Requires the departments of Natural Resources and Treasury to provide a 30-day notice prior to posting a lien, allowing a farmer to pay back the credits prior to the lien being attached to the property
- Substitution can take place only when approved by the advisory review panel.

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau supports the bill.

Farm Bureau Contact: Ron Nelson, extension 2043.

Motor Vehicle Bumper Height

Status: Rep. Middaugh is sponsoring legislation, H.B. 4864, intended to limit the use of modified high rise trucks on Michigan roads. The bill revises current vehicle bumper and frame height requirements, and would create different height categories based on vehicle type and gross weight. The legislation does not clearly address the enforcement aspects of the law. Vehicle height standards are considered crucial to safe driving on Michigan roads.

Farm Bureau Position: Farm Bureau policy supports vigorous enforcement of bumper height laws, and is opposing H.B. 4864 because enforcement aspects have not been properly addressed.

Farm Bureau Contact: Darcy Cypher, extension 2048

From MFB's Public Affairs Division, (517) 323-7000

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**Michigan and Major Commodity Area
Extended Weather Outlook**

T - Temp.	6/15.....6/30	6/15.....8/31
P - Precip.	T.....P	T.....P
Michigan	A.....B	A.....N
W. Corn Belt	A.....A	A.....N
E. Corn Belt	A.....N	A.....B
Wint. Wheat Belt	A.....A	A.....B
Spr. Wheat Belt	A.....N	A.....N
Pac. NW Wheat	B.....A	B.....N
Delta	A.....N	A.....B
Southeast	A.....N	A.....B
West Texas	N.....A	A.....N
San Joaquin	B.....N	B.....A

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

Weather

For 5/1/91 to 5/31/91	Temperature		Accum. Grow. Degree Days*	Dev. From Norm. GDD*	Precipitation	
	Observed Max.	Dev From Normal			Actual (inch.)	Dev. From Norm (inch.)
Alpena	59.0	+6.8	469	+191	5.70	+2.92
Bad Axe	61.5	+6.3	551	+168	4.25	+1.70
Escanaba	53.4	+3.1	216	+55	6.04	+3.04
Grand Rapids	65.1	+7.7	711	+246	4.03	+1.17
Imlay City	63.1	+6.1	644	+211	4.56	+1.81
Lansing	64.4	+7.2	699	+245	1.73	-.84
Ludington	61.5	+7.1	568	+201	2.15	-.33
Marquette	56.2	+6.2	431	-181	3.07	-.11
Sault Ste. Marie	56.4	+6.7	364	+55	2.79	-.11
Standish	60.7	+6.0	540	+157	3.61	+.92
Tipton	64.7	+6.5	702	+269	4.38	+1.34
Traverse City	60.9	+7.4	550	+251	2.27	-.21
Watervliet	65.1	+5.9	714	+249	3.09	-.09

* Growing Degree Days are based on B.E. Base 50F method and are accumulated from March 1, 1991.

European Corn Borer Egg Masses Found

According to a recent Crop Advisory Team (CAT) Alert report, the first European Corn Borer (ECB) egg masses of the season were found on corn plots at the MSU research farms. The corn was in the three leaf stage and had as many as 13 egg masses per 25 plants.

Because of the delayed planting of corn in most parts of the state, and advanced degree day accumulations, first generation ECB will occur on younger stages of corn than normal. Growers who planted varieties with DIMBOA based ECB resistance may benefit from this situation since the resistance factor is more effective earlier in the corn plant's development.

Scouting data from last year, indicated that statewide, nearly 20 percent of the corn acreage was over the economic threshold for either the first or second generation of the ECB.

Summary and 30-Day Forecast

May brought record or near record temperatures to most of Michigan, with average temperatures ranging 4 to 7 degrees F above normal. Base 50 growing degree day totals for the season beginning March 1 surged forward during the month, reaching 200 percent of the normal accumulation by month's end in some cases. The abnormal warmth accelerated growth and development of both crops and pests.

Precipitation for the month was highly variable, ranging from less than 2 inches in sections of western and southern Michigan, to more than 6 inches in the eastern lower peninsula and southern Upper Peninsula. Persistent heavy rains in late May across the eastern lower peninsula caused fieldwork delays and flooding, necessitating replanting of some crops.

The latest monthly outlook calls for above normal temperatures with below normal rainfall. For the period through August, expect above normal temperatures, but with normal to above normal amounts of precipitation. With above normal temperatures in May, this outlook may indicate drought later in the season, especially in those areas missed by recent rains.

Jeff Andresen, Ag Meteorologist, MSU

Corn Progress – Outstanding

Corn growth has been outstanding due to high temperatures and sufficient moisture. Northwest Michigan reported corn standing 12 to 14 inches tall, while corn in south central Michigan was reported to be 6 inches or greater in height on June 4.

Some sugarbeet farmers have reported the worst growing conditions for crop. Replanting of a large percentage of the sugarbeet crop in some areas was a good possibility. Potato planting made excellent progress and was reported on schedule.

The winter wheat crop was rated 50 percent good to excellent. Hay conditions were suffering due to a large percentage of hay going down, in addition to some heavy rains. Hay was also reportedly troubled by weevils and overgrowth.

Apples are mixed with conditions varying by variety. Chemical thinning in some areas has worked well. The grape crop looks good though less than a normal crop is expected. Blueberries continue to look excellent, while the strawberry first harvest is in full swing, and the crop is reported good.

**CROP PROGRESS REPORT
Week Ending 6/2/91**

	This Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg.
Corn Planted	95%	95%	96%
Corn Emerged	80%	70%	80%
Dry Beans Planted	10%	10	10
Hay First Cutting	15	10	10
Potatoes Planted	70%	65%	65%
Soys Planted	25%	15%	25%
Soys Emerged	55%	25%	40%
Wheat Headed	60%	20%	30%

Source: Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service

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Michigan's
Farm Show



AGG Expo July 16-18

Michigan State University



June 15, 1991

A Place to Browse, Compare, Plan and Just Plain Have Fun!

Bill Bickert, Ag Expo Chairman

Ag Expo, July 16-18, is primarily intended as a place for farm families to be among their counterparts in agriculture who have at heart the well-being and continuance of the farm business.

This is the 12th year for Ag Expo at Michigan State University (MSU) and, based on the current interest being expressed by exhibitors from 22 states and Canada, this may be the best show ever.

The 35-acre exhibit area will be brimming with millions of dollars of farm equipment, supplies, and services. It will be the largest agricultural "comparison shopping" activity in Michigan.

The main reason for Ag Expo is to provide a place for farm families to plan for their future in addition to seeing what is new in farm technology and services in an enjoyable setting. Only at Ag Expo can Michigan farm families see as broad an array of equipment, buildings and supplies, make evaluations, talk with industry and university experts about agricultural opportunities and problems, and get ideas for improving their farm business.

In addition, there will be the demonstrations, displays and services in "education

row" that will be provided by 18 MSU departments.

This section of Ag Expo will include departments such as Veterinary Science, Institute of Water Research, Fisheries and Wildlife, Crop and Soil Sciences, Agricultural Engineering, to name a few. Representatives from these departments will be available for questions about crop production practices, farm management, animal health care, etc.

Visitors are requested to use the free parking facilities at the corner of Farm Lane and Mt. Hope Road (see map in this issue). If you don't feel like walking to the main exhibition site, take the free shuttle. The boarding station will be located on the north side of the main parking lot. A shuttle will leave every few minutes.

In the case of handicapped persons or people who otherwise need special transportation considerations, ask the traffic guide at the main gate to request the service of a golf cart. A limited number are available upon request from the Ag Expo headquarters. They are intended for those individuals who would not otherwise be able to see all of the exhibits in the main exhibition area. Special transportation services are not available at the field demonstration site.

It's going to be a "Star Spangled Celebration" at Farm Bureau Center in Lansing on July 17, starting at 3 p.m. The festive Summerfest event includes a grilled steak dinner with all the trimmings, cold drinks, apple pie and other sweet treats, games, and the country music of Southern Pride.

To get an added extra during your trip to Ag Expo, send in your ticket order form today along with a check or money order before the June 21 deadline. There's just 2,000 tickets available, sold on a first come-first serve basis, and sales are running well ahead of previous years. See the order form on the next page in the Summerfest ad!



Ag Expo '91 will again provide the Michigan Farm Bureau Family of Companies an opportunity to showcase their many products and services to an expected 50,000 farmers who will attend the three-day trade show. The Expo officially opens at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, July 16. Hours run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday.

The theme for this year's MFB big tent display, "The Farm Bureau Family Fair," will feature a carnival atmosphere with fun, games and information for the entire family. The 60' x 90' red and white striped tent will be located on our traditional lots in the heart of the Expo grounds at the corner of Second Street and Avenue D on lots 249 and 349 (see map on page 6).

Under the big top, members will find Farm Bureau staff ready to answer questions on everything from health care to custom diesel fuel. In addition to the many products and services, booths featuring member involvement programs, and a special informational booth, staffed by members of the Public Affairs Division and state agency resource people, will be included in this year's display.

Don't miss the most exciting spot on the Expo grounds, the Farm Bureau Family of Companies display. Look for the red and silver blimp flying high above the tent!

AG Expo

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Field Demonstrations - a 40-Acre Tillage Classroom

"We'll basically have the same tillage tools in use today on most farms, mainly field cultivators, with slightly different designs, maybe heavier frames, larger and higher ground clearances, wider spacing between the shanks, things like that," said Harrigan. "We'll be looking at similar tools, but with different designs, different configurations, that will allow them to work in heavy residue and also leave more residue on the surface when they're done."

Harrigan pointed out that many farmers already possess the equipment needed for higher residue levels, and that major purchases aren't likely, in most cases, to update tillage equipment.

"In some cases, all that's needed is a fine-tuning of management practices and an understanding of what they can do in the field with the equipment they have," said Harrigan. "In other cases, if farmers are using some of the older equipment that was designed for conventional tillage, they're going to have problems. It's just a matter of understanding what the equipment capabilities are and making adjustments."

"Depending on what their program is, typically farmers will be required to have at least a 30 percent residue cover in order to participate in the farm program and receive program benefits," says Harrigan. "So it's important after planting that farmers have at least a 30 percent residue cover on the surface."

"There are a number of farmers who are already doing it, obviously for the super soil conservation benefits, but there are a number of farmers participating in the farm program who are basically compelled to leave 30 percent if they want to remain active in the farm program and receive benefits," he said.



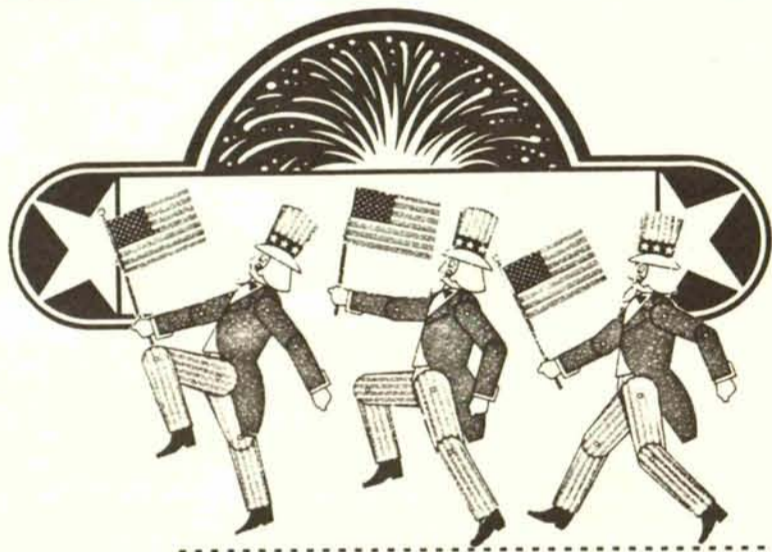
Photo: Michigan Soil Conservation Service

During Ag Expo, approximately 40 acres will evolve into a classroom of sorts, with residue management demonstrations to assist Michigan farmers in meeting their conservation plan obligations as required by the 1985 farm bill, according to Ag Expo field demonstrations coordinator, Tim Harrigan, power and machinery specialist with MSU's Department of Agricultural Engineering.

At the first of four steps planned for the field demonstrations, participants will learn about basic residue management and measurement techniques, says Harrigan. "We'll be talking about some of the fundamentals of tillage tool design that allows not only incorporating herbicides, but makes it possible for different tillage tools to operate in heavier soils and residues, and still do a good job in a single pass."

"We'll have an area at the first stop where we've run a number of different tools across an area so that farmers can see, after we've made measurements, what residue levels look like, whether it's 30 percent or 60 percent, for example," said Harrigan.

From there, four participants will have an opportunity to view a wide range of tillage, soil and residue scenarios at the next three stops, that would apply to their particular farm operations, and the latest in tillage equipment design in action, according to Harrigan.



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 July 17

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

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 _____

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.

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AG Expo

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Residue Requirements and Conservation Compliance



According to Howell, all county SCS offices have a wealth of information available regarding conservation compliance, including a seven-minute videotape as well as fact sheets and work sheets for calculating residue levels. "Our people will do their best to make residue determinations as close to planting as possible," said Howell. "Unless the deficiency is obvious, I don't foresee any problems."

Photos: Michigan Soil Conservation Service



The Michigan Association of Conservation Districts will have an exhibit tent featuring displays on residue management techniques, and residue requirements to meet conservation compliance, according to Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Information Officer Roger Howell.

According to Howell, an approved conservation plan was to have been completed by Jan. 1, 1990 to control erosion on highly erodible cropland, which was met in Michigan. The law requires full implementation of those plans by Jan. 1, 1995. Those two dates seem to be causing some confusion, says Howell.

"There was a belief earlier that farmers had until Jan. 1, 1995 to get things in order - that may not be the case," warned Howell. "If their conservation plan calls for conservation tillage or any other practices to be in effect in 1991, they'll be out of compliance in 1991 if they don't have it in place."

Residue requirements, whether on soybean ground or corn silage ground, for that matter, shouldn't be taken lightly, advises Howell. "If you have any primary tillage on soybean residue, your chances of having enough residue after planting to meet conservation compliance requirements are very slim or non-existent. If you've got soybean residue, you need to figure out how to make the system work. You may need to use no-till; even a field cultivator may be too much. You definitely don't want to go through there with a chisel plow or disk," he said.

SCS will be checking conservation compliance on 5 percent of the farms and, according to Howell, the rules are pretty straightforward - either you're in compliance or you're not. If not, the county ASCS office is advised. "Soil conservationists will select farms to check conservation plan compliance which may include grassed waterways, crop rotation, contour farming and/or residue levels," he said.

ASCS Conservation Program Specialist Bob Payne echoed the same comments in regard to conservation compliance. "If they're not in compliance, they won't be eligible for USDA farm program payments for the current program year."

That also means that advance deficiency payments would have to be returned, says Payne. Those not in compliance would need to get their conservation plan back on track to be eligible in 1992 for farm program benefits.

"There's always an opportunity to review the status of their highly erodible land and determination, but the definition of meeting conservation compliance requirement is in terms of planting the crop each year," says Payne. "If they've planted the crop and haven't met the requirement, then it's after the fact and there's not much they can do to correct it."

"Farmers who are operating on highly erodible cropland need to take the conservation program seriously," said Payne. "I think as the 1985 farm program came to an end, many farmers thought the conservation requirements would be eased, but they're not. From the USDA agency perspective, we're looking at what farmers are doing and we're doing everything we can regarding conservation compliance and training, so that they can remain eligible for farm program benefits."

Farm Machinery Purchases Expected to Increase

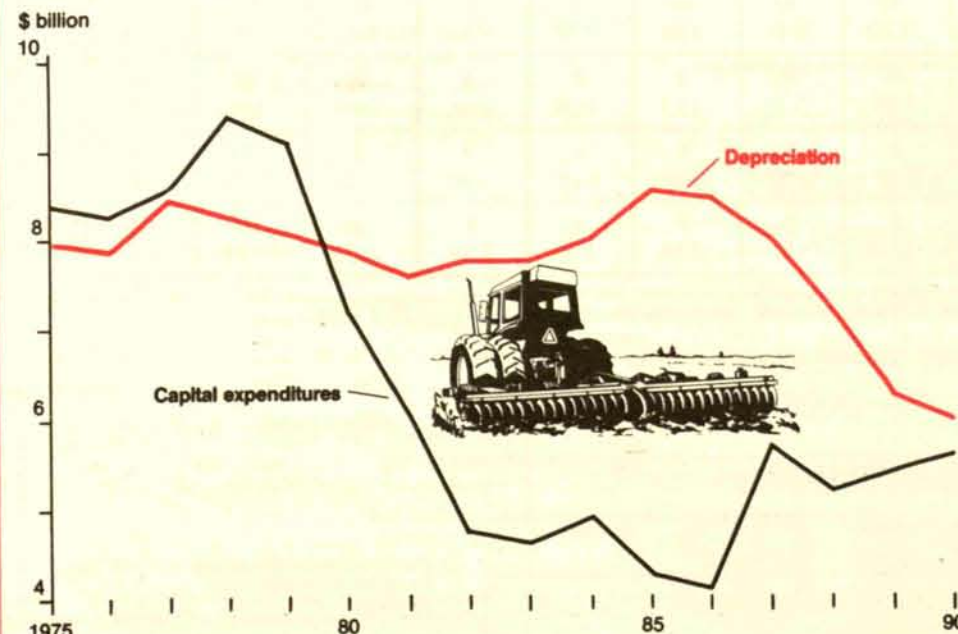
Depreciation exceeded capital expenditures for tractors, trucks and other farm machinery each year during 1980-1990. This phenomenon, often referred to as "capital depletion," was most pronounced in the mid-1980s, according to "Agricultural Outlook," a USDA economics report.

According to the report, equipment manufacturers and dealers stand to benefit from recent factors that favorably affect the demand for farm machinery, including record and near-record farm incomes, lower debt-to-asset ratios, and lower inter-

est rates. In 1991, unit sales of tractors and farm machinery are expected to rise an average of 4 percent from 1990 levels.

The farm equipment industry is likely to see continued restructuring, however. The 1991 U.S. Industrial Outlook reports that farm tractor production capacity in the machinery industry is nearly double the demand in Western countries. Larger tractors, especially four-wheel-drive units, are commanding larger shares of total tractor sales, attributed to the long-term trend of larger and fewer farms.

Farm Equipment Depreciation Exceeded Capital Expenditures for a Decade



1990 preliminary. Adjusted for inflation.

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Ag Expo Show Hours

Tuesday:
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Wednesday:
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thursday:
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Bulletin Provides Row Banding Guidelines

Guidelines for setting up, calibrating and operating row crop sprayers used for band application of postemergence herbicides are outlined in a new bulletin from Du Pont.

Critical to the success of row band application is determining the amount of herbicide to use. "To calculate the amount of herbicide to put in the spray tank for banding applications, applicators must remember the treatment area and the crop acreage are not the same," says Joe Gerling, Du Pont research engineer in application technologies.

"The treated area is actually less than the crop acreage because band sprayers only spray a strip over the row," says Gerling. "If a 15-inch band of herbicide is applied to a crop with 30-inch rows, only half the total acreage is being treated."

The new bulletin explains bander configuration and defines equations that help applicators determine proper nozzle calibration and amount of herbicide needed. The proper amount of herbicide to apply per acre with a row band sprayer is based on the following variables:

Nozzle flow rate

This rate is linked to the size of the tip's orifice and the operating pressure of the nozzle. The most effective way to make major adjustments to sprayer output is to install a nozzle that has a larger or smaller orifice. Minor adjustments that may be needed due to nozzle wear can be made by changing the nozzle pressure.

Sprayer ground speed

The ground speed varies inversely with the application rate. For example, doubling the ground speed reduces the application rate by one-half.

Nozzle spray width

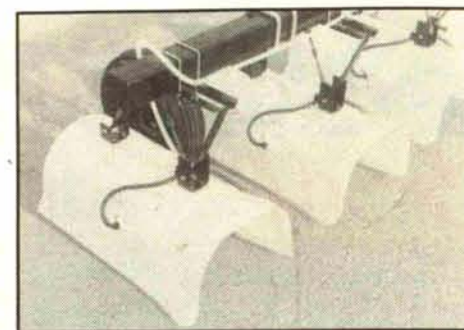
The width also varies with the application rate. For example, doubling the effective spray width per nozzle decreases the application rate by one-half. Most calibration errors are the result of using the incorrect spray width in the calculation.

"The most commonly used row band sprayers are: the standard three-nozzle, drop nozzle and hooded nozzle set-ups," says Gerling. "The standard three-nozzle is

used when the weed and crop canopy are approximately the same height. The drop nozzle is most effective when the weed canopy is shorter than the crop canopy, and the crop is 8 inches to 12 inches tall or taller. The hooded-nozzle is used to reduce the effect of a cross wind on the spray pattern."

To keep sprayers in top condition, Gerling recommends regular inspection of nozzles for damage and wear. Also, the use of nozzle screens will reduce the potential for clogged or partially clogged nozzles. Recommended sizes are: 100-mesh for nozzles smaller than 8002; 50-mesh for 8002s or larger. In addition, applicators should install a large-capacity line strainer, equipped with a 50 to 100-mesh screen, between the pump and the boom to help prevent the nozzles from clogging.

To obtain a copy of the technical bulletin, "Application Accuracy - Row Banders," call Du Pont at 1-800-341-4004. Ask for literature number H-31881.

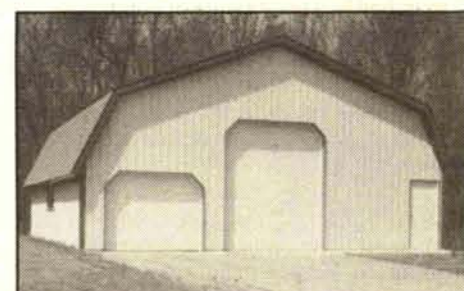


Red Ball Spray Hoods applicators, available in 6, 8, 12, and 16 row widths, allow for high-pressure banding of crops with limited drift, according to manufacturer, Custom Ag Products. The hoods, gaining more interest with farmers and custom applicators, allow chemical application at critical stages, unhampered by wind, while cutting costs and chemical usage.

Operators can buy a complete sprayer unit, or buy row kits if they choose to build their own. The hoods, constructed of 3/16 inch high-impact poly, are built to skid on the ground without damage, if desired, and have multiple spray tip openings to spray a number of chemicals and crops. The row kit includes four SS stainless steel tips and fittings, mounting brackets, Red Ball Spray Hood, and one Red Ball Spray Monitor with every four spray hood assemblies. The hoods are available for 30-inch rows and small hoods for 20 and 22-inch rows.

Completely self-contained units include 4 inch by 4 inch tubing main frame, two-1.85 x 14" gauge wheels, one ton spindles, and a 300-gallon poly elliptical tank. For more product information, contact Custom Ag Products at 1-800-225-8082.

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With an in-house staff of professional designers, Tailored Building Systems meets the requirements of space utilization, floor layout, temperature and humidity control, wind and snow loading, site alternatives, plus environmental aspects.

Buildings completed by Tailored offer long life and durability as a result of a materials policy that forbids skimping, earning the Nunica-based company several awards, including a 1990 National Frames Building Association quality award.

Farm Questions Answered

Resource people at MFB's Expo display, July 16 - 17 include:

- Gary Witt, Agent U.S. Border Patrol, to answer questions on the Immigration Reform Control Act, Wed. afternoon.

- Detective Sergeant Chris Kelly, Michigan State Police, Fire Marshall Division, to answer questions on Underground Storage Tank Regulations, Tues. afternoon and Wed. morning.

Other resource representatives and issues include: MDA on Right-to-Farm; State Police, Motor Carrier Division on Commercial Drivers License; SCS and DNR on Wetlands Regulations. Call MFB's Public Affairs Division at (517) 323-7000 ext., 2040 for additional speaker information.

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3/8	25 2.06	25 2.37	25 2.73	25 3.09	25 3.41	25 3.78	25 4.08			25 3.59	25 3.83	25 2.12	25 4.02
7/16	25 2.82	25 3.16	25 3.58	25 4.01	25 4.44	25 4.99	25 5.48			OVERSIZE HEAD		25 4.26	25 5.97
1/2		25 4.46	25 4.95	25 5.56	25 6.17	25 6.82	25 7.45	25 8.50		3/8 x 1 1/2 with 7/16 Head 25 for 4.24		25 5.50	25 6.11

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5/16	40 1.90	35 2.20	30 2.32	25 2.28	20 2.27	20 2.81	10 1.71	10 2.32	10 2.93	10 2.81	150 2.81	150 1.17	150 1.78	
3/8	40 2.69	30 2.76	20 2.27	20 2.69	10 1.59	10 1.96	12 2.76	10 2.88	8 3.42	8 3.30	120 3.30	100 1.53	100 1.78	
7/16	20 2.02	10 1.29	10 1.59	10 1.90	10 2.20	10 2.51	10 2.88	8 2.93	6 2.63	6 3.42	60 3.42	60 1.41	60 1.78	
1/2	10 1.34	10 1.90	10 2.08	10 2.51	10 2.88	10 3.24	8 2.93	6 2.69	5 2.88	5 2.93	50 2.93	50 1.71	50 2.63	
5/8		5 1.41	5 1.66	5 1.96	5 2.27	5 2.57	5 2.88	4 2.88	4 3.37	4 3.36	25 3.36	25 1.59	25 2.63	
3/4		5 2.39	5 2.69	5 3.49	5 3.54	5 3.91	4 3.54	4 4.28	4 4.89	4 4.83	24 4.83	18 1.83	18 2.81	

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Secondary and Seedbed Tillage Considerations

Tim Harrigan, Expo Field Demo Coordinator

Secondary and seedbed tillage are important field operations on most Michigan farms. Secondary seedbed tillage provides a uniform seedbed and facilitates uniform placement of seed and fertilizer. Tillage also affects options for and costs of weed, insect and disease control and the type of planting equipment used. A well-designed tillage and residue management plan will contribute to the profitability and long-term sustainability of all Michigan farms.

Forty-six percent of Michigan's cash crop farmers and 80 percent of those growing sugar beets reported leaving less than 30 percent residue cover on the soil surface after planting in 1989.

Forty-four percent of our cash crop farmers and 18 percent of those growing sugar beets reported leaving more than 30 percent residue cover after planting in 1989.

Managing Crop Residue

Typically, a disk harrow buries about 50 percent of the crop residue per trip over the field. A coulters chisel roughens the soil surface and buries 25-75 percent of the surface residue depending upon coulters adjustments and chisel shank type.

Farmers will need to learn to make direct measurements and follow the guidelines set by the Soil Conservation Service which specify that 30 percent of the soil surface must be covered with crop residue after all tillage and planting operations are finished.

Equipment Design

Single pass, secondary tillage tools can be matched to a wide range of conditions. New equipment designs and tillage tool components allow secondary tillage in both moldboard plowed fields with no residue and in conservation tilled fields with heavy residue on the surface.

Common components of new, multiple operation tillage tools can include disks or coulters gangs to cut heavy residue, sweeps, chisels or goosefoot points on S-tine or C-shaped cultivator shanks, choppers reels, rolling baskets or rolling harrows to break up soil clods, incorporate pesticides and firm the seedbed and leveling harrows to prepare a fine seedbed for small-seeded crops.

Tillage tools designed for moderate and high residue conditions may have ground engaging parts that roll over the field, tilling the soil as they roll over the residue.

Common design changes for improved residue flow include higher ground clearance and a wider spacing between shanks on a single toolbar with additional tool bars added to put shanks on. Vibrating shanks and point designs that create more soil movement, such as twisted points, also improve residue flow.

Residue Characteristics Affect Flow

In addition to the type of crop grown, several residue specific factors affect residue flow through tillage and planting machinery. Some of the most important considerations are:

- Is the residue evenly distributed? Chaff spreaders on the combine that distribute the residue evenly can help prevent residue from building up and plugging machinery, and facilitates rapid soil drying and warm-up.
- Is the residue loose or anchored to the ground? Loose residue may have a tendency to snow-plow in front of coulters and tillage shanks. Most tillage and planting equipment will move through anchored residue without plugging easier than in loose residue.
- Is the residue long or short? Long residue may need to be chopped into shorter lengths for improved trash flow.

Estimated yearly ownership and operating costs for selected, single pass tillage operations covering 100 acres.

IMPLEMENT	FUEL GAL.	LABOR HRS.	REPAIR & MAINT. \$	OPERATING \$	OWNERSHIP \$	TOTAL \$
Moldboard Plow* 7-16" bottom	169	25.5	136 (plow) 53 (trac.)	575	235 (plow) 293 (trac.)	1103
Coulter-Chisel* 9 ft.	142	21.5	50 (c.c.) 45 (trac.)	419	142 (c.c.) 247 (trac.)	808
Disk Harrow* 26 ft.	60	9	15 (disk) 19 (trac.)	171	372 (disk) 105 (trac.)	648
Field Cultivator* 24 ft.	56	8.5	13 (cult.) 18 (trac.)	159	166 (cult.) 97 (trac.)	422
Spring Tooth** Drag, 30 ft.	22	7.2	3 (drag) 7 (trac.)	89	45 (drag) 38 (trac.)	172
Rotary Hoe** 24 ft.	18	6	3 (hoe) 6 (trac.)	75	87 (hoe) 31 (trac.)	193

*130 hp tractor. **60 hp tractor.

Cash flow basis, before tax costs. Real interest rate, 8%. Labor, \$7.50/hr. Diesel fuel costs, \$1/gal. plus 15% for lubrication and filters. Tractor ownership and repair and maintenance costs based on 500 hrs use per year. Implement ownership, repair and maintenance based on 600 acres annual use.

- Is the residue moist and tough or dry and brittle? Moist, tough residue will plug tillage tools more readily than dry, brittle residue. Dry, brittle residue will break up on impact with the tillage tool and residue flow will improve.

Economic Considerations

Spring planting is one of the busiest times of the year. Labor and machinery bottlenecks occur as disking, field cultivating and other field operations compete with the planting operation for time and machinery as farmers race to get their crops in the ground within the target planting dates.

Farmers have several options to help solve those labor and equipment bottlenecks that occur. One solution is to go with larger, higher-capacity equipment, but this often results in excessive fuel and machinery costs. Alternative solutions are to combine or eliminate selected field operations and learn to manage more crop residue or to go with equipment designed to perform multiple operations in a single pass across the field.

Costs of Tilling the Soil

Tillage operations are time-consuming and expensive. If farmers can combine or eliminate some of the field operations, they can cut production costs and increase profit.

An example of the opportunity to reduce costs by eliminating selected field operations is that of a farmer using a field cultivator for herbicide incorporation. Research in Illinois and North Carolina has shown that a single pass of a conventional field cultivator can cause windrowing and non-uniform placement of pre-plant, incorporated herbicides. At least two trips across the field are needed.

A field cultivator equipped with attachments designed for herbicide incorporation, such as rolling baskets, can eliminate the need for the second pass and cut production costs accordingly.

The operating (fuel, labor, repair and maintenance) and ownership (depreciation, interest, insurance and shelter) costs for tractor and implement over 100 acres for selected, single pass tillage operations are listed in the accompanying table.

Summary

Ninety percent of Michigan's cash crop farmers and nearly all those growing sugar beets use some form of secondary and seedbed tillage for seedbed preparation, herbicide incorporation and residue management.

New equipment designs and improved management strategies have made it possible to prepare a better seedbed in less time and at lower cost in both moderate and high residue conditions. If farmers can take advantage of new developments and reduce field operations without sacrificing seedbed requirements, they can decrease production costs and increase profits.

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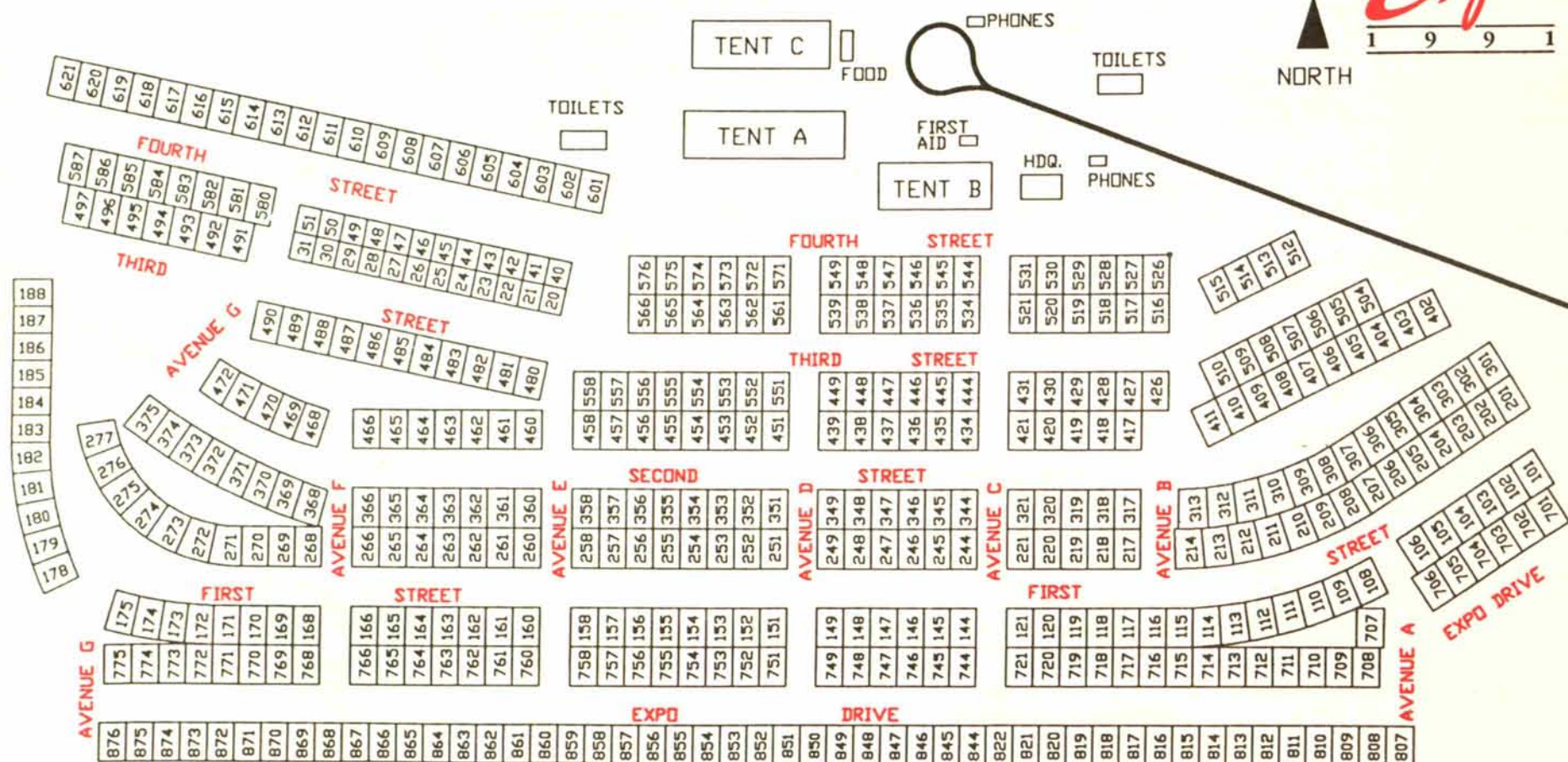


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AG Expo

How to Get There and Where to Stay

1 9 9 1

Directions

The most direct routes to Ag Expo '91 are by the way of Trowbridge Road or the Jolly Road exits from I-496/US 127. The exits are marked on the map shown here on the star shaped figures.

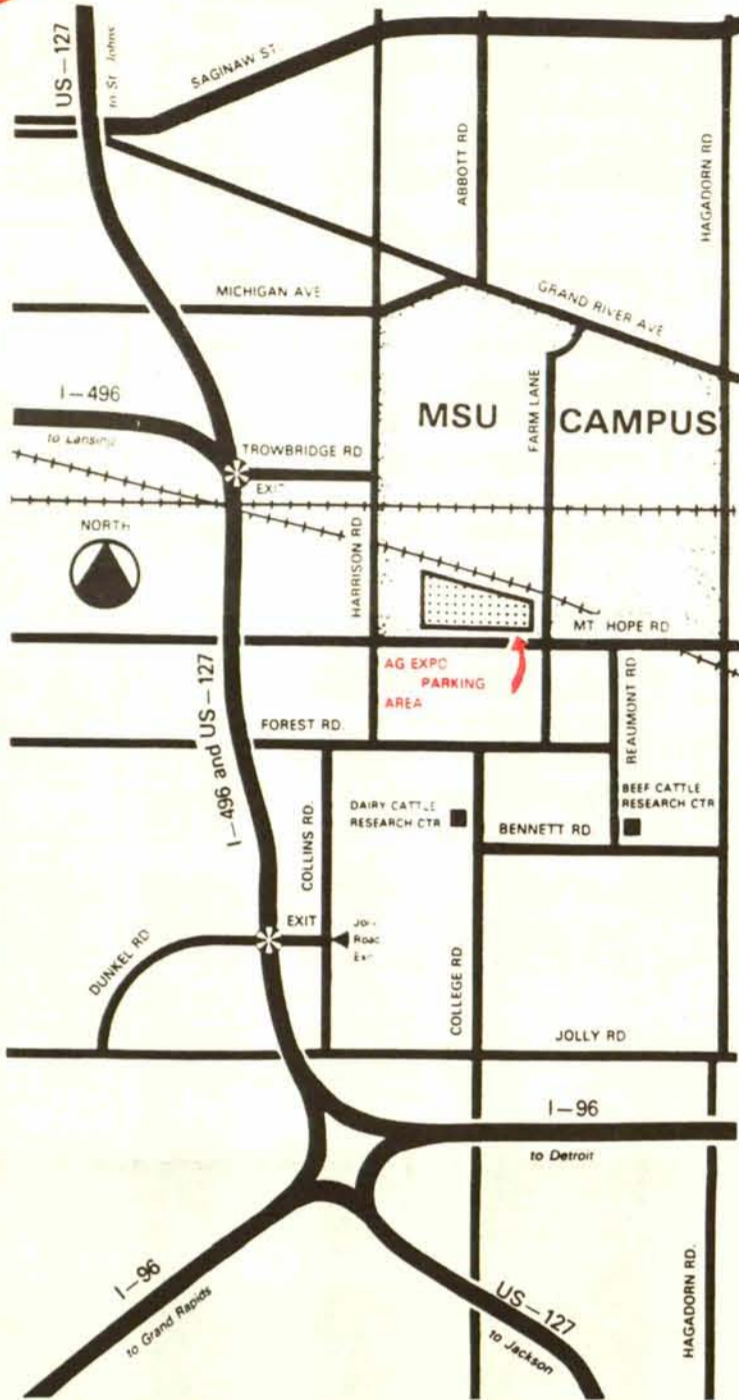
If you are approaching Lansing from the north, take the Trowbridge Road Exit. If you are coming from the south, take the Jolly Road Exit.

Via the Trowbridge Road Exit

Travel to Harrison Road, remaining in the far right lane of eastbound traffic. Turn right onto Harrison Road. Go to Mt. Hope Road (second from light). Turn left onto Farm Lane, proceeding into the Ag Expo parking lot.

Via the Jolly Road Exit

After exiting, turn left (east) and turn left at the intersection (Collins Road). Stay on this road until you come to the intersection of Farm Lane (it will be just past the MSU Swine Research Barns). Turn left and proceed to the Ag Expo parking lot (just past the stop light at Mt. Hope and Farm Lane Road).



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Ag Expo Bits and Pieces

Opinions Please!

There will be four student researchers at the main exhibition site who will want to talk to farm families.

The students will be conducting a survey to find out what farmers think about Ag Expo's exhibitors, the event's educational value and, equally important, suggestions for improving Ag Expo.

There will also be a few questions to find out what type of farmers attend Ag Expo and where they come from. The purpose of the survey is to obtain information that will be used in planning future Ag Expo activities.

The survey will be conducted at selected times each day of Ag Expo and will take about 15 minutes to complete. Farmer input will be most appreciated!

Food Services

There will be a variety of food and plenty of it at the main exhibition site including beef or pork sandwiches, roasted sausage, pizza, cold beverages, and ice cream bars from vendors that will be on the grounds daily. All of the food service will be in a food court near Tent C which will be at the north edge of the grounds.

The food services and a listing of all of the exhibitors and their locations will be detailed in the Ag Expo official guide available from the Ag Expo information booths.

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More Tough Times For Nation's Sheep Producers

The nation's sheep and lamb inventory stood at 11.2 million head on January 1, 1991, down 1 percent after several years of consecutive increases. But the decline does not mean immediately higher returns for American sheep producers, according to Clement L. Ward, professor and extension economist for Oklahoma State University.

Commercial lamb production rose 4 percent in 1990 and, despite reduced numbers this year, will still grow by about 1 percent in 1991 because producers continue to market lambs at heavier weights, said Ward. The economist addressed producers attending a recent American Farm Bureau sponsored sheep and goat profitability forum in Denver.

Ward said the annual average slaughter lamb prices at San Angelo dropped from \$67 per cwt. in 1989 to around \$54 per cwt. in 1990. Lamb prices for 1991 are likely to average less than 1990, but should improve within about 12 to 18 months, Ward said.

"Prices in 1990 were the lowest in 15 years. Based on historical relationships between supply and price, the slaughter lamb prices fell farther than they should have," Ward said. Several factors contributed to that heavy decline, including sluggish consumer demand, widening farm-to-retail price spread, lamb products not meeting consumer preferences, poor pelt market and lamb imports, according to Ward.

"The price depression will worsen," he warned, if sheep producers rapidly liquidate sheep in response to lower prices, he said. "If sheep producers cull flocks selectively and market lighter, leaner lambs, their actions will not contribute to lower prices. The smaller inventory of sheep and lambs suggests the industry will work its way out of the depression within the next year to year and a half," Ward said.

Lamb imports, as a percent of domestic lamb production, increased for the seventh consecutive year to the highest level since the early 1970s, Ward said.

Packer concentration is a phenomenon to be watched by the sheep industry, since about 75 percent of the lamb slaughter is done by the four largest packing firms, a much higher degree of concentration than in the rest of the meat industry, Ward said.

Both packer feeding as a percent of total lamb slaughter and packer concentration of the lamb market are at very high levels compared to the entire meat industry, despite a slight drop in the rate of each during 1990, Ward said.

Another speaker, Jim Magagna, president of the American Sheep Industry Association, agreed that packer concentration is a problem and said his association has asked the USDA to investigate the high and growing farm-to-market price spread in the lamb market.

Magagna emphasized that lamb producers cannot afford drastic reductions in sheep numbers in an effort to bring higher prices. "That would simply sacrifice more market shares to other meats and to producers in other countries around the world," he warned.

Magagna said good things sometimes come out of bad situations. He reviewed some alternatives available to sheep producers today.

Sheep producers have two basic products, lamb and wool, Magagna said. On the wool side, the ASIA has put a lot of emphasis on wool quality improvement, Magagna said.

Some favorable things have happened in wool sales in the past few months, which indicate some bright spots and illustrate that quality improvement is a positive step.

"Wool prices are not good relative to the world wool market, but producers who

have made efforts to improve quality are getting some rewards for it," he said.

Magagna said the lamb side is where the ASIA spends most of its effort and he outlined some opportunities available in the sheep industry for better marketing.

Results of a study of the marketing structure that is now in progress is expected late this summer and more data is essential if we're going to look at alternatives, he said.

Certification, better market information, yield grading and kidney fat removal are certainly some important alternatives, according to Magagna.

"Marketing a product based on its quality is fundamental to product marketing in the United States and throughout the world today," he said.

In the interest of better market news, Paul Fuller, director of the Livestock and Grain Division of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, said he hoped producers will take a more active part in providing market price information.

Fuller said the USDA is evaluating an ASIA proposal for a change in grade standards for sheep and lambs and hopes to come out with a recommendation as soon as possible with sufficient input from the industry to make it acceptable and usable.

"Grade standards provide only a tool for knowing what you have. The sheep industry has a problem of overfat lambs. Something must be done to improve that," Fuller said.

"You have a very high quality product," Fuller said, "but you also have too much fat." He said the grading recommendation could be for yield grading or some system coupling yield grades with the existing quality standards.

On the market news issue, Fuller said, you have got to have marketing information in a free market system. "Information is power," he said.

"In a voluntary market news system, it is time producers themselves provide more input into a market news program," Fuller said.

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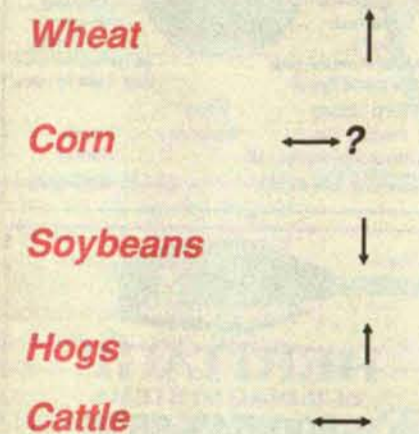
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6

MARKETS

Seasonal Commodity Price Trends (long term)



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

Wheat

Wheat futures are beginning to react to news of disease problems in soft red wheat as well as rain delayed harvest in the Great Plains area. The 1992 wheat set-aside has been established at 5 percent with a target price of \$4/bu as expected by a review of supply/demand information, but not by wheat prices. Enthusiasm is gaining regarding Soviet credits but the announcement may mark the top of this market.

Soybeans

This market continues its stagnant trend. Slow export demand for U.S. beans continues, although European meal activity picked up as a strike by Brazilian dock workers slowed shipping activity. The weak overall market may not hold up under pressure from the continued South American harvest and liquidation of the remaining old crop inventory.

Corn

Corn continues to trade in a narrow range as the market awaits final planting reports and a decision on export credits. Anticipation is growing that the long discussed additional credits will be granted to the Soviet Union. While planting was delayed earlier, the crop is now close to 90 percent complete except for the high-producing western corn belt area including Iowa. Excellent growing conditions have pushed the crop along and the focus will now begin shifting to summer growing and pollination weather.

Hogs

Live hog slaughter numbers indicate producers are marketing on schedule. Carcass weights indicate that producers are not holding back. The abnormally warm/humid conditions will inhibit weight gains, potentially keeping numbers a little tight over the next few weeks. Packers have widened their margins which gives them a little more latitude to raise their cash bids.

Cattle

With seasonal factors posed against beef, the best strategy is to stay current with marketings. Consumers are still buying beef which is a good sign. Increased marketing has not materialized as was expected which should be supportive to prices. Slaughter numbers will remain consistently below comparable year earlier figures.

Cherry Crop Gets "Shorter"

The adage that "a short crop gets shorter" seems to be holding quite true this year. The Michigan cherry crop certainly appears to be getting smaller with every passing day. The crop in Southwest Michigan is practically non-existent. The prospects in the West Central area have declined to, at best, about 1/3 the normal crop. The Northwest Michigan crop is described as "disappointing." The crop is spotty and certainly less than full potential, with estimates of a 2/3 normal crop.

Other states are generally reporting smaller than normal crops. Overall, the 1991 crop is shaping up to be one of the smallest in a number of years. USDA is scheduled to release their cherry crop report on June 20, according to the Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service.

The May 1 USDA Cold Storage Report showed 34 million pounds of tart cherries on hand. Stocks are 55 percent less than the 74.5 million pounds last year and 62 percent less than the 89.2 million pound five-year average. With April movement at 6.7 million pounds, the market remains firm with 5 plus 1 frozen cherries selling in the low to mid-60 cent range.

California's Sugar Beet Industry Under Stress

California was the first state to commercially grow sugarbeets in 1870, and it remains a major producer. But while acreage has been rising in most of the other 13 producing states, California's acreage is declining due to disease, drought and the existence of other profitable alternative crops, according to a recent USDA report.

The area planted to sugarbeets in California is projected at 150,000 acres in 1991, down 13 percent from 1990, 30 percent from 1988, and 59 percent below the record of 1964. That drop in acreage has left many of the state's remaining eight facilities operating below capacity. To maintain volume, some factories have turned to processing raw sugar cane.

California also has an abundance of sugarbeet diseases, without the benefit of a hard winter freeze to help control pests. Rhizomania is currently the most destructive disease problem that has drastically reduced yields. The virus, spread by a fungus, was first discovered in California in 1983.

All sugarbeets grown in California also require irrigation, which has proven more difficult in recent years as California enters its fifth straight year of drought. In the Central Valley area, which accounts for about three-fourths of California's sugarbeet acreage, surface irrigation will be severely limited by the state and federal governments this year.

The December 1990 "Christmas" freeze also damaged many sugarbeets, and while it's too early to gauge production losses, estimates of damage range from 10,000 to 30,000 tons of sugar (raw value).

Trade Deficit Shrinks

The United States' merchandise trade deficit shrank in the first quarter of 1991 to its lowest level in almost eight years, according to a Commerce Department report.

Imports were \$18.37 billion more than exports in the quarter, compared with \$27.73 billion in the final three months of 1990. The last quarterly deficit smaller than the current one was in 1983, when the third quarter deficit was \$15.4 billion, according to the *Chicago Tribune*.

The strong export showing and a 7 percent drop in imports had a positive influence on the economy just beginning to show signs of recovery from a year-long recession. Lynn Reaser, senior economist with First Interstate Bankcorp of Los Angeles, said the economy should grow at a 0.9 percent annual rate during the second quarter and expand at about a 3 percent rate during the last half of this year.

Tart Cherry Petition Denied

On May 28, Attorney General Frank J. Kelley ruled that supply management provisions contained in a petition submitted by cherry producers is prohibited under the Michigan Agricultural Commodity Act, P.A. 232. (Public Act 232 is used for programs directed at market expansion and research.)

The ruling was in response to a proposal submitted by the United Cherry Producers Association to the Michigan Department of Agriculture. The proposal would have established a mandatory diversion and supply management program on Michigan tart cherry producers.

In his decision, Attorney General Kelly ruled "that the Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act (P.A. 232 of 1965) does not authorize a mandatory diversion or supply management program."

As a result of the ruling, MDA denied the petition submitted by United Cherry Producers, saying that Michigan courts have ruled that a decision by the Attorney General requires adherence by agencies and departments of state government.

Michigan Beef Leaders on National Committees

Francis Gregson, chairman of the Beef Industry Council of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, has appointed four Michigan beef industry representatives to serve on national committees. They include: Pam Bontekoe, Marion, Public Relations Committee; Wanda Cooper, Rothbury, Veal Committee; Kathleen Hawkins, Executive Director of the Michigan Beef Industry Commission, Education Committee; and Gayle Main, Michigan Veal Committee executive director, Veal Committee.

The committees will meet in Chicago June 18 and 19 to hear the Booz-Allen & Hamilton report and begin to integrate their recommendations into the Beef Industry Council's 1992 plan of work.

Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc. is an international management consulting firm, hired by the Beef Board to study the national program and make recommendations that would set new strategic directions for the beef checkoff program, according to Glen Klippenstein, Beef Board chairman. The Beef and Research Board has overall responsibility for administering the checkoff program.

Michigan Farm Wage Rates Increase

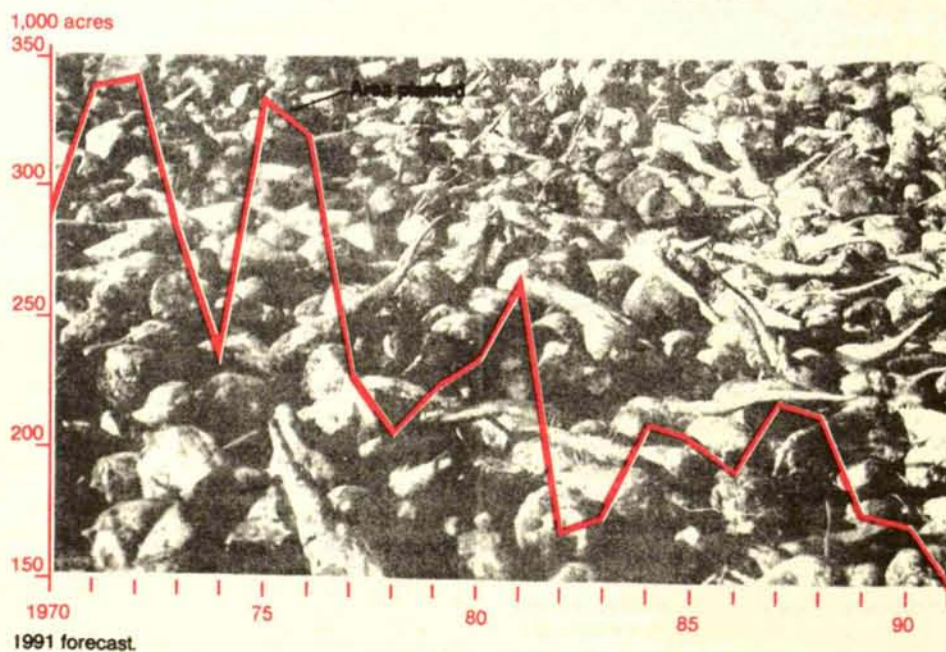
During the week of April 7-13, there were 308,000 people working on farms in the Lake Region - Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin, an increase of 14,000 workers from one year ago. The number of self employed in the region, however, decreased 3,000 to 165,000.

In Michigan, there were 27,000 hired farm workers earning an average wage of \$5.85 per hour (4 cents higher than the national average). The average hired worker labored 39 hours during the referenced week.

Wage Rates For Hired Workers

Month & Year	Type of Work		Methods of Pay	
	Field	Live-stock	All Hired	Hourly
(Dollars Per Hour)				
Apr 1991	5.86	5.07	5.59	5.31
Jan 1991	6.14	4.84	5.30	5.53
Oct 1990	5.21	4.61	5.25	5.52
July 1990	5.06	4.26	4.96	4.95
Apr 1990	5.38	4.84	5.38	5.08

California Sugarbeet Acreage Has Plummeted in the Past 20 Years



July 1991 Discussion Topic -- "The Boundaries Of Child Labor"

If you grew up on a farm, you undoubtedly remember the chores and duties that were the responsibility of every child in the household. You may have even worked at the neighbor's farm, too. Like all kids, you probably felt "oppressed" at the time! But in retrospect, you now recognize that these early work experiences contributed to building good work ethics and a sense of pride in a job well done.

Farms are still an important source of jobs for young people. But an increasing concern for educational achievement and a desire to protect the rights of minors in the workplace have focused attention on child labor laws. Howard Kelly, legislative counsel and farm labor expert for Michigan Farm Bureau, said that in response to these concerns, higher civil money penalties for child labor violations became effective March 1.

"There is now a two-tier child labor assessment structure," he said. "The first tier of existing fines will apply to violations occurring before Nov. 5, 1990, and the second tier of higher penalties will apply to violations occurring on and after Nov. 5, 1990. The new structure will result in relatively small increases in assessments for less serious violations, but much larger increases for the most serious violations," he said.

Kelly said that during 1990, the Department of Labor significantly increased its child labor enforcement efforts, conducting four nationwide strike forces resulting in identification of more than 28,000 illegally employed young workers. He estimated that fines of more than \$10 million were assessed for those violations.

According to the National Council of Agricultural Employers, minors age 16 and over in agriculture are not included under

the child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Farm employers who are not covered under other provisions of FLSA (minimum wage and overtime) for the most part must comply with the law if they employ minors under 16 years-of-age.

Sixteen years old is the minimum age for working in agricultural jobs that are declared hazardous by the Secretary of Labor and are during school hours. Fourteen years old is the minimum age for working in agricultural jobs not declared hazardous by the Secretary of Labor and are outside of school hours. There are two exceptions. Twelve and 13 year olds may be employed with written parental consent or on a farm where the minor's parent or person standing in place of the parent is employed. Also, minors under the age of 12 may be employed with written parental consent on farms whose employees are exempt from federal minimum wage provisions.

The council said that minors of any age may be employed by their parents at any time in any occupation on a farm owned or operated by their parent or person standing in place of their parent.

In many parts of the state, farmers must compete with the tourist industry and the fast food outlets for scarce teen labor. "It's really a 'Catch 22' situation," said Kelly. "During peak work periods, many farmers can't get enough teen workers at any price. And the teenagers want to work to earn money for cars, clothes and college. But many people are concerned that teens work too much and study too little. So, we're seeing a greater interest in closely enforcing child labor laws, or even enacting stricter laws."

Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio) recently introduced legislation that would add pesticide handling to the list of hazardous occupations for which children under the age of 16 may not be employed. The measure would also place new restrictions on the employment of migrant and seasonal agricultural workers under the age of 14.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you feel current laws permit enough farm employment opportunities for young people?

2. What changes would you suggest in current child labor laws?

3. How do you think young people should balance school and work?

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Food Bank Council's "Ag Surplus Project" Interest Growing

The Food Bank Council of Michigan, Inc. has experienced increased donations through the "Ag Surplus Project," which allowed processors and farmers to donate nearly a million pounds of excess food products to food banks across the state last year, according to Executive Director Karen Ulich.

Most recently, they took delivery of 57 tons of asparagus from Chase Farms of Walkerville, Michigan. The Food Bank Council was able to use MDA funds available through the Ag Surplus Project to pay for repackaging costs to convert the asparagus into 2-1/2 pound bags. Substantial donations of cherries and peaches are also pending, according to Ulich. Donators are able to take a federal tax write-off, and are protected from product liability concerns.

The Ag Surplus Project, according to Ulich, is funded by a \$100,000 MDA annual grant that expires in September 1991, and currently isn't in the 1992 MDA budget.

"We definitely want to continue this program and even see it expand," said Ulich. "There's a lot of food out there, and certainly a lot of goodwill in the agricultural industry, and we need all the help we can to meet the need out there."

Ulich said that the MDA funds are directly responsible for accessing about 20 percent

of the 5 million pounds of food distributed each year.

At the same time, the need for donated food from food banks are growing at an alarming rate compounding the problem even further. "Obviously, as the orders increase out of our warehouses, it means the agencies are trying to get more food to meet increasing numbers of requests," said Ulich.

Ulich referred to a scenario occurring last year that may become more common if MDA funding isn't included in its final budget package.

"We had 25 acres of carrots in the ground that were available to us, and we did everything we could to get them harvested and packaged, but we just didn't have enough resources," said Ulich. "That's why it's important that this program continue and possibly expand, but I don't know whether that's possible during this period."

Interested farmers and processors who may have product to donate should contact Karen Ulich at the Food Bank Council at (517) 321-3103. Ulich explained that any kind of service required, such as harvesting, processing, or packaging, would be paid for by the Food Bank. "Contact us on any kind of donation," said Ulich. "There's no donation too small."

1992 Farm Bureau Policy Development Process Underway

The grassroots process of policy development in Farm Bureau starts with district policy development meetings. The unique aspect of these meetings - you bring your own agenda items! According to MFB Public Affairs Director Al Almy, there are 11 district meetings planned, with the first scheduled on July 9 for District 2 and District 6.

"These meetings provide the setting for the beginning of policy formulation on crucial local, state and national issues as seen by Farm Bureau members," said Almy. "The ideas they develop will be helpful to county Policy Development Committees, which will use the suggestions to form policy proposals to consider at county annual meetings."

Local policy approved at the county level becomes county Farm Bureau policy. Policies on state and national issues are forwarded to the state Policy Development Committee for further action during MFB annual meeting delegate sessions. State policy approved at the state annual becomes MFB policy for the year. National issues are sent to AFBF for further consideration during the AFBF annual meeting.

District/Counties	Date
1/ Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Kalamazoo, Van Buren	Sept. 5
2/ Branch, Hillsdale, Lenawee, Jackson, Calhoun	July 9
3/ Monroe, Wayne, Washtenaw, Livingston, Oakland	July 31
4/ Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Ottawa	N.A.
5/ Eaton, Clinton, Ingham, Shiawassee, Genesee	N.A.
6/ Lapeer, Macomb, St. Clair, Sanilac, Tuscola, Huron	July 9
7/ Muskegon, Oceana, Newaygo, Montcalm, Mecosta, Osceola, Mason	Aug. 20
8/ Gratiot, Saginaw, Bay, Midland, Isabella, Clare, Gladwin, Arenac	Aug. 1
9/ Missaukee, Wexford, Manistee, Benzie, Northwest Michigan, Kalkaska	Aug. 19
10/ Ogemaw, Iosco, Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, Presque Isle, Otsego, Cheboygan, Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet	Aug. 19
11/ Chippewa, Mac-Luce, Hiawathaland, Menominee, Iron Range, Copper Country	N.A.

Members interested in attending their district meeting should contact their county Farm Bureau office for additional meeting and registration information.

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 MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

8 Sunburn — Learn Not to Burn!

The hours you spend working in the sun add up to days, years, decades--and the danger of severe damage to your skin increases as time goes by.

"We've all felt the painful, short-term effects of sunburn," says Dr. Dean Emanuel of the National Farm Medicine Center. "And while I'd be foolish to try to tell farmers to avoid the outdoors, I also think farmers should be aware of the fact that they are more likely to develop skin cancer than other people because of cumulative skin exposure."

Farmers are especially susceptible to the skin cancers known as carcinomas that develop over time on sun-exposed parts of the body--particularly the face, tips of ears, hands, and forearms. Of the estimated 600,000 cases of skin cancer that afflict Americans each year, the vast majority are

basal cell or squamous cell carcinomas--which, fortunately, are also highly curable.

Basal cell carcinoma, the most common kind of skin cancer, usually begins with a small, shiny, pearly bump or nodule on the head, neck, or hand. If left untreated, it can continue to grow, reaching underlying tissues and destroying them.

Squamous cell carcinoma may start as nodules or red patches with well-defined outlines. Typically they develop on the lips, the face, or the tips of the ears. Squamous cell skin cancers can become quite large if not treated--and can also spread to other parts of the body.

A third type of skin cancer, malignant melanoma, is less common but even more serious, requiring extensive treatment to assure its removal. Usually distinguished by dark brown or black mole-like growths that increase in size, change color, become ulcerated, and bleed easily from a slight injury, malignant melanoma is potentially fatal because it invades surrounding tissue.

Physicians believe that melanoma develops after 10 to 20 years of heavy or damaging exposure to the ultraviolet rays of the sun--but the increasing disease rate among young people also suggests that it can develop in less time.

Who is most at risk for skin cancer? People who sunburn easily, are fair-skinned, and have red or blond hair are most prone--but anyone who works outdoors must be careful. The amount of time you spend in the sun also affects your risk.

To prevent problems from over-exposure to the sun, experts make these recommendations:

- Wear a wide-brimmed hat and a long-sleeved shirt whenever possible.
- Remember that the sun's ultraviolet rays are strongest between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- Even if you're only in the sun for a short time, use a sunscreen with a sun protection factor of at least 15.



From Farm Bureau Insurance

- Apply sunscreen liberally, and reapply it after you perspire.
- Whatever your skin type, check monthly to note any moles, blemishes, or birthmarks. If you notice changes in size, shape, or color, or if a sore does not heal, see your physician without delay.
- Because of the possible link between severe sunburn in childhood and greatly increased risk of melanoma in later life, take special precautions to protect children from traumatic sunburns.



"Collection" - from page 1

"Our first collection in August was in Monroe and Lenawee counties, the second, third, fourth and fifth collections were all held in November, then one in December and one in March," said Cabbage. "The December and March participation rates shot up considerably because the word had gotten around that - 'hey, this is a good program.' We actually had more who wanted to participate than we could accommodate."

In those circumstances, Cabbage said, farmers were advised that there would likely be future programs, and that they should store it safely until there is another opportunity to dispose of the pesticides.

That future program may be in the concept stage already, but at a higher level. According to Cabbage, the EPA is looking seriously at the success and credibility of the MDA collection program, and possible expansion and implementation of a "Lake Michigan Basin" collection program.

If the concept becomes reality, Cabbage believes that a total of 34-36 Michigan counties with water drainage into Lake Michigan could be part of a tri-state collection effort with Illinois and Wisconsin.

Cabbage suggested that farmers who may not want to wait for another collection program should consider the CES's "How To Form a Waste Disposal Cooperative" patterned after a program developed by Waste Systems Institute of Grand Rapids, designed to help small businesses dispose of waste solvents.

"Any commodity group could utilize this program to form a co-op and develop a milk run approach, if you will, to help reduce transportation and disposal costs of these materials," said Cabbage.

Regardless of what shape a future program evolves into, Cabbage stressed that the need has never been greater for a statewide collection program now. "If you were to do this effectively, you would need three statewide collections," said Cabbage. "Once those older chemicals are disposed of, you could probably wait five to ten years before repeating the process. I think, in general, that today's pesticides are more likely to be used up."

"I don't think we'll ever have quite the same level of need we presently have to get rid of old materials that are out there," said Cabbage. "The goal is to take unusable pesticides off the hands of farmers and out of the environment, and get them disposed of."

Health care coverage isn't simple anymore. The bottom line, however, remains the same: everybody wants the best possible coverage at the lowest possible rates. This is where Farm Bureau has good news for small business owners.

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