

# MICHIGAN FARM NEWS



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## New Agriculture Budget Nets \$30,000 for State FFA Program

Gov. John Engler's recent approval of several agriculture-related appropriations measures will "plant the seeds for the growth of Michigan's agriculture industry well into the next century" according to Michigan Agriculture Department Director Bill Schuette.

The governor signed the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) fiscal year 1993 appropriations bill, enrolled House Bill 5517, and the state's fiscal year capital outlay bill, enrolled House Bill 4580, both of which contain good news for Michigan's farmers. The 1993 fiscal year begins Oct. 1, 1992.

"This budget maintains our commitment to Michigan's safe and abundant food supply," said Schuette. "It also supports our efforts to improve environmental stewardship and build new programs for economic growth."

Schuette said MDA's \$27 million General Fund budget also provides funding for an

extensive crop survey program, agriculture education and training, and support for Michigan's food banks.

- The 1993 budget provides for aggressive protection of Michigan's safe and abundant food supply by making food safety and quality the number one priority of MDA.

- The budget contains \$120,000 for a much needed three-year rotational fruit tree, vegetable and nursery stock survey which includes Christmas trees and ornamental plants. The survey data will help producers and growers make better management decisions, based on objective, and accurate information.

- \$30,000 will provide leadership training and education through FFA.

- The rural tradition of "neighbor helping neighbor" will continue with \$500,000 for Michigan's food banks to directly purchase foods from Michigan's growers, manufac-

turers and wholesalers. This, combined with MDA's annual Michigan Harvest Gathering program benefitting the food banks, makes MDA one of the state's leading public sector agencies providing support for the needy.

The FY 1993 capital outlay budget launches the \$64 million Michigan Livestock Industry Initiative with \$500,000 for the architectural planning of renovations and new construction at the nation's premier land-grant institution, Michigan State University.

The project, which will expand the university's research, teaching and Extension efforts, is expected to boost the state's farming industry, creating businesses and jobs for Michigan citizens.



Above, Gov. John Engler announces (during Ag Expo's VIP Breakfast) a \$500,000 allocation in the 1993 budget to initiate architectural design of facilities included in the \$64 million Livestock Industry Initiative at MSU.

## Michigan Environmental Risk Analysis Results Announced

Michigan's environmental agenda is closer to being established with the announced results of the "Relative Risk Analysis Project" (RRAP), completing a 10-month effort of an agency, a scientific, and a concerned citizens committee to identify future Michigan environmental issues.

"All too often in the past, environmental priorities have been set by the 'fad of the month,' or because 'we've always done it that way,'" Engler said during a special joint commission meeting to announce the results. "This fresh, scientifically-based, look at the environmental issues facing Michigan should provide a firm foundation for deciding how we guarantee a clean and healthy Michigan today and tomorrow."

The study, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency and administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, identified 24 priority environmental issues after a consensus building process by the three committees, said Engler.

"Everyone involved - scientists, agency representatives, and concerned citizens - were in consensus on how these risks should be ranked," said Engler. "As we move forward in an era of limited state financial resources, it's imperative that we make reasoned decisions based on fact. The Relative Risk Analysis Project will help make sure we're getting the best value for our environmental dollar."

Engler asked the Natural Resource, the Agriculture, Public Service and Transporta-

tion commissions to take the recommendations back to their respective departments for further development and public hearings and offer plans to implement the resulting strategies. That may be easier said than done, since a recent Roper survey of the general public about what they perceived as emerging environmental issues were quite different than the findings of the RRAP.

"Given the fact that the public's perceived environmental risks are considerably dif-

ferent than those identified by the RRAP, there will likely be a compromise and blending of priorities," said MFB Legislative Counsel Vicki Pontz.

"Farmers should take advantage of these opportunities for input because this state's environmental policies could very well be driven by this report," she said.

See "Relative Risk Analysis" continued on page 11

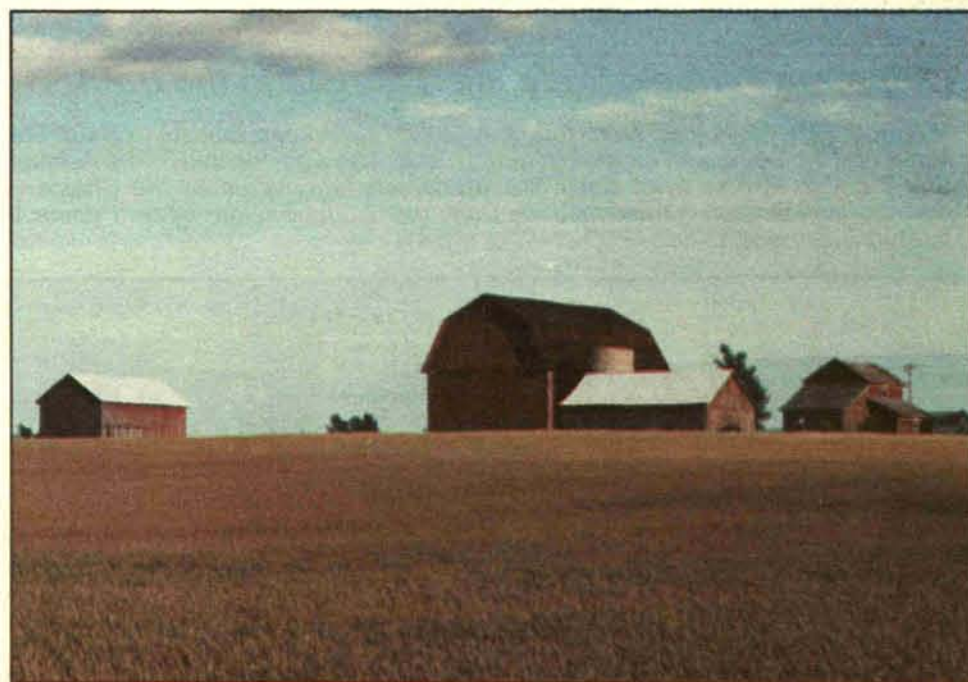
## Michigan's Crop Outlook - Cautiously Optimistic

Michigan has experienced a summer of record cool temperatures and perhaps the wettest July in recent memory. Crops that had starved for rain seemed to be reaching for the sky with the first downpour. However, with as much as seven inches of rainfall in four weeks, crops are showing signs of stress from too much water.

What this means to Michigan's final crop outlook is as varied as the weather itself has been this growing season. *Michigan Farm News* contacted a number of individuals on August 3 for their crop outlooks. (Bear in mind that we're in Michigan. We may be in the midst of a record-breaking heat wave by the time you read this!)

**Robert Young, Executive Vice President, Great Lakes Sugar Beet Growers Association**

"If we'd had warmer temperatures, the beet crop would be further ahead than what it is. We're hopeful that we won't have an early frost and that we'll get some warmer weather. We've got plenty of moisture right now, so we don't have to worry about that. It's hard to guess what tonnage is. We usually take tests in early September or late August. But different ones are saying 18 to 19 ton. We'll probably come in with an average of about 18-1/2 ton, which is



A partly cloudy summer sunset and this field of golden wheat combine for a picturesque setting in late July. Michigan's overall wheat yield was reported as good, despite delayed harvest due to rain and the resulting sprout and high moisture problems, especially in southern portions of Michigan.

See "Michigan's Crop Outlook" continued on page 4.

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## In Brief...

### FB Opposing Diesel Tax Bill

The U.S. House is expected to take up H.R. 5649, which would require collection of diesel tax at the refinery level and color additives to non-tax fuel. The legislation is designed to prevent fraud in diesel sales and tax collection, but the outcome could spell trouble for agriculture. It would require collection of diesel fuel excise tax at the terminal level unless indelible dyes are added to the fuel at the terminal rack. Farmers, whose use of diesel in farm machinery is exempt from the excise tax, would then have to pay the tax and go through a refund application process to recover their tax payments.

Farm Bureau opposes the legislation for several reasons, such as farmers being forced to erect separate storage facilities to handle dyed diesel fuel. Also, they would be required to pay a disproportionate share of the burden of enforcement costs, and pay higher costs to cover dealer expenses for the needless extra handling charges.

Farm Bureau has sent a letter to all members of the House urging them to vote no. The bill is on the suspension calendar, which means that a two-thirds vote is necessary to pass the bill in the House.

### Soy Diesel on the Way Around the World

A 24-foot boat, powered by fuel made from soybeans, is on a two-year trip around the world to promote the use of soybean-based diesel fuel, which has about the same performance capabilities as petroleum-based diesel fuel, according to a story in the *Illinois Soybean Farmer*, a publication of the Land of Lincoln Soybean Association.

The voyage is a project funded, in part, by the Illinois soybean checkoff. The journey began in San Francisco, July 4, after press previews in Chicago, St. Louis and Peoria. City buses and airport maintenance vehicles in the St. Louis area already are using soy diesel in tests funded, in part, by the Illinois Soybean Program Operating Board.

Soy diesel is a bio-diesel fuel, meaning it is developed from a non-petroleum source. One of its benefits is that it is a home-grown, renewable source. Bio-diesels are popular in Europe with tax exemptions in many countries. Its use is mandatory in some water recreation areas to stop fuel pollution, according to the article.

### EPA's Decision on Fuel Program in Clean Air Act Not Seen Until December

The Environmental Protection Agency probably will not announce a final decision until December on a rule that could determine the fate of ethanol within the Clean Air Act, according to *Knight Ridder News*.

William Rosenberg, EPA assistant administrator, while speaking at a biofuel conference at the Midwest Research Institute, said there needs to be more consistent research data before a final ruling can be achieved on the reformulated fuel program in the Clean Air Act. Ethanol is a corn-based fuel additive. The EPA has proposed regulations that could severely limit the use of ethanol-blended fuels. Although ethanol reduces carbon monoxide emissions, it also makes gasoline evaporate quicker which, EPA says, releases volatile organic compounds into the atmosphere.

Under the Clean Air Act, U.S. gasoline in nine-major cities must contain 15 percent less ozone-causing compounds by 1995. Supporters of the ethanol industry, such as the National Corn Growers Association and Farm Bureau, say that the EPA's proposed rules for implementing the new clean fuel program would severely limit ethanol's role in the Clean Air Act and reduce its demand.

Rosenberg said he recognized the economic importance of alternative fuels in agricultural as well as petroleum industries. He was quick to point out that government and industry groups last August signed an agreement to support EPA's proposal. However, some of those participants now are having second thoughts, he said, apparently referring to the NCGA and other groups that support an expanded role for ethanol.

### Chippewa Farmers Welcome Tourists to the U.P.!

"Farmers - Professionals From the Ground Up" welcomed tourists to Sault Ste. Marie and the Soo Locks for a week during June. The sign, located on the Ashmun Street bridge in downtown Sault Ste. Marie, was sponsored by the Chippewa County Farm Bureau in honor of June Dairy month and Eastern Upper Peninsula farmers in general.



### Russia's Grain Harvest Not Up to Par

The earlier predictions of a much improved grain harvest in Russia seem to have gone into a tailspin, according to a recent story in the *Wall Street Journal*.

The Russians lowered their estimate of the fall harvest, twice in one week, bringing it down to around 96 million metric tons, a little less than last year's crop of 97.1 million.

Previously, Russian President Boris Yeltsin was forecasting a crop of 110 million tons. Russian farmers, seeing the prospects of a crop shortened by drought and fuel shortages, are now reluctant to sell grain to the state at the stipulated price of 8000 rubles (\$59) per metric ton, the *Journal* said.

In recent years, Russia has imported about 18 million tons of grain at a price of around \$100 per ton. The country has about used up its credit guarantees and lacks trading efficiency, storage and transportation to do much better at filling its own needs, according to the *Journal*.

### Early Frost a Potential Crop Danger

With the drought apparently broken in the Midwest, corn and soybean farmers now have something else to worry about, an early frost, according to Norton Strommen, chief meteorologist of the Washington-based World Agricultural Outlook Board.

Strommen bases his forecast of a first Midwest freeze sometime in September on a June 21-22 freeze and the effects of last year's eruption of the Mount Pinatubo volcano in the Philippines, according to a *Knight-Ridder News* report.

Speaking to the U.S. Feed Grains Council annual meeting in Denver, Strommen said freeze forecasts must be based on climatology, not current weather patterns, making it a risky call this early in the season. Despite early and mid-season freezes, prospects for Corn Belt crops in 1992 have improved, Strommen said. Some analysts see delayed crop development due to cooler than normal summer temperatures as a warning sign that an early frost could interrupt crop development before maturity.

### Jordan Tatter Going to Resource Commission

Gov. John Engler has announced the appointment of current ag commission member Jordan Tatter to the Natural Resource Commission to replace outgoing member Gordon Guyer, who left to assume the presidency of Michigan State University. "Jordan Tatter has both impressive hands-on experience and knowledge of natural resources and agricultural issues," explained Engler. "He will be an effective advocate for change at the DNR to protect our environment."

Jordan Tatter, of Watervliet, is director, president and chief executive officer of Southern Michigan Cold Storage Company in Benton Harbor. He was appointed by Gov. Engler in 1991 to serve on the Michigan Commission of Agriculture. Tatter serves as vice chairman of the Michigan State University Foundation and as vice president of the Southwestern Michigan Growers Association. He serves on the board of directors of First of America Bank, the Economic Club of Southwestern Michigan and the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Alumni Association.

Tatter earned a bachelor of science degree in 1958 and a master of science degree in 1960 in Entomology from Michigan State University. He completed extensive post graduate work in the fields of horticulture, entomology, and botany and plant pathology.

### Tough Times for Farm Equipment Manufacturers

Deere and Co. plans to reduce its production of large tractors and combines by 9 percent this year. In remarks to the *Wall Street Journal*, Emmett Barker of the Equipment Manufacturers Institute, reports sales of combines have fallen 49 percent in the first half of 1992, while sales of 100-plus horsepower tractors have fallen 31 percent in the first half. Barker and others claim the poor sales are not so much the result of a faltering economy, but instead the result of cautious buying by the nation's farmers. It appears some of the money that would otherwise be spent buying tractors and combines is being spent on no-till equipment needed to meet the 1995 conservation compliance requirements.

### USDA Team to Help Plan Soviet Farm Model

Rob Nooter, an assistant director of national affairs for the American Farm Bureau Federation, is a member of the USDA team of agricultural experts helping coordinate and develop a plan for a model farming community in the former Soviet Union. The community is envisioned as an integrated group of private farms operated by Russians with advice and technical assistance from experienced farmers from the United States.

The USDA team, which also includes Extension Service personnel, a soil scientist, an agricultural engineer and a USDA attorney, will select Russian citizens to participate in the private farming community and coordinate the involvement of Russian government entities that will participate in the project. The project is designed to encourage private ownership and private enterprise in the newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union.

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### Farm Animal and Research Facilities Protection Act

#### MFB Position

Opposes the Judiciary Committee substitute and supports the Agriculture Committee version. Farm Bureau will support efforts to win House approval of the Agriculture Committee version.

#### MFB Contact

Al Almy, Ext. 2040

Early this year, the House Agriculture Committee approved H.R. 2407 with strong provisions imposing federal penalties for criminal acts involving damage to facilities housing animals, such as farms and research laboratories. The bill was then referred to the House Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over legislation with criminal penalty provisions.

The Judiciary Committee approved H.R. 2407 after several damaging amendments were added. The Judiciary Committee limits application of the bill only to commercial enterprises as compared to the Agriculture Committee version which covers attacks on any animal enterprise including farms, rodeos, fairs, 4-H and FFA events. The Judiciary Committee also limits the bill only to those incidents where damage to animal facilities exceeds \$25,000 or more. This damage threshold would allow devastating crimes to occur against animal facilities without triggering federal jurisdiction.

### Minor Use Pesticides

#### MFB Position

Michigan Farm Bureau strongly supports S. 2980 and has asked Sens. Don Riegle and Carl Levin to cosponsor S. 2980, but neither has joined as a cosponsor.

#### MFB Contact

Al Almy, Ext. 2040

Sens. Inouye (D-Hawaii) and Lugar (R-Indiana) are sponsoring S.B. 2980, which would improve the chances that safe pesticides will be available for fruits, vegetables, nursery stock and other so-called specialty or minor crops. It is very important to a large number of Michigan farmers.

Under the current Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), manufacturers of pesticides must submit comprehensive data to EPA to register or reregister pesticides. This does not pose a major problem for the manufacturers of pesticides used on major crops such as corn, because the volume of such pesticides is large enough to recover the large cost of supplying the data to EPA.

However, this is not the case for many fruits and vegetables which are considered "minor crops," because the total acreage grown is not large. Pesticide manufacturers are reluctant to pay the large cost of registering or reregistering minor crop pesticides, because the volume sold to producers will not be adequate to recover the cost. Therefore, these important pesticides become unavailable to producers of the minor crops.

S. 2980 would streamline the registration process for minor crop pesticides and thus reduce the cost to manufacturers while still maintaining the safety of the pesticides. The result will be that manufacturers will be more likely to undertake registration or reregistration of minor crop pesticides and producers of these commodities will be able to continue producing the commodities.

### Fire Blight Reimbursement Amendment

#### MFB Position

Supports the fire blight amendment approved by the Senate.

#### MFB Contact

Al Almy, Ext. 2040

During consideration of legislation to provide aid to Russia, Sen. Riegle offered an amendment to reimburse fruit farmers for replacing trees destroyed by fire blight. Fruit growers affected by fire blight, a bacteria that attacks fruit trees such as apple and pear, would be eligible for reimbursement.

The amendment was approved by the Senate as was the Russian aid bill. A Russian aid bill is currently pending in the House.

### Wetlands Delineation Manual Revisions

Revisions proposed in the Federal Wetlands Delineation Manual last year would provide meaningful, reasonable and common sense regulation of wetlands by federal agencies. The revisions are strongly supported by Farm Bureau and members throughout the nation submitted thousands of supportive comments to EPA.

However, environmental groups and state agencies responsible for regulating wetlands strongly oppose the proposed revisions. An example of such opposition to common sense regulation of wetlands is found in a recent report entitled, "How Wet Is a Wetland? The Impacts of the Proposed Revisions to the Federal Wetlands Delineation Manual." The report is the result of a joint effort by the Environmental Defense Fund and the World Wildlife Fund.

An interesting example of the direction the report takes toward wetlands protection is found in discussion about the definition of a wetland. The report states the proposed wetland definition of 21 consecutive days of saturation at soil surface level or 15 consecutive days of standing water, both during the growing season, have no biological significance.

### US-23 Highway Bypass

#### MFB Position

Farm Bureau supports the Southern Bypass alternative which connects US-23 from I-75, south of Standish to the M-65/US-23 junction, near AuGres.

#### MFB Contact

Darcy Cypher, Ext. 2048

Northeast Michigan's US-23 Highway north of Bay City has for many years been recognized as needing improvement. The present highway alignment is not able to safely accommodate the large numbers of vehicles which travel it.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has been completing research to establish the best improvement approach. MDOT is considering three alternatives:

- 1) Southern bypass south of Standish connecting at M-65 near AuGres;
- 2) Short bypass around the city of Standish;
- 3) Widening of the present US-23 corridor through Standish.

The department is completing a management evaluation of the project alternatives and is expected to announce its selection by the first of September. Improved highway access is critical to Northeast Michigan's economic future and has been supported by Governor Engler.

### Medical Malpractice

#### MFB Position

Farm Bureau supported both bills and encouraged their adoption.

#### MFB Contact

Howard Kelly, Ext. 2044

Farm Bureau continues to support both S.B. 249 and H.B. 5435, which would reform the medical malpractice laws in Michigan. S.B. 249 was introduced in the Senate on April 10, 1991, and passed the Senate Nov. 6, 1991, before being sent to the House Judiciary Committee. H.B. 5435 was introduced in the House on Jan. 8, 1992, and also was sent to the House Judiciary Committee.

Unfortunately, the House Judiciary Committee never considered either bill. A large coalition of organizations joined in support of these bills and pushed for the bills to be debated by all members of the House.

On June 9, 1992, a representative group from the coalition, including Farm Bureau, met with the Speaker of the House in an attempt to persuade him to allow the reform bill to be put on the House floor for a vote. The Speaker did not agree to the proposal, but did authorize Rep. Gubow to chair a committee to negotiate with the Michigan State Bar Association and the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association. Unfortunately, they both remain opposed to medical malpractice or tort reform in Michigan.

The legislators and representatives of the coalition negotiated for over 60 hours with the Trial Lawyers without agreeing to a package. The coalition had agreed not to push for a discharge vote to report the bill out for consideration by all members of the House while the negotiations were in progress.

On June 30, the bills were scheduled for a hearing by the Judiciary Committee, but the meeting never took place. This was the first time the bill had been scheduled to be considered since it passed the Senate in November of 1991.

A vote was then taken on the floor to discharge the bill from committee, but it failed on a 51 to 52 vote. The bill had bipartisan support before the negotiations commenced, with several Democrats in support of a discharge. Leadership, however, indicated this issue needed more time for study.

This was one of the most coordinated and strong efforts to get a bill that would lower health care costs in recent years. Its failure seriously dims the prospects of passing any kind of health care reform or other health reforms proposed by Farm Bureau members in their current policy positions. Efforts will continue.

The report says personal knowledge or detailed water level records would be required to determine an area's status. The report concludes that not only is this type of information unavailable or extremely expensive, but in year-to-year fluctuations, such observations are of limited utility, even when available.

This discussion obviously indicates the sponsors of the report believe areas that are dry more often than wet should be regulated as wetlands. Their view that 21 days of saturation at soil surface level or 15 days of standing water cannot be measured is equally interesting. If so, how can they accept the Army Corps of Engineers designating an area as a wetland if the soil is saturated for only seven consecutive days at a depth 18 inches below the soil surface? If the Corps can determine such saturation, it should be no less difficult to determine if the 21 day saturation or 15 day standing water criteria have been met.

The report concludes by calling for an independent advisory panel, such as the National Academy of Sciences, to provide a comprehensive basis for delineating wetlands.

#### MFB Position:

Farm Bureau continues to strongly support the wetlands definition in the proposed Federal Wetlands Delineation Manual.

MFB Contact: Al Almy, Ext. 2040

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# Weather

Abnormally cool weather continued during July, with new record low monthly temperatures set at several stations in Michigan and across the northern Great Plains and New England. The cool temperatures greatly slowed growth and development of most summer crops, with seasonal growing degree day total snow lagging from 1-2 weeks behind normal in most locations. Accompanying the cool temperatures in southern Lower Michigan were excessively heavy rains, which exceeded six inches in many locations and over 10 inches in a few spots. In northern sections of the state, heavy rains early in the month helped reduce the effects of two or more months of persistent dryness, although dryness and moisture shortages returned by the end of the month.

The cause of the abnormal weather so far this summer? A jetstream pattern running much too far south for this time of year is the primary factor (the pattern over the last few weeks has been much more typical of September or October than July). A dip in the jetstream over the Great Lakes and New England led to the frequent intrusions of cool Canadian air and periods of showers and thunderstorms.

Whether or not the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines is a factor in this shift of the jetstream is not clear. Past studies of volcanic eruptions and subsequent impacts on climate have revealed only a weak correlation between the two.

Possibly more importantly, we must also remember that many of the last several summers have averaged warmer than normal, and that climatological statistics have a way of "evening out" sooner or later (along the same line, remember also that the colder than normal winter was back in 1985-1986!).

The outlook for Michigan calls mostly for more of the same type of weather. Specifically, the National Weather Service 30- and 90-day extended outlooks for August and the period August through October

7/1/92 to 7/31/92	Temperature		Growing Degree Days		Precipitation	
	Observed Mean	Dev. From Normal	Actual Accum.	Normal Accum.	Actual (inch.)	Normal (inch.)
Alpena	61.8	-5.1	938	1236	3.36	3.18
Bad Axe	64.3	-5.7	1132	1513	5.66	2.92
Detroit	69.0	-3.0	1505	1647	5.90	3.11
Escanaba	61.7	-5.1	761	944	4.03	3.19
Flint	67.5	-3.0	1402	1647	9.34	3.11
Grand Rapids	67.8	-3.8	1416	1686	8.84	3.09
Houghton	59.9	-5.1	867	1133	3.53	3.42
Houghton Lake	63.4	-4.1	1089	1236	2.86	3.18
Jackson	67.7	-5.2	1392	1660	6.08	3.22
Lansing	66.9	-3.9	1345	1660	6.48	3.22
Marquette	59.0	-5.8	828	1133	4.86	3.42
Muskegon	66.5	-3.7	1227	1436	2.68	2.54
Pellston	61.2	-4.6	995	1282	2.12	2.99
Saginaw	66.5	-5.1	1338	1513	5.08	2.92
Sault Ste. Marie	58.0	-5.8	717	944	4.90	3.19
South Bend	70.2	-1.7	1594	1686	5.19	3.09
Traverse City	64.0	-5.7	1157	1282	1.84	2.99
Vestaburg	65.5	-6.0	1266	1503	5.93	2.97

Observed and normal growing degree day totals are accumulated from March 1. Normals are based on district averages. Jeff Andresen, Ag Meteorologist, MSU

both call for cooler and wetter than normal conditions to continue in the Lower Peninsula, with cooler than normal temperatures and near normal precipitation in the Upper Peninsula.

While some summer crops, such as peppers and tomatoes, may never reach maturity given this scenario (especially in northern sections of the state), statistical studies of past growing seasons show that for crops such as corn and soybeans, abundant precipitation (and not temperatures of one category or another) is the key to high yields. It thus appears one of the most important unknown factors in determining yields this season will be the date of first frost/freeze.

Michigan and Major Commodity Area Extended Weather Outlook

T - Temp.	8/15.....8/31	8/15.....10/30
P - Precip.	T.....P	T.....P
Michigan	B.....A	B.....A
W. Corn Belt	B.....N	B.....N/A
E. Corn Belt	B.....N/A	B/N.....A
Wint. Wheat Belt	N.....N	B.....N/A
Spr. Wheat Belt	N.....B	B.....N
Pac. NW Wheat	A.....B	A.....B
Delta	N.....N/A	B.....N
Southeast	N.....N/A	B/N.....N
San Joaquin	N.....B	A.....N

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

Michigan's Crop Outlook ...continued from page 1

certainly much better than last year. The beets are long, the roots extended themselves earlier in the season, but we need warmer temperatures. I think that goes for most any crop."

**Ben Kudwa, Executive Director, Michigan Potato Industry Commission**  
"Potato acres for 1992 are down significantly for 1991. In fact, they're down 71,000 acres nationally. Unfortunately, that hasn't resulted in increased prices right now for growers."

"We started harvesting our summer crop and we were in the market the same time as some of the Eastern states, so our summer market prices have really taken a nose-dive recently. We expect that the fewer acres are going to translate to higher prices, but that probably won't occur until later in the season."

"Michigan is having a good crop. We're pleased with what we see, in spite of the cold weather. Potatoes, being a cool weather crop, are responding very well even though it's been one of the coolest growing seasons on record. We started late in almost every area; putting in the crop maybe two weeks to three weeks later than we normally would be."

"We always have the threat of an early frost which would hurt potatoes. There's no question about it. But, that's the kind of thing you really can't predict."

"It looks like Idaho is very dry and the dry weather that they had out there this past winter has caused a decrease in snowpack, resulting in less accumulated water in some of those big watersheds. As a result, they're having some trouble allotting enough water to finish out this crop."

**Keith Reinholt, Executive Director, Michigan Soybean Committee**  
"There are areas that seem to have been hit harder by standing water and late planting. There are other areas that seem to have a nice stand. Maturity is far behind throughout the state by anywhere from a week to two weeks because of less accumulated heat units. There's still, I think quite frankly, a possibility of an average to above average soybean crop in Michigan. There is some concern, however, among the soybean industry with an early frost."

"Most Corn Belt states are saying that they think they've got potential for perhaps a little better soybean crop than they do po-

tentially for a corn crop. There's a little frost concern because many of those states are a little behind, too."

**Philip Malefyt, Senior Grain Merchandiser, Michigan Ag Commodities**  
"The corn crop is real late and there's no sign of it speeding up - we continue to lose ground on it. It looks good, but there's a real question in a lot of people's minds as to whether it makes corn or not. Unfortunately, it really doesn't matter to the price of corn what happens to Michigan's crops. Farther south of us, it tends to be warmer and they tend to always have enough growing degree days."

"The market believes that the corn crop is huge. They just don't know how big and the demand is not particularly good, so everybody is quite bearish. The corn's in a big downtrend and they're selling it off hard at the moment."

"Wheat crop yields were real good across the state. Sprout damage was not as big a problem as people had been afraid of. A lot of the wheat came off in reasonably good shape. Price wise on the wheat, we are again into a price war with the Europeans as to who gets what little export business there is and it's a real battle between us and Europeans as to who cuts their prices the most, the fastest. If corn's as big a crop as everybody would lead us to believe and it's a \$1.80 or \$1.90 a bushel commodity, wheat's not going to stay at \$3.30."

**Jerry Forsyth, Area Manager, Grand Ledge Agri-Sales Elevator**  
"We've only had two loads thus far during harvest come in right out of the field under 15 percent. Limited drying capacity for 20 percent moisture on wheat is showing up as a problem at mills. They're not used to that kind of moisture at receiving time. Yields are good to excellent as a whole. The majority of the sprout problem to date has been in wheat that was matured and ripe ahead of the last 10 days of rainfall."

"It appears that the wheat crop south of where the cold front has been the last 30 days was more severely damaged, although that predominantly was red wheat. To see red wheat at 5, 6, or 7 percent damage and moldy is not normal. Temperatures south of the cold front were in the high 70's, low 80's, while we were in the high 60's to low 70's and that saved the central Michigan wheat quality to this point by slowing down its maturity and making it less susceptible to sprout."

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## MFB and Easter Seals Launch FaRM Fund Drive

Each year in Michigan, 350 farmers on average experience disabling injuries. A majority of people who experience those injuries want to continue farming, but lack of adequate rehabilitation services and limited financial resources can often stand in their way.

MFB and the National Easter Seal Society have launched a fundraising campaign for the Family Farm Rehabilitation of Michigan (FaRM) program to meet that need. FaRM is modeled after an extremely successful rural rehabilitation program in Iowa, in operation since 1986, according to MFB Promotion and Education Department Manager Julie Chamberlain.

"FaRM is designed to help farmers with disabilities return to a full life of farming, and family life," explained Chamberlain. "The FaRM program, once fully funded, will allow farm accident victims to receive health care services, vocational counseling, with emphasis on family involvement and the practical use of low-cost assistive devices, home and agricultural worksite modifications, and follow-up referral services."

The aspect of a peer support group and the referral services can often make or break the success of a rehabilitation program for an accident victim, said Chamberlain. "It often comes right down to farmers helping farmers, and once a handicapped farmer

witnesses what can be done by another farmer with similar problems, the road to independence seems much easier," she said.

The Iowa program has helped a total of 274 farmers. In Michigan, it's expected that FaRM will assist 120 farm families in the first full year of operation. An established FaRM program would include a coordinator who would travel throughout the state to work directly with farmers to help them become more independent.

The Michigan Easter Seal Society has estimated that \$30,000 of seed money will be needed to launch the program in Michigan. Michigan Farm Bureau has initiated a fund raising program among employees with a challenge to raise \$15,000 of the needed \$30,000. Since April of this year, fundraising activities from the MFB Family of Companies staff have raised an estimated \$9,000.

County Farm Bureaus have been challenged with raising the additional \$15,000 needed with the entire fundraising effort culminating during the Easter Seal Telethon in March of 1993. Individual members can contact either their county Farm Bureau office for more information and/or to make a donation to the FaRM program, or contact Julie Chamberlain at 1-800-292-2680, ext. 3213.

The FaRM program is designed to help accident victims such as Dale Wood. Dale, pictured with his wife Danelle, and mother and father Dorothy and Oliver, is a 27 year old cash crop and dairy farmer in partnership with his father. He was injured in a truck accident six years ago leaving him a quadriplegic. Dale is still actively involved in the farm operation, doing fieldwork in a specially equipped tractor. He is also responsible for the farm's record keeping and also serves as the property tax assessor for the city of Marlette.



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- Chicago Board of Trade Analysis and Prices
- Michigan Cash Grain Analysis
- Grain Market News
- 11 Major Market and Michigan Cash Livestock Reports
- Chicago Mercantile Exchange Analysis and Prices
- Livestock Market News
- Michigan Ag Weather Forecasts
- Daily Market Reports for Potatoes, Fruit, Dry Beans
- State, Regional and National Agricultural News
- Weekly and Daily Dairy Market Reports
- Farm Classified

### Michigan Farm Radio Network

29 Michigan Radio Stations provide their local listeners with the latest in market analysis and news. Check with your local station for program times.

Station	City	Freq.	Morning	Noon	Station	City	Freq.	Morning	Noon
WABJ	Adrian	1490	5:45 am	12:15 pm	WJIM	Lansing	1250	5:05 am	12:15 pm
WATZ	Alpena	1450	5:30 am	12:15 pm	WWGZ	Lapeer	1530		12:15 pm
WPZA	Ann Arbor	1050	6:15 am	12:05 pm	WNBY	Newberry	92.5		12:15 pm
WLEW	Bad Axe	1340	6:30 am	12:50 pm	WOAP	Owosso	1080	6:15 am	12:30 pm
WHFB	Benton Harbor	1060		12:30 pm	WHAK	Rogers City	960	7:10 am	12:15 pm
WKYO	Caro	1360	6:15 am	12:45 pm	WSJ	St. Johns	1580	6:15 am	12:15 pm
WTVB	Coldwater	1590	5:45 am		WMLM	St. Louis	1540	6:06 am	12:20 pm
WDOW	Dowagiac	1440	6:15 am	12:15 pm	WSGW	Saginaw	790	5:55 am	12:15 pm
WACY	Fenton	1160	6:15 am	12:15 pm	WMIC	Sandusky	660	6:15 am	12:45 pm
WGHN	Grand Haven	1370/92.1	5:45 am	12:15 pm	WKZC	Scottville	95.9	5:45 am	12:30 pm
WPLB	Greenville	1380	6:15 am	12:45 pm	WCSY	South Haven	940		12:15 pm
WBCH	Hastings	1220	6:15 am	12:30 pm	WKJC	Tawas City	104.7		12:45 pm
WCSR	Hillsdale	1340	6:45 am	12:45 pm	WLKM	Three Rivers	1510/95.9	6:15 am	12:15 pm
WHTC	Holland	1450		12:15 pm	WTCM	Traverse City	580	5:55 am	12:40 pm
WKZO	Kalamazoo	590		12:15 pm					

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## Market Outlook

Dr. Jim Hilker, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU

### Corn

The August 12 USDA Crop Report will have been released by the time you read this article. August is the first month each year when the USDA goes out and does a comprehensive field survey for corn and soybeans to come up with the production estimate. If the estimate was larger than expected, new crop prices will be under \$2.00 per bushel for a while this fall. In this case, unless there is an unexpected rally, consider holding further new crop pricing for more information. It is hard to justify holding any remaining old crop. If the estimate was smaller than expected, consider finishing remaining old crop sales and pricing some new crop if you have not done much up to this point.

While there is little doubt that the rains that came across the Corn Belt last month turned the U.S. corn crop from a potential disaster into a large crop, some states, including large parts of Michigan, are not out of the woods yet. The cool summer has left crop development 1-3 weeks behind normal. An early frost could be trouble.

Exports have been running a little stronger than expected the last few weeks so there should be no problem in reaching, or possi-

### Seasonal Commodity Price Trends

Wheat	?
Corn	?
Soybeans	?
Hogs	↓
Cattle	↑?

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

bly exceeding, the USDA 1991-92 corn export projection by August 31. However, the export demand for 1992-93 is still a big question. Feed use this summer is a question; on the one side, a lot more hogs are being brought to slaughter than expected, indicating that feed use might be higher than expected; but on the other side, the cool summer has probably meant high feed efficiency for both hogs and cattle.

### Wheat

A decent size wheat crop, poor export demand, and low corn prices do not add up to good wheat prices. In order to make your pricing decisions, watch for rallies of both the wheat price and the basis. Consider pricing a significant portion on any near-term prices rallies if you have not already done so. However, there is room for about a 30 cent rally by December.

**Watch your local basis carefully; if the basis is strong, consider using a basis contract where you deliver right away,**

**set the basis, and price later; or for a little less risk and most of the potential gain, consider selling your wheat and buying a call option(s) to take advantage of price rallies. If your local basis stays wide, consider storing some wheat for a price rally or until the basis narrows. If you want some downside protection, while the basis is wide consider a put option. If the basis does then narrow and you feel there is more upside price potential, move to the basis contract or sell and buy a call option.**

### Soybeans

Since soybeans are generally made in August, and they're already running late, and the information for the August 12 Crop Report was collected the first of August, we may not have a good handle on soybean production before the September Crop Report.

This means that unless we have a sharp price rally for some reason, there probably isn't any real clear new crop pricing decisions to be made at this time--especially here in Michigan where we are so late an early freeze could be a disaster.

### Cattle

On July 24, the USDA released the mid-year Cattle Inventory Report, the quarterly 13-State Cattle-On-Feed Report, and the monthly 7-State Cattle-On-Feed Report. And the news was more positive than negative.

Total cattle numbers were unchanged from last year. Beef cow numbers were up .4 percent and the calf crop was up .6 percent. However, beef cow replacements were up 7.5 percent, which will mean a larger calf crop in 1993.

Total feeder supply the second half of 1992 appears to be up less than 1 percent. Basically, this means that we will not see much increase in beef production until 1994.

The 13-state quarterly report showed cattle on feed July 1, 6 percent below last year and the 7-state monthly report showed July numbers on feed down 7 percent. Marketings were down as well due to the lower placements over the winter.

**Consider moving any remaining old crop. If you want to stay in for a possible rally, use the futures or call options after you have sold the cash.**

Soybean exports were higher than expected in July which means, we will probably come in a little ahead of USDA 1991-92 export projections by August 31. This will mean a little less carry-in for the 1992-93 marketing year. If exports this next year can be close to this past year, we may well see some price improvement.

However, June placements were up 22 percent in the 7-state report. But with low placements earlier and not a lot of feeders available now, that 22 percent will not hit all at once next fall.

Cattle over 900 pounds were down 15 percent on July 1, which means we should not have the horrible August-September period we had last year. Steers in the 700-900 pound range were up 7 percent which means production will pick up some this fall.

**At this point, keep feedlots current. If October or December futures bounce up into the mid 70's, consider some forward pricing. Feeder cattle are expected to remain high. If there is a break in feeder prices for the fall period, feedlots may want to due some forward pricing.**

**If feeder steer futures for this fall are still in the \$82-84 range, feeder producers may want to take advantage of these strong prices to price some of their fall sales.**

### Dairy Outlook

Larry Hamm, MSU Ag Econ. Dept.

This year's weather pattern is not the only unusual pattern. Dairy markets are beset by unusual conditions which make market forecasting very problematic this year. A few of the unusual factors affecting current dairy markets are enumerated below.

The weather is causing an increase in milk production. June milk production was up 2 percent over last year. The unseasonably cool weather in the traditional dairy regions and the Southeast have caused milk production to stay up rather than drop because of the traditional hot humid weather in July and August.

The result is that milk processing plants are running extended schedules. Also, no milk is moving South out of Michigan and Wisconsin. These out-of-state shipments help put upward price pressure on the Minnesota-Wisconsin (M-W) price and usually start the fall M-W price increases. If heat waves start, this could reverse quickly.

Higher production this summer may be being borrowed from this winter's production because of poor feed conditions. As forage harvesting is disrupted, some of this winter's feed supply is being used now. Reports from Wisconsin are particularly troubling. All of the production uncertainty is causing milk product buyers to be very cautious about putting in inventories of cheese and nonfat dry milk powder.

Another unusual condition has been export sales. Through the first half of 1992, export sales are running 50 percent above 1991. Most of the increased activity has been through the Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP) sales. Although exports took

### July Farm Prices Down From June

USDA's monthly Agricultural Prices Report showed prices received by farmers for their products in July was down 2.1 percent from the June level and down 7.4 percent from July 1991, according to a recent *Knight Ridder Financial News* report.

Lower prices in July for oranges, hogs, corn and soybeans were tempered by increased prices for potatoes, cattle, broilers and milk. USDA said a decline in prices for oranges accounted for most of the drop from year ago levels, with lower prices for hogs, peanuts and broilers also contributing. The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes and farm wage rates for July was .5 percent higher than in April and 1.6 percent above July 1991.

### Table Egg Market

Allan Rahn, MSU Ag Econ. Dept.

Egg prices have been running at disastrously low levels for producers and averaged 58 cents per dozen (New York, Grade A, large white, in cartons, to retailers), 22 cents below a year ago during the month of July.

Although layer feed costs had been above year ago levels earlier in the summer, the recent drop in both corn and soybean meal prices has lowered feed costs and they are currently around 1.5 cents per dozen below last year at this time.

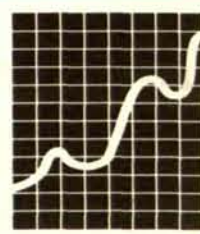
The fundamental reason for the low price situation is too many eggs. Egg production during June was 1 percent above a year ago

### Hogs

Hog slaughter was up about 13 percent in July compared to last year. If this is a sign of things to come, we are in trouble. The good part is that we seem to be keeping current. Many analysts feel prices could drop into the mid-30's this fall.

**While I am not quite that pessimistic, it may be advisable to take some price protection on some of your October-November production using options, futures, or forward contracts if you can lock in higher prices and cannot/do not want to handle the downside price risk.**

## FARM BUSINESS OUTLOOK



only about 1 percent of U.S. milk production, they were competing against a stagnant milk supply. As the election nears and passes, DEIP sales will not likely continue at the same pace they had earlier this year.

The uneven economic recovery is yet another unusual condition. Moderate growth in early spring pushed dairy product demand higher. Like exports, demand increases pushed against a stagnant milk supply and helped drive farm prices higher. U.S. economic growth is stalling out again, raising the concern of a triple-dip recession. Higher interest rates abroad are dampening U.S. export sales. This, combined with continued employment uncertainty, is cutting growth slowing dairy demand increases.

The dairy price support is so low and doesn't provide sufficient stability to jittery markets. Unusual conditions make the jitters worse. If markets turn down, the price support will not stop a free-fall. Likewise, the CCC has little product other than butter to sell back should prices rise rapidly due to shortages.

**The short-term outlook is for the M-W to go up moderately (20 to 40 cents) over the next two months. Early this fall, the markets could go up or down rapidly. It all depends on how the current unusual conditions play out. Cash flow management techniques will again be in great demand.**

and was nearly 2.5 percent above 1991's total during the first half of the year. Signs of layer number adjustments are evident. Spent hen slaughter rates are currently running above year ago levels, the egg-type chick hatch in June was down 5 percent and eggs in incubators on July 1 was 9 percent below last year.

Egg prices are expected to recover into the upper-60's during August--a price level that approximates total production costs for many producers--and then, in September, move up into the 70 cent area. Egg prices during the last quarter of the year are likely to average around 75 cents per dozen.

On August 2, the President directed the USDA to offer the first Export Enhancement Program (EEP) on U.S. pork to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The USDA will provide EEP credit to the CIS for 30,000 metric tonnes (66 million pounds) of U.S. pork.

The question is, "Will the CIS have any money to buy it, even with the export subsidy?" They have little cash and have used up most of their credit allocations. However, if they do, the 388,000 head equivalent would really help given expected fourth quarter pork production.

## USDA to Save Millions on Computer Purchases

Agency also to consider dollar saving management reforms

In a move to streamline the U.S. Department of Agriculture and save millions of tax dollars on computer purchases, officials have decided to revamp failed nationwide computer systems throughout the \$61 billion, 135,000-employee department.

Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan, in a letter to Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Indiana), agreed that USDA should stop a previous plan to ultimately spend \$2 billion on equipment for the independent computer systems that are scattered throughout the department's 46 agencies.

Lugar, ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, had asked in a letter and in a recent committee hearing that the plan

be shelved, in light of a broader initiative to close costly field offices and merge services of the largely independent agencies.

In addition to saving at least \$20 million over the next five years by streamlining USDA computers, the department is consolidating its computer procurement process for three field agencies: the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Farmers Home Administration and the Soil Conservation Service.

According to Lugar, with this action, USDA is ushering a long-needed unified computer system that will make possible greater efficiency, better service to farmers and intra-departmental cooperation.

Michigan ASCS Director Dave Conklin said that despite the delay in implementing

a new computer system scheduled for 1995 or 1996, Lugar's plans may pay big dividends for the USDA and the producer. "Right now our computers can't communicate between agencies at the state level or at the county office level and that's a real disadvantage," explained Conklin.

"If we can create efficiencies in sharing some commonly used information between agencies such as farm field acreage figures, then it's to our advantage, as well as the producers, to do so," Conklin concluded.

Sen. Lugar said USDA's decision provided potential for the agency to be managed prudently and effectively, with both taxpayer and farmer in mind. "I'm pleased USDA took this critical initial step to streamline the department so the secretary can attempt to

manage it like the large corporation it is," he said.

"It would have been folly to go ahead with such a large purchase when the structure of the agency may be radically altered by the time the equipment arrives. With this decision, Secretary Madigan has demonstrated his commitment to make real change in the agency so that it can better serve farmers while saving precious public dollars.

"USDA should now make a down payment of good faith to the American people by issuing an interim report before the November election on its plans for merging costly agency field offices and providing one-stop shopping for customers," said Lugar, who manages his family's corn, soybean and tree farm in central Indiana.

# THE POWER IN PROTEIN

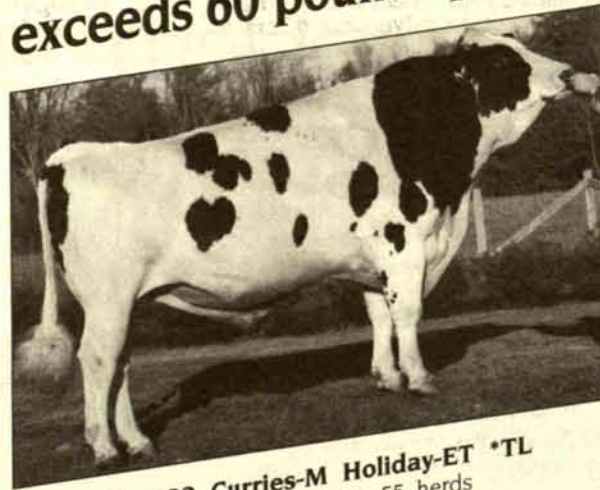
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21H1250 <b>Captain</b>	+259	+72	79	+88	+2048	932	175	+0.26	+914
21H1333 <b>Target</b>	+216	+69	76	+48	+2129	954	174	+0.72	+984
21H738 <b>Rex</b>	+236	+68	99	+67	+2173	973	181	+0.47	+978
21H1605 <b>Festus</b>	+237	+68	79	+73	+2028	955	173	+0.80	+988
21H1294 <b>Rotate Rocky</b>	+243	+67	81	+82	+1932	960	169	+0.34	+954
21H1273 <b>Centurian</b>	+244	+65	81	+64	+1955	975	176	-0.16	+945
21H859 <b>Christmas</b>	+219	+63	97	+54	+2178	988	159	+0.20	+832
*21H1683 <b>Saranac</b>	+196	+61	67	+98	+1465	968	166	+0.38	+818
21H1322 <b>Denby</b>	+216	+61	77	+37	+2143	987	155	+1.78	+1110
21H1202 <b>Stanley</b>	+229	+60	77	+37	+2143	987	155	+0.79	+941
21H2150 <b>Iacocca</b>	+218	+60	83	+81	+1475	968	163	+1.01	+895
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## 8 Protect Profits With Stored Grain Pest Management

Doug Landis and Mike Haas, Entomology, MSU  
Reprinted from the July MSU Field Crops CAT Alert

Now is the time to prepare bins for on-farm storage of harvested grain. It is critical that growers take steps to prevent stored grain insect problems, since measures to correct an existing infestation are frequently very costly and may not be completely effective.

The key to preventing stored grain insect infestations is through a program of sanitation, cleaning, drying and proper management of the stored grain mass. These practices are outlined in Extension bulletin E-934, "Protecting Stored Grains from Insects." We recommend that this program be followed and the following update be used as an appendix to the general bulletin.

### Two Important Notes

1. Not all formulations of the insecticides noted here are intended for use in stored grains. Read the label to be sure that the product to be used is specifically registered for use in stored grains.

2. Insecticides and fumigants are effective only in properly dried and cleaned grain. Check the grain and clean and dry it if needed before applying the chemical.

### Preventing Insect Infestations in Stored Grain

#### Sanitary Sprays

Thorough cleaning in and around the bin and all grain handling equipment (combine, trailers, cleaners, dryers and augers) is strongly recommended. A spray of an insecticide in cracks, corners and other hidden places that cannot be adequately cleaned is also recommended.

The accumulated debris in the space under the false flooring of the bin is an especially good place for insects to breed. A special effort should be made to clean and spray this area. These sanitary sprays can be used in any empty bin regardless of the grain that will be stored later in the bin.

Special products registered for use on stored grains are listed in Extension bulletin E-1582, "Chemical Control of Insects and Nematodes in Field and Forage Crops."

#### Surface Sprays

Sprays of insecticides applied and raked in the surface of the grain are used in new grain to aid in preventing insects from getting into the grain and also to control surface feeding caterpillars such as meal moth or Indian meal moth.

The caterpillars are often abundant in poorly ventilated grain where moisture has condensed at the surface. Remove the damaged grain before spraying, then keep the grain well-ventilated.

### Grain Protectants

Sprays or dusts of some insecticides can be mixed directly with new grain as it goes into the bin to protect the grain from insects. A grain protectant is especially recommended if the grain is to be stored longer than one year.

Grain protectants can also be used to control low infestations of insects. This involves moving the grain and requires an empty bin or other space to put the grain in as it is treated. Grain protectants are not reliable against established infestations (where insects can be found with little searching) and therefore a fumigant, must be used.

### Controlling Established Insect Infestations in Stored Grains

#### Fumigants

Fumigants are gases that penetrate through the grain mass and the grain itself to kill insects. They are most commonly used to control established infestations of insects in the grain mass. They are sometimes applied to newly-binned grain in place of sanitary sprays and grain protectants. Fumigants are fairly costly and difficult to apply safely.

Analysis of the cost of the fumigant and its application versus the value in protecting grain quality should be made before they are used. An important point is that, while fumigation kills all stages of the insects, they do not repair damaged grain nor remove the dead insect bodies. There are times when feeding the infested grain or selling it at a discount outweigh the return from the cost of fumigation.

Growers must be certified by the Michigan Department of Agriculture in the fumigation standard to buy and use fumigants. New restrictive standards on the use of fumigants have been established. These include the use of self contained breathing apparatus (scuba gear) in place of a gas mask and the use of gas detection devices in some situations.

### PLA Revisions Needed for Speedier Harvest

Price Later Agreements (PLAs) have been available for several years, providing an attractive marketing option to growers. They're a tool of the grain trade which is provided under the Uniform Commercial Code and offer producers an opportunity to deliver grain to an elevator and pass title to the commodity to the elevator while retaining the privilege to price the commodity at a future date.

Currently, producers are required to sign a price later agreement on the individual deliveries of grain to their elevator. Elevators must have a signed PLA prior to shipping the grain from their facilities.

The law provides up to 30 days for an agreement to be signed. However, during peak harvest time, elevators could potentially reach capacity before obtaining all the necessary signatures. Combined with the fact that this is a busy time for both the elevator and the producer, the person delivering the grain to the elevator is often not the legal owner, and therefore is unable to sign the PLA.

This causes the elevator added expenses and time in trying to contact the producers individually. At a recent meeting at the Michigan Agri Business Association, attended by representatives from Michigan Department of Agriculture, as well as Michigan Farm Bureau, several ideas were discussed to further streamline the PLA process.

The elevator industry is proposing a revised price later agreement that would be signed prior to delivery and be an all-encompassing agreement. The new agreement would cover all future deliveries of a particular commodity to an elevator.

This would be a voluntary option to be used in place of individual agreements by farmers who have made their plans for marketing earlier in the season and wish to avoid the hassle of signing multiple agreements.

The agreement would allow the farmer to change his marketing plans at any time by simply notifying the elevator before delivery took place. The new agreement would require amending the Grain Dealers Act, according to MDA representative Jane Mosier.

In order to obtain producer comments, this issue will be a topic at the summer Michigan Farm Bureau Commodity Advisory Committee meetings. Your comments on this subject are welcome at Michigan Agri Business Association, Michigan Farm Bureau Commodity Activities and Research Division, as well as Michigan Department of Agriculture Food Division.

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the only one  
who knows if there is a  
stray voltage problem  
isn't talking.



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## Young Farmer Discussion Meet District Contests Scheduled

Michigan Farm Bureau's State Young Farmer Committee has announced the discussion topic, "How does our public's environmental concerns affect agriculture?" will be used for the 11 district discussion meet contests, scheduled to kick off Aug. 20 in Midland.

District contests mark the beginning for one state winner who will receive the grand prize, a Honda FourTrax 300 ATV, compliments of the Honda Motor Corporation. Of the 11 district contests, 3 winners will be selected for state level competition in December during the MFB State Annual in Grand Rapids.

Other discussion topics at state level competition will include:

- What should be the role of the U.S. agriculture regarding foreign aid?

- Term Limitation - Should terms of office be limited in the American system of government?

- Can agriculture be assured of a reliable labor supply?

The Young Farmer Discussion Meet contest is not a debate, but rather a discussion about the issue and possible solutions. Contestants are scored on their opening statements, their delivery, their problem solving and implementation suggestions, their cooperative attitude, analysis of the topic or problem, and finally their closing statements. The contest is open to young farmers

between the ages of 18 and 30 who are either regular members themselves, or through their parents if under 21 years of age.

For more contest information, contact either your county Farm Bureau office or MFB's Young Farmer Department at 1-800-292-2680, ext. 3234.

District	Date	Location
1	Sept. 1	Kalamazoo (Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren)
2	Sept. 23	Jackson (Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Jackson and Lenawee)

3 Sept. 3 Ann Arbor  
(Livingston, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne)

4 Oct. 1 Middleville  
(Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent and Ottawa)

5 Sept. 12 Lansing  
(Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Ingham and Shiawassee)

6 Sept. 8 Sandusky  
(Huron, Lapeer, Macomb, Sanilac, St. Clair and Tuscola)

7 Sept. 28 Stanwood  
(Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana and Osceola)

8 Aug. 20 Midland  
(Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland and Saginaw)

9 Aug. 21 Cadillac  
(Benzie, Kalkaska, Manistee, Missaukee, N.W. Mich. and Wexford)

10 Sept. 10 Gaylord  
(Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Otsego and Presque Isle)

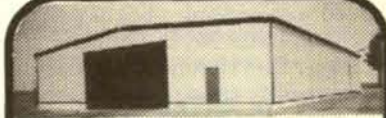
11 Aug. 31 Escanaba  
(Chippewa, Copper Country, Hiawathaland, Iron Range, Mac-Luce and Menominee).

### Sustainable Agricultural Grants Available

The North Central Region of the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program will be awarding about \$100,000 in new mini grants to help farmers and ranchers change from conventional to sustainable agriculture systems.

The group expects to fund nearly 20, one-year grants through the competitive program, "Implementing Sustainable Agriculture Practices." The north-central region includes Michigan as well as Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Producers may be just beginning the transition to a more sustainable agriculture or they may have incorporated some sustainable practices and need assistance overcoming barriers to other sustainable practices.

A final report and evaluation will be required of all projects. Application deadline is Sept. 4 with grants winner to be announced in November. Grant application forms are available from the North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Office, 207 Agriculture Hall, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb. 68683. For more information, contact Steve Waller, at the University of Nebraska, at (402) 472-7081.



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## Canola Planting Window Quickly Approaching

Below are a few reminders which may help with canola planting this year:

### Planting Tips

Moisture management will improve canola stands. As soon as possible after harvesting small grains, plan to till small grain residue into the soil. This will allow rainfall to recharge the soil before planting canola. The use of a chisel disk or offset disk will leave enough residue to control erosion. Early tillage will also assist in controlling volunteer wheat.

Field selection and seed bed preparation are very important. Fields that are rolling and have good internal and external drainage usually produce the best yields. Canola does not like wet soils and, like alfalfa, will not survive under these conditions. Prepare the seed bed carefully; it should not be cloddy or have an excess of plant residue that will interfere with seed and soil contact.

Drilling canola gives best stands. Over the past five years, we have seen canola seeded with a drill gets off to a much faster and more uniform start due to better seed soil contact and placement 1/4 to 3/4 inch deep allows for better moisture access. If a drill is unavailable, broadcast planting can work, but often results in less than optimum stands under less than ideal planting conditions.

Plant canola about six to eight weeks before the first expected hard freeze. Canola should have about six to eight true leaves to achieve maximum winter hardiness.

### Choosing Fields

Choose fields with good fertility levels. Canola, like corn, soybeans and wheat, yields best on fertile soils. Fertilize according to the soil test. Avoid fields with high soil levels of nitrogen (N), such as field that had manures applied during the summer months. Reducing N rates in the fall may prove to be beneficial.

It is important that canola not go into freeze with lush growth. Make the crop struggle somewhat to harden off prior to freeze up. Dr. Ellsworth Christmas, Purdue University, suggests early tillage of wheat fields to allow the straw to break down and reduce nitrogen tie up at planting. Fields that have

heavy residues of wheat straw or set-aside residue tilled into the soil prior to planting may tie up nitrogen and require fall applied nitrogen. Canola nitrogen uptake and usage occurs in the spring months.

Continue to apply phosphate (PK) and other micro nutrients, when needed, in the fall. High residual phosphate levels have proven beneficial for winter survival.

Don't forget to examine your fields for possible chemical carryover. Some damage has been noted in fields where canola followed corn or grain sorghum when the Atrazine rate exceeded two pounds per acre. In general, canola can follow these crops in years of normal rainfall. Chemicals have plant-back restrictions which

should be reviewed including: Pursuit, Command, Scepter, Glean, Ally and Princep. Please follow label instructions carefully.

### Preferred Varieties for North Central Region

Ceres is known for its high yields. Ceres has good resistance to lodging and pod shatter. It is a medium height variety and stands well under high nitrogen fertility. Ceres is the most widely grown variety in the U.S.

Falcon is a medium early winter variety with good lodging resistance and excellent yield potential. It is similar to Ceres for agronomic characteristics but shows increased disease resistance.

## Sink The Imports. Plant Canola Now.

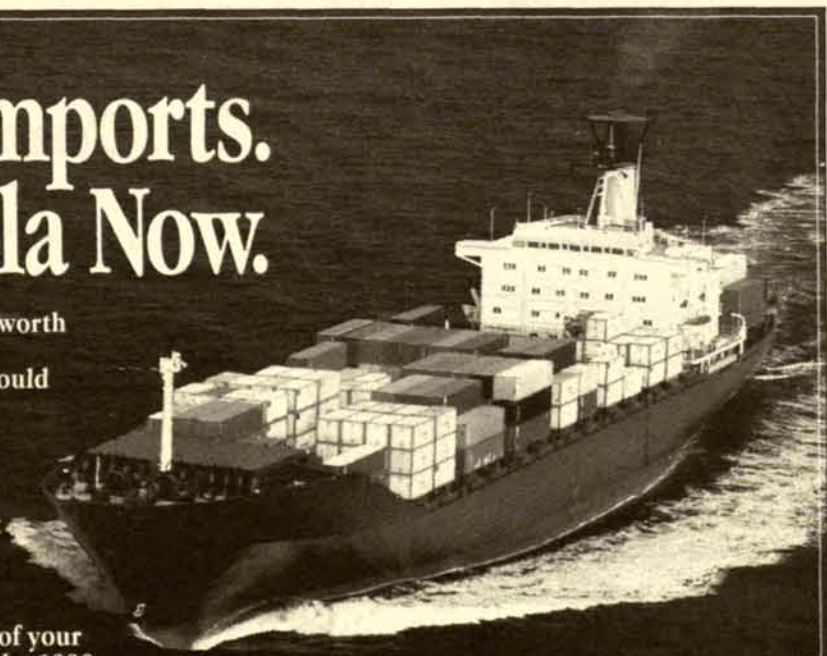
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\* 1989 University of Kentucky research demonstrated a 6-9 bushel per acre increase.




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# 10 Group Purchasing Adds "PowerTwist" to Product Line

Just in time for the upcoming fall harvest season, Farm Bureau members now have access to a relatively new concept in v-belt technology designed to reduce downtime and teardown for replacement of broken drive belts on items such as combines, elevator legs and dryers.

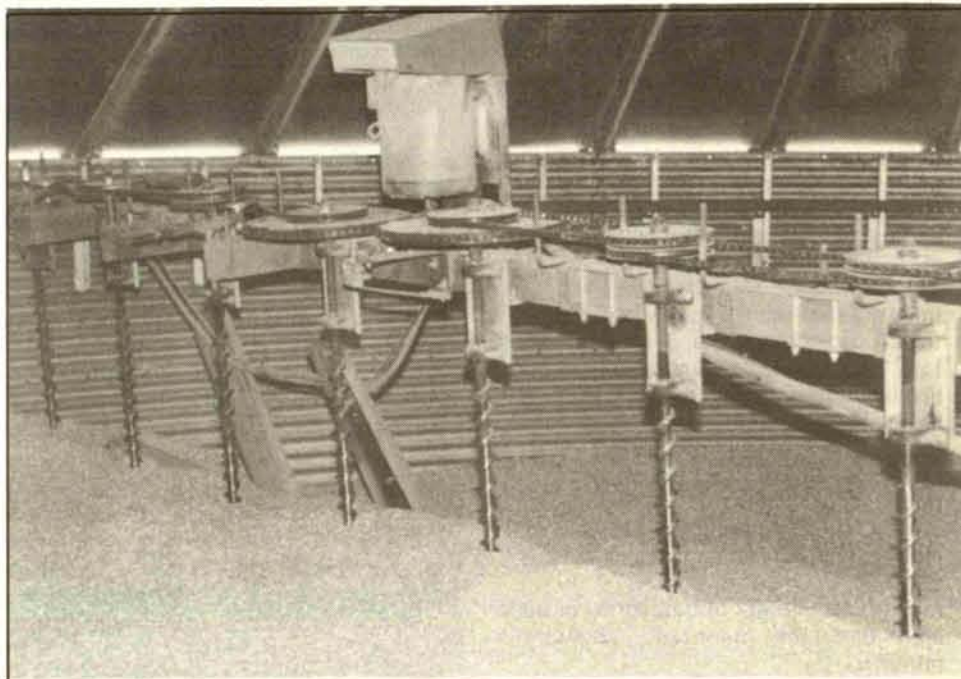
PowerTwist, known as the zero downtime v-belt, offers a unique, yet simple twist and lock construction that guarantees quick installation. The replacement belt provides excellent resistance to abrasion, oil and chemicals, while the raw edge cog design offers outstanding durability.

"PowerTwist v-belts are manufactured from an exclusive high strength composite material, called urethane elastomer, reinforced with multiple plies of polyester fabric," explains MFB Group Purchasing Manager Bob Harms. "The final product is an incredibly strong, yet flexible belt that can withstand the toughest work conditions. They can withstand temperatures from -40 F to +240 F."

With PowerTwist v-belts, no special tools are required for replacement. All you need is a twist of the wrist to uncouple or couple the belt to any length. Assembly or disassembly can be completed in five seconds. In applications where replacements previously required dismantling machinery, PowerTwist v-belts can be installed in perfectly matched sets.

The PowerTwist v-belt is currently used in many non-agricultural applications that really put it to the test, such as metal processing, coal and aggregate handling, machine tools, and petrochemical. In field tests the belt has lasted up to 15 times longer than conventional rubber v-belts.

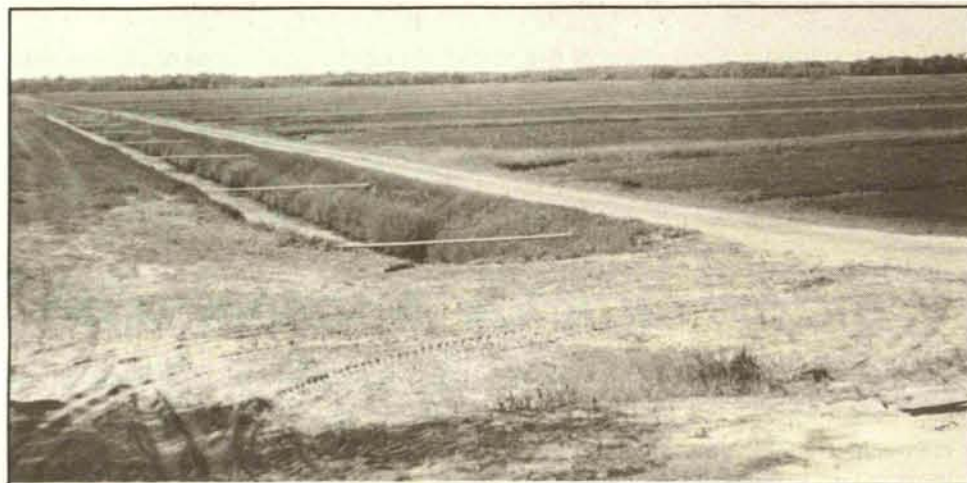
Available in 3L, A/4L, B/5L and C sections, in packs of 7', 25', and 100' lengths, PowerTwist will reduce the dollars you'll have tied up in spare belts, and still give you instant availability. For more information about the PowerTwist v-belt, contact Bob Harms at 1-800-292-2680, ext. 2015, or your local Group Purchasing vendor.



## Wisconsin Cranberry Production - Exploring Michigan's Potential

Will cranberries be the newest entry to the list of diverse agricultural commodities produced in Michigan? It could be if a group that toured Wisconsin's cranberry country recently has anything to say about it. Western Michigan University staff, farmers and representatives from Michigan Farm Bureau, Cooperative Extension Service and Michigan Department of Agriculture spent several days there in July.

The tour, organized by Western Michigan University's Horticultural Economic Development Center, was intended to provide



Above is a look at one of the several cranberry marshes and ditching systems toured by the group. The marshes all require considerable water for irrigation during the summer as well as for frost protection and to assist with harvesting.

growers an opportunity to explore the feasibility of commercial cranberry production in Michigan first hand, according to MFB commodity specialist Bob Boehm, who participated in the tour.

Over 40 percent of the nation's cranberries are produced in Wisconsin, in an area that was once abandoned by would-be row crop farmers due to frost and acidic soil problems. Eventually, wild cranberries took over the cleared ground, starting what is

today a \$80 million industry, making Wisconsin second in the nation for cranberry production.

Nearly 150 growers manage 110,000 acres of wetlands and uplands that provide the water needed for an estimated 10,000 acres of cranberry marshes. An additional 2,000 acres are expected to be in production within another 2 to 5 years, despite expansion problems being encountered due to growing sensitivity over wetlands.

### Cranberry Market/Economics

The cranberry market is characterized by strong demand and a short supply according to Boehm. "Growing consumption of bottled juice, canned sauce, and frozen concentrate now account for about 90 percent of the total market," he said. "Ocean Spray Cooperative is the dominant player in the cranberry industry, controlling 80 to 85 percent of the total crop."

Common production units are based on 100 pound barrels, with yields ranging from 100 to 400 barrels per acre, depending on plant variety, age of the marsh and weather conditions. Prices over a ten-year period have averaged \$48.

Before pulling out the calculator and getting big ideas, however, you should realize that the cost to establish a new marsh will average an estimated \$10,000 per acre, and the first full harvest normally isn't expected until the fifth year. "The construction of dikes, dams and ditches, as well as irrigation equipment, represent a significant portion of the investment," said Boehm.

Cranberry plants are a relatively short plant, reaching only 6 to 8 inches in height, and have a shallow root system of only 3 to 4 inches, making water management the most critical ingredient to successful production, said Boehm. "The operations we visited had six to 10 acres of water reservoir area for each acre of production," he said.

### Potential in Michigan?

Water, the most critical ingredient for cranberry production, will likely be the biggest hindrance to production in the state of Michigan. Western Michigan University and MSU's CES are exploring potential production areas, but obtaining the necessary permits to construct the marshes is expected to be a major roadblock to commercial production. Researchers are looking at alternative cultural practices that would require less water, such as dry harvesting and snow machines or covers to protect against winter kill.

There are several farmers in Michigan attempting to establish commercial operations. One farmer near Paw Paw has actually received the necessary permits to begin construction of the marshes and Boehm says that several blueberry growers have expressed interest in cranberry production. "The acidic soil type needed for blueberries, as well as the similarities in handling and processing equipment, have prompted several blueberry growers to look to cranberries as a potential alternative," he said.

The group that attended the Wisconsin tour is now attempting to form an association to direct efforts of creating a cranberry industry in Michigan.



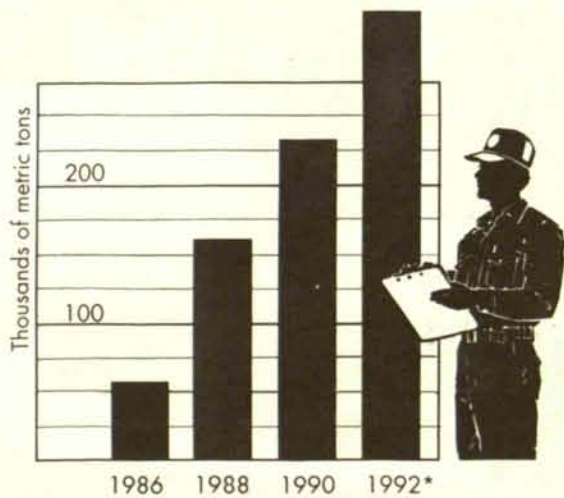
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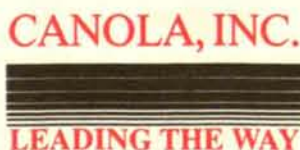
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## September Discussion Topic -- "Private Property Rights"

Farmers and other people interested in preserving private property rights were delighted with this summer's U.S. Supreme Court ruling on "Lucas vs. South Carolina Coastal Council." In overturning a South Carolina Supreme Court decision, the high court said that the state should compensate landowner David Lucas for the "regulatory taking" of his two beachfront lots if it could not be proved that the taking was justified under existing state law.

The Lucas case stemmed from regulations imposed by South Carolina that rendered worthless two lots purchased by David Lucas, who had planned to build a home for his family on one and sell the other. Before he could do either, the state enacted the Beachfront Management Act, which left Lucas's plans, and a sizable investment, in ruin.

However, the U.S. Supreme Court also asked the South Carolina Supreme Court to review the question of whether Lucas knew about the beachfront regulations when he purchased his lots.

John Rademacher, general counsel for the AFBF said the court's favorable ruling toward property rights in the Lucas case returns the "nuisance exception," which regulators have attempted to apply broadly, to its basic common-law roots. This, in turn, should expand the range of circumstances in which state and federal governments must pay compensation when regulations intended to benefit the public destroy the value of an individual's property.

"Mr. Lucas' plan to build a home on a lot adjacent to existing homes clearly should not have been an activity considered to be a nuisance, and we take heart in the fact that the nation's highest court agreed," said Rademacher. "We believe this case will dissuade regulators from applying the nuisance doctrine on a whim. That is very supportive of agriculture."

However, the Lucas decision did not change the way that "regulatory taking" applies to local zoning decisions, according to Mark Wyckoff, editor of Michigan's *Planning and Zoning News*. "The Supreme Court has said that under the Fifth Amend-

ment to the Constitution, any time public activity or regulation has the effect of reducing property value to the point that the property cannot be used for anything and it is absolutely valueless, at that point compensation must be paid," said Wyckoff. "However, the Court noted several times in its Lucas opinion that local regulation would rarely, if ever, have that effect. That means that government could go a long way with a regulation that had the effect of reducing value without being liable for any compensation."

In light of the Lucas decision, as well as several other recent Supreme Court rulings, local planning commissions should make sure their regulations provide reasonable use of some type for all property owners, according to Wyckoff. "The Lucas case reaffirms three prior Supreme Court rulings that said compensation would be available in the event of 100 percent taking of property. Prior to those decisions, the Court simply invalidated the regulations," he said.

The Lucas case ruling did not go as far as private property rights advocates would

have liked. However, it clearly strengthens language in the Constitution's Fifth Amendment which states that private property shall not be taken for public use without "just compensation." Future court decisions will likely clarify the level of compensation that will be available to property owners.

### Discussion Questions

1. On what grounds or for what purposes should a "taking" of private property be allowed?
2. Who should make the final determination as to the best and most prudent use of the private property in a question dealing with regulations to benefit the public?
3. How should compensation for the property be computed in a taking?
4. Although the Supreme Court ruling will have little affect on local planning, what can Farm Bureau members do to keep abreast of future community blueprints for private property?

### "Relative Risk Analysis"

The top priority identified by the RRAP, Absence of Land Use Planning, will surely spark a great deal of discussion, and compromise, based on past attempts to develop a statewide land use plan. Pontz suggests the implications to agriculture could be two sided.

"There's a big push for land use planning, which means there will be an effort to protect farmland, which can also spill over into the private property rights debate," cautioned Pontz. "This push toward a statewide land use policy will surely put up a lot of red flags in the minds of Michigan farmers."

### RRAP Rankings

#### High High Risks

- Absence of Land Use Planning That Considers Resources and Integrity of Ecosystems
- Degradation of Urban Environments
- Energy Production and Consumption: Practices and Consequences
- Global Climate Change
- Lack of Environmental Awareness
- Stratosphere Ozone Depletion

#### High Relative Risks

- Alteration of Surface Water and Groundwater Hydrology, Including the Great Lakes
- Atmospheric Transport and Deposition of Air Toxics
- Biodiversity/Habitat Modification
- Indoor Pollutants

#### Medium-High Relative Risks

- Contaminated Sites
- Contaminated Surface Water Sediments
- Generation and Disposal of Hazardous Waste
- Generation and Disposal of High Level Radio-Active Waste
- Generation and Disposal of Low Level Radio-Active Waste
- Generation and Disposal of Municipal and Industrial Solid Waste
- Photochemical Smog
- Point Source Discharges to Surface Water and Ground Water, Including the Great Lakes

#### Medium Relative Risks

- Accidental Releases and Responses
- Acid Deposition
- Criteria and Related Air Pollutants
- Electromagnetic Field Effects

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2-4     5-9

10-24     25 and over

MFN

# 12 Michigan Cattlemen's Summer Round-Up a Grand Success

## Kurt Hrabal Young Cattleman of the Year

Kurt Hrabal of St. Louis, Michigan, was recognized as the Young Cattleman of the Year by the Michigan Cattlemen's Association (M.C.A.) at the Sault Ste. Marie 1992 Summer Round-Up. Kurt feeds 1,200 head of cattle in partnership with his father, Dick and also farms 1,500 acres raising cash crops and feed. Kurt began working with cattle through 4-H and after graduating, he took on more responsibility at the feedlot. He formulates the feed rations using the farm computer and figures his cost-effectiveness.

This past winter, he was elected to the M.C.A. Board of Directors. The Hrabal operation was featured during M.C.A.'s Gratiot County Cattle Tour in February of 1992. Kurt says he likes to show people around the feedlot and share ideas on management techniques. Hrabal is also a member of ProFILE - Farm Bureau's Institute for Leadership Education program.

He believes the M.C.A. should encourage young people to choose a career in the cattle business by showing them how to secure financing to feed cattle and educate producers about the different ways to feed and house their animals.

At right Hrabal and his wife Cynthia accept their award from M.C.A. President Larry Cotton.



Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, was the site of the 1992 Michigan Cattlemen's Association Summer Round-Up. The Summer Round-Up was considered a grand success with 275 people in attendance.

Activities included educational programs that featured discussions about Beef Quality Audit results and Value Based Marketing. Many of the attendees enjoyed the tour train ride and the farm tours. Andrew's Beef Farm, Oleson's Buffalo Farm and Turner Farms were featured on the farm tours.

The Ox Roast gave the attendees an opportunity to relax and socialize. M.C.A. annual awards were also presented. The Owosso Livestock Sales Company was recognized as the 1992 M.C.A. Agri-Business of the Year and Jack En-

derlee of De Witt was awarded the Member of the Year recognition. Kurt Hrabal of St. Louis was recognized as the M.C.A. Young Cattleman of the Year and Randy Turner of Turner Farms, Dafer, was honored as Cattle Businessman of the Year.

M.C.A. also honored Charles Gibson, DVM, upon his upcoming retirement, for his many contributions to the cattle industry through bull breeding soundness and scrotal growth studies.

## 1992 County Annual Meetings Scheduled

Fall means time for harvest and attending your county Farm Bureau annual meeting so that you can participate in the all-important policy development process. For more detailed information, contact your county Farm Bureau Office.

County	Date
Alcona	Oct. 26
Allegan	Sept. 24
Alpena	Sept. 20
Antrim	Oct. 14
Arenac	Oct. 12
Barry	Sept. 28
Bay	Sept. 22
Benzie	Oct. 12
Berrien	Oct. 27
Branch	Sept. 19
Calhoun	Oct. 5
Cass	Oct. 5
Charlevoix	Oct. 10
Cheboygan	Oct. 11
Chippewa	n.a.
Clare	Sept. 17
Clinton	n.a.
Copper Country	n.a.
Eaton	Oct. 24
Emmet	Oct. 8
Genesee	Sept. 29
Gladwin	Oct. 6
Gratiot	n.a.
Hiawathaland	Oct. 26
Hillsdale	Sept. 8
Huron	Sept. 2
Ingham	Sept. 26
Ionia	n.a.
Iosco	Oct. 14
Iron Range	Oct. 29
Isabella	Sept. 24
Jackson	Sept. 16
Kalamazoo	Oct. 6
Kalkaska	Sept. 22
Kent	Sept. 29
Lapeer	Oct. 1
Lenawee	Sept. 22
Livingston	Oct. 6
Mac-Luce	n.a.
Macomb	n.a.
Manistee	Aug. 8
Mason	Oct. 13
Mecosta	Oct. 5
Menominee	Oct. 13
Midland	Sept. 10
Missaukee	Oct. 8
Monroe	Sept. 15
Montcalm	Oct. 22
Montmorency	Oct. 28
Muskegon	n.a.
Newaygo	Oct. 8
NW Michigan	n.a.
Oakland	Oct. 15
Oceana	Oct. 12
Ogemaw	Oct. 29
Osceola	Oct. 20
Otsego	Oct. 19
Ottawa	Oct. 6
Presque Isle	Oct. 18
Saginaw	Sept. 9
St. Clair	Sept. 10
St. Joseph	Oct. 17
Sanilac	Sept. 9
Shiawassee	Oct. 6
Tuscola	Aug. 27
Van Buren	Oct. 23
Washtenaw	Oct. 8
Wayne	Sept. 22
Wexford	Oct. 13
n.a.	- Dates not available at presstime



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