

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS



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Peninsula Township Passes Unique Millage for Farmland Protection - Program is a First in the Midwest

Below is a bird's eye view of the reason for the struggle between farming and development, scenic beauty that's created high demand and value for farmland.

A 17-mile-long by two-mile-wide strip of ground called Peninsula Township is known for the production of cherries and, most recently, vinifera grapes used in wine making. Fortunately, or unfortunately, that same strip of ground is a peninsula located in the Grand Traverse Bay and is also notorious for its scenic value and escalating development value.

In August, township residents added to that notoriety, approving a 1-1/4 mill millage question by a 53 percent to 47 percent margin to fund the purchase of development rights from farmers located on the peninsula, according to Peninsula Township Supervisor Rob Manigold. The millage is the first of its kind in Michigan and in the Midwest.

The millage will raise approximately \$2.6 million annually for the township to use in purchasing development rights from farmers. There are nearly 17,000 acres in Peninsula Township. Of that, 10,000 acres are zoned agricultural, with an estimated 7,000 acres actually farmed.

Interested farmers can voluntarily apply for the program to sell their development rights. Once they do so, an appraisal will be conducted to determine the agricultural value and the development value portion of the property.



Photo: Photair, Inc

After the development value is determined, Peninsula Township will, in essence, enter into a land contract to purchase the development rights from the farmer over a 15-year period, with interest. Manigold expects the first agreements will be completed sometime next spring or summer.

Development values are expected to average between \$1,500 to \$2,000 an acre, according to Manigold. There are exceptions to that average, however, with development

Continued on page 12 -- see Purchasing Development Rights

Innovative Farmers of Huron County - Learning by Doing!

This past winter, 46 Huron County farmers and 32 different commercial sponsors, including lending institutions, elevators, farm suppliers, and implement dealers, banded together to form the "Innovative Farmers of Huron County."

Their goal? To reduce wind and water erosion and, ultimately, improve water quality, specifically, water that drains into the Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron, while continuing to grow unique high valued crops, such as sugar beets and dry beans, in a cropping rotation of sugar beets, corn, dry beans, and soybeans.

"With sugar beets, you're talking about a vegetable seed that's very small and it's very sensitive as to the depth of planting," said Huron County Extension Agent Jim LeCureux. "You're also planting that seed in late April and early May under less than ideal conditions when the soils tend to be cold and wet. So we have to figure out how to combat those problems and get the good germination and emergence necessary for a fast start."

Recently, the group hosted an impressive farm tour at their two 40-acre demonstration sites, with enough interested farmers to fill five tour busses. The group, and apparently a number of other farmers, are looking for answers to some tough questions, according to LeCureux.

"We know that some of our farming practices have also created compaction problems and the soil has gotten tighter over the years," LeCureux said. "So we're looking

at how to put cover crops back on, how do we change our tillage and reduce traffic on the fields, and what can we do to improve the tilth of the fields, while leaving enough residue on the surface."

Last winter, the farmers met in three different commodity groups to develop management schemes for their particular crop under four different tillage systems. As a result, two 40-acre parcels were rented from farmers and Innovative Farmer members,

Huron County Extension Agent Jim LeCureux explains the various tillage and planting methods used on sugar beet test plots and demonstration site at the Ross Voelker farm.

Ross Voelker and Mike and Jim Shaw for purposes of conducting demonstration plots.

Four basic tillage systems are being compared, including fall plowing, fall chisel, trans-till, and zone till. The trans-till system consists of a tool bar implement with two 8-wave coulters and a large shank per row

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In Brief...

One-Year CRP Extension Announced

Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy has announced that farmers holding Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts expiring Sept. 30, 1995, will have the option to modify their contracts to extend the expiration date for one year. "This will enable producers whose contracts would have expired in 1995 to continue to keep this highly erodible and other environmentally-sensitive cropland out of production," Espy said.

The program has taken 36 million acres out of production since 1985, with about 60 percent of the idled acreage in the Plains and Rocky Mountain states. Texas leads the nation in enrolled acres with 4.2 million, followed by North Dakota with 3.2 million and Kansas with 2.9 million acres.

Michigan has approximately 330,000 acres in the CRP. This announcement will affect CRP contracts on 8,000 acres. CRP participants will be notified regarding this option by their local ASCS office.

EPA Rejects Oil Industry Request

The Environmental Protection Agency has officially rejected a request from oil industry groups calling for an emergency stay to suspend the agency's rule to include ethanol and other renewable fuels as part of the Clean Air Act.

The EPA rejection clears the way for a lawsuit filed by the American Petroleum Institute and the National Petroleum Refiners Association to be heard. The lawsuit asks the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia circuit to set aside the ruling that calls for the phased-in use of ethanol for cleaner burning gasoline in the nine U.S. cities with the worst air pollution problems. Although the EPA ruling was not fuel specific, oil industry groups are targeting the ethanol and ethanol refining industries.

Farm Prices Break String, Up for August

Breaking four straight months of decline, prices for cattle, apples, oranges and wheat rose in August, while prices for corn, soybeans, potatoes and broilers continued to fall off. Price increases and decreases averaged together meant a 1.5 percent overall increase for agricultural products listed on the Agriculture Department's All Farm Products Index.

Figures showed soybean prices slipped 43 cents in August to \$5.49 a bushel and corn was down 16 cents, to \$2.12 per bushel. The report cited favorable Midwest growing conditions for both crops and a weakened corn export market as the triggers for the price drops. Wheat rose 20 cents, to \$3.23 a bushel, due to strong export demands and uncertainty about spring wheat crop yields.

Growing Japanese Beef Imports

Japan's beef industry, facing growing imports, is worried about the future of higher priced domestic beef and its ability to compete for a share of the low consumption market and is asking foreign producers to hold export increases to a minimum. Japan imported 566,911 tons of beef last year, up from 423,429 tons the previous year. The Japanese government liberalized beef imports in 1991. Japanese domestic beef costs consumers nearly three times that of imported Australian beef and more than two times the cost of American beef.

"The flow of foreign beef is a growing threat to domestic beef growers," said Jiro Shiwaku, president of the Japanese Livestock Industry Promotion Corporation. "But as long as we live for the principle of free trade, we can't impose quota restrictions on beef imports."

Wash. Ag Dept. Targets Misleading BST Labels

The Washington State Department of Agriculture said there appears to be a significant amount of misinformation and misunderstanding in the state regarding the safety of recombinant bovine somatotropin (rBST) and the allowance of labeling claims associated with its use. The department handed down a statement with guidelines concerning milk labeling. The department forbids milk processors to label or advertise their products as "BST-free," "rBST-free," or "rBGH-free" because these terms are considered to be misleading.

The department will allow labels which state "from cows not treated with rBST" as long as it is accompanied by a statement saying, "No significant difference has been shown between milk derived from rBST-treated cows and non rBST-treated cows." The adopted guidelines conform with Food and Drug Administration and U.S.D.A. standards.

"Because BST is naturally present in all milk, no milk is 'BST free'," said WSDA Assistant Director John Daly. "We want to avoid false and deceptive labeling that creates consumer confusion. Any milk or milk product that is labeled 'BST-free' is false, and would be considered misbranded."

Dairy Farmer Literally Owes Life to Cows

A Wisconsin dairy farmer was saved from being crushed to death when the roof of his dairy barn collapsed after being struck by a tornado. Jeff Severson of Foster, Wis., was pinned between two dead cows and waited for rescuers to free him from beneath 16,000 bales of hay, which was stored above the barn. Severson lost 75 of his 125 dairy cows to the storm, but is thankful for those cows that were sacrificed so that he might survive. "If the cows hadn't been in the barn, I'd be dead," Severson said.

Program Promotes Trade with Former Eastern Bloc

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is looking for U.S. agribusinesses interested in exploring joint ventures with the Newly Independent States (NIS), Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, according to the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA). Through the Agribusiness Linkage Program (AgLink), USDA hopes to provide U.S. businesses with mechanisms to explore business and trade opportunities with firms from those countries, while offering valuable on-the-job training to their foreign counterparts.

USDA will fund two trips to the selected company overseas and provide support and travel to the foreign counterpart. The first participants in the AgLink Program with the NIS have already arrived from the Volga Valley in Russia, received their English language training and are currently receiving on-the-job training with a U.S. agribusiness. They are all owners/managers of small and medium-sized food processing businesses in Russia. For further information about AgLink, contact: Linda Lynch, AgLink Program, USDA/FAS/ICS, at (202) 720-8877 or fax (202) 690-0892.

June Ag Trade Surplus Lowest Yet

The June agricultural trade surplus hit the lowest point this year at \$1.1 billion, beating the June 1993 surplus by \$10 million, according to Agriculture Department figures. The running total for fiscal 1994 -- since October -- shows a \$13.5 billion surplus, down 7 percent from the same period last year.

Beef exports are up 7 percent for the year, wheat shipments are down 16 percent, corn is down 26 percent and soybeans also are down 23 percent over last year's numbers. U.S. agricultural imports for the month were up \$12 million over May with the running total at \$19.8 billion, unchanged from the previous year.

Senate Passes Its Version of Crop Insurance Reform

Before breaking for its long-awaited Labor Day recess, the Senate passed its version of a federal crop insurance reform package and included language to reorganize the Agriculture Department. The bill makes it tougher for Congress to pass future disaster bills to aid producers not covered by crop insurance.

"This vote moves us another step closer towards overhauling the way the federal government responds to national crop disasters in rural America," said Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy. "Last year, when President Clinton and I witnessed the devastation of the Midwest floods and Southeastern droughts, we recognized the need to provide a crop insurance program that worked, rather than the piecemeal approach of providing ad hoc disaster assistance."

The House has passed a version of the crop insurance bill, but has yet to address USDA reorganization. House and Senate conferees are expected to iron out the differences between the two crop insurance bills following the recess. It is not clear how the House will address the reorganization portion of the Senate crop insurance language.

Clinton Orders Railworkers Back to Work

President Clinton ordered striking Soo Line railworkers back to work, temporarily ending the longest -- six weeks -- railroad strike in 16 years. Clinton used the Railway Labor Act to establish a three-member board to prepare recommendations to settle labor/management disputes. The board will make its recommendations known in 30 days. The temporary halt in the strike could last up to 60 days.

The strike has hurt farmers and agribusinesses in the Midwest, and members of Congress applauded Clinton's move. "President Clinton has correctly determined that continuing the Soo Line work stoppage threatens this state's bread and butter," said Rep. Jim Lightfoot (R-Iowa). "His call for a 'cooling-off' period that requires railroad workers back on the job while negotiations continue is a good decision for Iowa."

Newer, Bigger, Better, NAFTA

Leaders of Asia-Pacific nations, including the U.S. and Japan, were urged to halt trade disputes and commit to a Pacific-wide free trade zone starting in the year 2000, with reduced tariff rates and zero trade barriers by 2020.

The trade pact recommendation was contained in a report commissioned by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. The report recommended leaders of the 18-nation APEC begin talks on the pact at a November summit in Indonesia.

APEC member nations include: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua, New Guinea, China, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the U.S. Chile is due to join the group in November.

Quarterly Market Basket Survey Sees Slight Increase

American consumers are paying slightly more for groceries this quarter than they paid last quarter, according to results of the American Farm Bureau Federation's quarterly market basket survey. Consumers this quarter paid an average of \$30.39 for 16 popular market basket items. That average reflects an 18-cent increase over the second quarter figure of \$30.21. The market basket total is up 64 cents from a year ago when the average was \$29.75.

Prices this quarter remained relatively steady across the board compared to last quarter. Items that carried slightly higher prices this quarter included whole fryers, eggs, milk, cheese, apples, potatoes, flour, cooking oil, shortening and mayonnaise. Items that went down in price this quarter included ground chuck, sirloin tip roast, pork chops, bacon, cereal and bread.

The latest quarterly price survey of popular grocery items was updated in late August. Since AFBF began tracking market basket prices five years ago, aggregate prices have remained within a narrow range, from a low of \$28.50 in the first quarter of 1989, to a high of \$31.44 in the third quarter of 1990.

At \$30.39, the latest report is \$1.05 below the 1990 high, but it did represent the highest market basket price reported since the second quarter of 1991 (\$30.64). More than 90 shoppers in 34 states participated in the latest survey.

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Plant Variety Protection Act

MFB POSITION
Farm Bureau supports the present provision which allows a farmer to save seed for use on all the land that he or she farms.

MFB CONTACT
Al Almy, Ext. 2040

The House Agriculture Committee has approved H.R. 2927, granting protection to plant breeders who develop new varieties of plants. The committee narrowly defeated an amendment that would have allowed farmers to sell a percentage of their saved seed. The Senate passed a similar measure, S. 1406, in May.

The bill brings U.S. law into compliance with an agreement on plant variety protection that was produced by an international convention in March 1993. The international agreement would ban a practice, common among American farmers, of selling "saved seed" including that from new varieties of plants. Saved seed refers either to surplus seed or seed the farmer harvests from protected varieties of plants.

Proponents of saved seed offered an amendment allowing farmers to sell up to 10 percent of the amount they would normally plant in a year and argued that prohibiting saved seed sales would be an economic blow to farmers. Opponents responded that saved seed sales would violate plant breeders' property rights and would discourage the expensive research that results in new varieties. The amendment was defeated.

Clean Water Act

MFB POSITION
Farm Bureau supports the bipartisan substitute.

MFB CONTACT
Al Almy, Ext. 2040

The chance of Congress passing legislation to reauthorize the Clean Water Act this year is now considered to be extremely low. The original reauthorization bill met heavy opposition because of its provisions putting the federal government into heavy management of the nation's water. A bipartisan substitute was developed that received the support of agriculture, industry, states, cities and state water agencies.

In an effort to defeat the bipartisan substitute bill, the chairman of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee entered into talks with agriculture to address concerns with the nonpoint source provisions in the original bill. However, the agricultural groups insisted the discussions be expanded to include wetland, point source and enforcement issues.

The chairman would not agree to discuss these issues and ended the talks. The committee has now turned its attention to passage of Superfund reauthorization in the remaining weeks of Congress.

Minor Use Pesticides

MFB POSITION
Farm Bureau supports these bills.

MFB CONTACT
Al Almy, Ext. 2040

Although Congress has not passed S. 985 (with 43 co-sponsors) or H.R. 967 (with 132 co-sponsors) to assure continued availability of minor use pesticides, progress has been made in gaining recognition of the need for the legislation.

Pesticide legislation offered by the administration contains minor use language consistent with S. 985 and H.R. 967. The House Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations and Nutrition has approved a food safety bill after adding the minor use pesticide language of H.R. 967.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has requested EPA to place increased priority on solving the minor use pesticide problem and implement as many of the provisions of S. 985 as it has legal authority to do without enactment of legislation by Congress. It is likely the minor use pesticide legislation will be added to the 1995 Farm Bill next year.

Animal Cruelty

MFB POSITION
Farm Bureau did not oppose the bill in its final version.

MFB CONTACT
Ron Nelson, Ext. 2043

As originally drafted, S.B. 189, sponsored by Sen. Bouchard (R-Birmingham), was intended to increase the penalties and fines for cruel treatment of animals. The result is that some agricultural production practices could have been ruled in violation of the law.

A specific example required that animals, during transport, would have adequate room to stand up, lay down and move around. This requirement would be potentially more dangerous to the livestock.

The bill, as amended and passed by the Senate, exempts farming practices that are otherwise legal or recommended for the health of the livestock. In addition, it recognized that an animal which is sick or injured may be treated by the farmer and does not specifically require medical care from a veterinarian.

USDA/Michigan Emergency Board Recommends Natural Disaster Designation

Farmers across Michigan have suffered crop losses in 1994 due to adverse weather conditions, including extremely cold temperatures, frost, high wind and excess rainfall. Crop losses and, in some cases, potential production losses for crops not yet harvested, have been reported to local USDA offices.

MFB Public Affairs Director Al Almy says it's important that farmers who have experienced crop losses from the adverse weather compile records documenting their losses, and contact their local ASCS personnel before harvesting or destroying damaged crops.

"Although the USDA/Michigan Emergency Board has recommended natural disaster designation for these counties, it doesn't automatically guarantee disaster designation or funding will be made available," says Almy. "USDA Secretary Mike Espy must still approve the designation. It's not known when that decision will be made or what his decision will be."

Fruit crops, especially peaches, were severely damaged by cold temperatures in January and late spring frosts in May. Dry beans, sugar beets and other field crops were damaged by excessive and frequent rains in June and July. Yields of some specific crops are expected to be reduced by up to 40 percent in some counties.

Production loss reports from farmers have been tabulated by the USDA County Emergency Boards and forwarded to the state level. The USDA State Emergency Board met in East Lansing to review requests from 44 counties for natural disaster designation.

The counties listed to the right have identified crop losses which exceed the minimum level

for natural disaster designation. The Secretary of Agriculture has the authority, under current USDA guidelines, to make a natural disaster designation based on the specific crops affected by a severe storm or adverse weather condition.

Designation would authorize USDA emergency loans for eligible farmers in the approved and adjacent counties. The secretary is expected to act promptly on this request. If approved, local sign-up procedures at USDA county offices will be announced at a later date.

Counties Proposed for Disaster Designation

Allegan	Alpena	Antrim
Arenac	Baraga	Bay
Benzie	Berrien	Cass
Cheboygan	Clinton	Delta
Dickinson	Genesee	Gladwin
Grand Traverse		Gratiot
Houghton	Huron	Iron
Kalamazoo	Kent	Lapeer
Livingston	Macomb	Manistee
Mason	Menominee	Midland
Missaukee	Montmorency	
Muskegon	Newaygo	Presque Isle
Saginaw	St. Joseph	St. Clair
Sanilac	Shiawassee	Tuscola
Van Buren	Washtenaw	Wayne
Wexford		

Precautionary Health Screening Made Available to Workers Exposed to Galecron Insecticide

A health screening program for bladder disease in workers involved in the manufacture, packaging or application of the agricultural insecticide Galecron® was announced Aug. 30, 1994. The screening is a result of a proposed class action settlement agreed to by attorneys representing the workers, and those representing Ciba-Geigy Corporation, the parent company of Ciba Crop Protection. Galecron has not been used in the U.S. since 1989.

Under the settlement, workers will be notified of the opportunity to participate in a precautionary health screening program. The class action settlement applies only to people exposed to Galecron in a work environment. There is no evidence of a general public health risk.

Plaintiffs claim that they face increased risk of bladder cancer as a result of their occupational exposure to Galecron. The settlement does not assign liability or wrongdoing to Ciba.

Ciba marketed Galecron, which contained the active ingredient chlordimeform, between 1968 and 1988. It was used as an insecticide on cotton and certain fruit and vegetable crops from 1968 to 1976, and on cotton only from 1978 to 1989. The company ceased manufacture and sale of the chemical in 1988. The final use season for Galecron was 1989.

The settlement was provisionally approved by Judge Charles R. Butler of U.S. District Court in Mobile, Ala. Attorneys expect to receive final approval in early 1995, following a court hearing to confirm the fairness of the settlement.

Under the terms of the proposed settlement, individuals who were exposed to Galecron during manufacturing, formulation, packaging or application would be eligible for the free health screening program, treatment costs and potential compensation. Workers who want additional information about the settlement can contact the settlement class attorneys beginning on Sept. 6, 1994, at 800-565-3126.

The health screening is patterned after a program begun in 1992 for workers at Ciba manufacturing facilities. It includes a 14-day, at-home test to detect blood in urine, which is an early indicator of bladder disease. That is being conducted under protocols approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Screening can lead to early detection of bladder disease, which is an important factor in successful treatment.

Health studies involving production workers exposed to Galecron and a related compound suggest that this exposure may be associated with an increased incidence of bladder cancer.

The settlement also provides for direct notification and a national advertising campaign to inform Galecron workers of the program. It is estimated that approximately 20,000 to 25,000 people are potentially eligible for the settlement class. The cost of the health screening and treatment will be funded by the company on an as-needed basis. In addition, the settlement provides up to \$45 million for compensation and various expenses.

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Weather

30-Day Outlook - Normal/90-Day Outlook - Cooler and Wetter

Cool temperatures were the rule across much of Michigan during August, with average readings for the month generally ranging from 1-4 degrees below normal. More importantly, the cool temperatures suppressed growing degree day accumulations (climatologically, degree day accumulations during August are second only to July), which has resulted in slower than normal development of this year's corn crop, especially in central sections of the lower peninsula.

Precipitation continued above normal across most of the state (some seasonal totals in the central lower peninsula are approaching 200 percent of normal for the April-August period), with the notable exception of the Upper Peninsula, where dryness has been an increasing problem.

The National Weather Service (NWS) 30-day outlook for September is somewhat benign, calling for near normal temperatures and precipitation.

Further ahead, however, the NWS 90-day outlook for the fall September through November period is for a return of cooler and wetter than normal conditions. Normally,

8/1/94 to 8/31/94	Temperature		Growing Degree Days		Precipitation	
	Observed Mean	Dev. From Normal	Actual Accum.	Normal Accum.	Actual (Inch.)	Normal (Inch)
Alpena	64.6	-0.6	1776	1740	6.19	3.12
Bad Axe	64.6	-4.1	1845	2081	3.69	2.93
Detroit	69.9	-0.8	2583	2258	3.27	3.12
Escanaba	63.5	-1.8	1442	1387	2.85	3.53
Flint	66.7	-2.1	2120	2258	3.39	3.12
Grand Rapids	67.2	-2.2	2208	2293	7.32	3.18
Houghton	62.7	-0.6	1427	1596	1.54	3.69
Houghton Lake	65.7	-0.4	1944	1740	5.39	3.12
Jackson	66.7	-4.1	2190	2245	5.34	3.36
Lansing	66.4	-2.8	2139	2245	5.30	3.36
Marquette	61.6	-0.7	1483	1596	3.91	3.69
Muskegon	66.1	-2.9	1940	1987	4.71	3.60
Pellston	63.6	-0.4	1694	1798	5.34	3.11
Saginaw	67.7	-1.8	2139	2081	4.45	2.93
Sault Ste. Marie	60.7	-2.7	1319	1387	4.12	3.53
South Bend	68.7	-1.7	2489	2293	3.86	3.18
Traverse City	65.8	-2.2	1904	1798	4.52	3.11
Vestaburg	64.6	-4.4	1964	2064	7.91	3.64

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

the skill of the seasonal outlooks during this time of year is very limited (especially for precipitation). This year, however, many of the statistical tools used in the development of the outlook are and have been in better than usual agreement, indicating greater than normal forecast confidence.

Michigan and Major Commodity Area Extended Weather Outlook

T - Temp.	9/15.....9/30	9/15.....11/30
P - Precip.	T.....P	T.....P
Michigan	N.....N	B.....A
W. Corn Belt	N.....N	B.....A
E. Corn Belt	N.....N	B/N.....A
Wint. Wheat Belt	A.....N	N.....N
Spr. Wheat Belt	N.....N	N.....N
Pac. NW Wheat	N.....N	N.....N
Delta	N.....A	N.....N/A
Southeast	B.....A	N.....N/A
San Joaquin	N.....B	N.....N

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

Physoderma Brown Spot on Corn Not a Major Problem

Dan Coffin, CPAg Regional Agronomist

I have recently received calls about corn that is allegedly infected with heavy anthracnose stalk rot all the way up the plant. Growers are seeing many splotches of dark color on the leaf sheaths next to the stalk and assume it is anthracnose.

I investigated some of this corn recently and found it to be a rather common occurrence in our area which is not nearly as threatening. It is called physoderma brown spot.

This disease is generally not an economically important problem in Michigan. It's generally noticed in areas of high rainfall and high temperatures, conditions also present when stalk rot organisms get started.

However, physoderma infects early in the season when plants are smaller, and is generally present in the whorl of the plant rather than at or near the base of the stalk. Leaves, leaf sheaths, stalks, outer husks of ears and even tassels are

susceptible and will show the disease. Lesions start out small, oblong or round, and yellow. They will coalesce or grow together, later forming large areas of reddish brown or chocolate colored tissue.

The cells of this tissue are eventually killed, will dry out and expose dusty pustules that contain the structures which produce the spores for next year. Control can be gained by utilizing resistant varieties and by plowing down debris.

Reader Sends in Her View of the Past Growing Season

I'm in the retail part of our family produce business. This poem comes from explaining why we have no bushels of anything this year. They all want to know why, so this is how I explain it. Amy L. Speckin, Speckin Orchard, Flint, Mich.

Farmer's Lament

It started around Christmas, the snow cover was light, and January temperature was minus 40 at night.

July started with rain and it still hasn't stopped, all I know now is, I got what I got.

Some trees held on and others split open, froze solid and died, but still we kept hopin'.

Strawberries drowned after the drought, so did the beans and corn and what not.

May had no rain and June a late frost, then came a drought and what was left was lost.

Blueberries came on and started with a bang, now we're doomed to a week more of rain.

The cherries will split and blueberries can't swim, no peaches either, that's Nature's whim.



Serving Michigan Farm Families is Our Only Business

Since its beginning in 1971, Michigan Farm Radio Network's only objective has been to serve Michigan's farm families. This dedication to serve agriculture is shared by 29 local radio stations in Michigan. Through these stations, Michigan Farm Radio Network provides the latest in market analysis, weather and news to Farm Bureau members daily on the following stations:

Station	City	Frequency	Morning Farm	Noon Farm
WABJ	Adrian	1490	5:45 am	11:50 am
WATZ	Alpena	1450	5:30 am	11:30 am
WTKA	Ann Arbor	1050	6:05 am	12:05 pm
WLEW	Bad Axe	1340	6:30 am	12:50 pm
WHFB	Benton Harbor			12:30 pm
WKYO	Caro	1360	6:15 am	12:15 pm
WKJF	Cadillac	1370	5:55 am	11:20 am
WTVB	Coldwater	1590	5:45 am	12:20 pm
WDOW	Dowagiac	1440	6:05 am	12:15 pm
WGHN	Grand Haven	1370/92.1	5:45 am	12:15 pm
WPLB	Greenville	1380	6:15 am	11:45am
WBCH	Hastings	1220	6:15 am	12:30 pm
WCSR	Hillsdale	1340	6:45 am	12:45 pm
WHTC	Holland	1450		12:15 pm
WKZO	Kalamazoo	590	5:15 am	
WLSP	Lapeer	1530	7:20 am	11:50 am
WOAP	Owosso	1080	6:15 am	12:30 pm
WHAK	Rogers City	960		12:15 pm
WSJ	St. Johns	1580	6:15 am	12:15 pm
WMLM	St. Louis	1540	6:05 am	12:20 pm
WSGW	Saginaw	790	5:55 am	12:20 pm
WMIC	Sandusky	660	6:15 am	12:45 pm
WCSY	South Haven	940		12:15 pm
WKJC	Tawas City	104.7		12:45 pm
WLKM	Three Rivers	1510/95.9	6:15 am	12:15 pm
WTCM	Traverse City	580	5:55 am	11:20 am

* Station signs on at different times during the year. Morning farm times change with the sign-on times.
 ** Station airs various farm reports between 5:30 and 6:00 a.m.
 *** Station airs various farm reports between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m.
 Some stations carry additional market reports throughout the market day.

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Market Outlook...

CORN

The Sept. 1 USDA Crop Production Report was just released Sept. 12. Check it out. Was it bearish, was it bullish, or was it neutral? We will discuss it in the next issue, but you may need to make some decisions based on the report sooner. If it was larger than expected, it probably means holding off on pricing decisions. If it was smaller than expected, it may be time to make a move depending on your storage situation.

Marketing Loan Program Options

Due to the huge corn crop, and the 1990 Farm Bill calling for a marketing loan program for corn for the 1994-95 crop year, it appears we may have to predict both the lowest price of the year as well as the high to maximize our returns. Does this remind you of the mid-1980s and PIK certificates?

While the marketing loan program has some of the same features, there are many differences and no certificates. I will give a very brief description below; in the next issue we will give a more detailed look, and the ASCS offices will go through training later this month. If prices go below the loan rate, this is a program you will want to understand.

The basic principle of a marketing loan program is that you pay back your loan at the market price instead of the loan rate if the market price is below the loan rate. For example, if your county loan rate is \$1.85 and your posted county price (a proxy for the market price) is \$1.75, you can pay back your loan at \$1.75 and pocket the difference after fees and interest.

This allows the market to go to equilibrium, whereas the loan rate puts a floor on the market. It also means the government will not end up with large stocks. You had to have participated in the government farm program to use this feature.

One might ask, "Do I have to take out a loan to get the difference if I do not want the loan?" The answer is no. The alternative is taking the loan deficiency payment, which has nothing to do with the regular deficiency payment. Again, let's say your county loan rate is \$1.85 and your posted

SOYBEANS

Have we bottomed out? I'm not sure, but I suspect we are close. If we have not bottomed out, it will come at harvest. Exports for the 1993-94 soybean marketing year, which just ended, came in a little higher than expected. New crop year export sales are stronger than a year ago, and South America seems to have sold most of their old crop, meaning the export situation should support prices.

Due to less than ideal August weather conditions, I suspect 1994 soybean production was not raised in the Sept. 12 USDA report. But check it out. While much of Michigan received more rain than they cared for in August, parts of Indiana, Illinois and Missouri were quite short. For that matter, parts of Iowa could have used more moisture.

The basis being offered for soybeans is on the wide side, especially for new crop. As of this writing, the new crop basis for soybeans was 35 cents under at Saginaw. It is usually 20-25 cents under at harvest. This

WHEAT

Are you ready to hear more about the basis? The wheat basis shows, and the spreads confirm, that the wheat market may be paying more than either corn or soybeans to store. This is partly because Toledo has more bins than usual filled with wheat, which also affects the corn and soybean basis. The problem with this is many have already sold their wheat or have to store it commercially. But if you can and are storing on-farm, or even commercially, pencil the returns through (remember to count

Seasonal Commodity Price Trends

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

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

county price is \$1.75. Rather than taking a loan, you can get a check for the 10 cent difference and give up the right to take out a loan on that corn. You can then sell the corn or wait to price it. This is why we also need to forecast the low price in order to maximize the difference.

Strategy: Obviously, there are more details and there will be forms to fill out, but as we approach harvest, you will want to be familiar with this new program and the rules.

The odds are that, over the marketing year, prices will go up from the harvest lows. The question is, "Will they go up enough to pay storage?" At this point, the basis indicates that the market wants you to store corn. The new crop basis is on the wide side of the normal range and the spread between contract months in the futures is more than enough to pay on-farm storage and close to paying off-farm storage.

Several pricing alternatives fall out of this situation. One is to store and wait for the basis to narrow. Another is to hedge your crop (which you can do now through many elevators) to take advantage of the basis narrowing and perhaps come back into the market and buy a call this winter to take advantage of possible increases in the corn market.

means that at this time, the market wants you to store your soybeans. While not as wide, the spread between out months of soybean futures also indicates at this point the market is asking you to store, especially if you have on-farm storage.

Strategy: In my estimation, prices have more upside potential than downside risk at this time, but you need to update that given the USDA report. It is clear the basis will narrow by late spring or early summer.

The pricing alternatives that need to be considered in this scenario are storage and wait to price, storage and perhaps a put option purchase, and delayed pricing. Many elevators have alternatives which will achieve the same results. When looking at how wide the basis is, be sure to calculate in all the storage costs. It may be off-farm storage will not pay. The key is, you want a tool which can take advantage of both the narrowing of the basis and future price strength.

damage as a storage cost). It may be that the returns will be higher than corn or soybeans. Also remember, to assure your returns to storage, you will need to hedge it or buy a put option.

Strategy: Wheat prices look better than expected back at harvest. While there is room for more upside movement, there is also downside risk. If you have most of your 1994 wheat still unpriced, you might consider putting a floor under some portion of it. Be watching this market closely.

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

CATTLE

The USDA Aug. 7 Cattle-On-Feed Report showed we still have plenty of cattle on hand for a while, but there's hope for late fall. Total inventory was 97 percent of a year ago which shows by middle to late fall we should have some market strength, probably into the low \$70s. However, that was more than expected and, along with July marketings being lower than expected at 98 percent of last year, that means it will probably be into early October before we catch up. Although, if weights stay high, it will limit the gains.

Placements in July were 102 percent of last July, higher than expected, and this put pressure on future contracts. If this trend keeps up in August and September, it may

HOGS

How long will we have to stay under \$40 to slow expansion? Part of that answer may come in the September Hogs and Pigs Report that will be released Sept. 29. And when it does show up, it will first be in the form of more small to middle-size producers going out than big producers still expanding.

DAIRY MARKETING

Dr. Larry G. Hamm, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU

Things are on the move in dairy markets. Farm pay prices will be rising slowly over the next few months and the backlog of decisions on the Federal Milk Marketing Orders (FMMOs) appear to be breaking.

The pay prices for July milk were the lowest since March 1993. The big drop was due to the Minnesota-Wisconsin (M-W) drops in May and June. These were reflected in the prices milk dealers paid in July. Fortunately, the M-W is rising.

The July M-W increased 16 cents per cwt. The August M-W is \$11.73, an increase of 32 cents over July. This increase, along with increases in the Class II (price for soft manufactured dairy products) for August and September, virtually guarantee increasing pay prices.

The pay price increases will not be great. However, the market trends suggest that milk prices will hold throughout the fall months. The next significant price drops are not likely until early next year.

Every Grade-A milk check in Michigan is affected by the rules governing the FMMOs. The FMMOs have been waiting for a series of decisions which will have a direct impact on farm pay prices.

Recently, Secretary of Agriculture Espy announced a new permanent director of the USDA's Dairy Division. This unit oversees the FMMOs and the new director is a seasoned veteran dairy marketing administrator.

EGGS

Henry Larzelere, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU

Egg prices in August averaged about 3 cents a dozen less than a year ago. Feed ingredient costs were about 2 cents a dozen less than last year.

In September, wholesale prices in New York for Grade A large white eggs in cartons are expected to average in the upper 60s and possibly getting into the 70s on some days.

During the October-November-December quarter, prices will likely average in the low to mid 70s, with October having the low prices of the quarter.



limit next spring's potential. There will be more calves out there this fall to sell than last year, so placements almost have to go up some time.

It appears we are going to spend the majority of next year under \$70 for fed steers. It is important for feedlots to bid accordingly. Also, don't factor \$2 corn into your bids; corn prices are likely to rise over the next 7-8 months, and even if you store it, you have costs.

It now appears we will keep hitting these low cash prices through November before we have a small recovery, maybe even over \$40. We may average under \$40 for 1995, although we should see prices go over \$40 next summer. If we do have a price rally, be ready to do some forward pricing -- there will be plenty of meat around next year.

About the same time as the personnel decision, the USDA announced a recommended decision for a replacement for the M-W price. The M-W replacement deals with several (but not all) of the weaknesses of the current M-W. If this recommended M-W replacement is adopted, farm pay prices will be calculated from a new price base.

Recent comparisons indicate that the new M-W will produce prices very close to the old M-W. Therefore, producers will not see significant changes. However, the new M-W has the potential to be more volatile than the old M-W.

In another recommended decision, the USDA is proposing changing the Class II pricing formula used in the FMMOs. The new Class II formula will operate much the same way the current pricing formula works for Class I prices.

The new Class II pricing formula has the potential to decrease the volatility of Class II prices. In recent years, Class II products have become an increasingly important outlet for Michigan milk supplies.

With recommended decisions announced for a replacement M-W and Class II pricing, the deck is cleared for a recommended decision on multiple component pricing (MCP). The MCP decision will be one of the most critical for Michigan producers. When the MCP decision is announced, producers will have to invest time in learning about milk pricing economics.

The U.S. laying flock and table egg production, as of August, continue to be about 2 percent above last year. Although the egg-type chick hatch has been below year earlier levels since early 1994, the rate of slaughter of spent hens has also been below last year.

The demand side of the equation is keeping pace with production changes as the weekly shell egg inventory is generally below week earlier levels.

7 Michigan Farmland Values Strengthen

Steven D. Hanson, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU

Michigan farmland values posted their strongest gains of the 1990s, according to a recent survey conducted by the Department of Agricultural Economics at Michigan State University. Land values increased an average of over 4 percent across the southern part of the lower peninsula last year and are expected to increase by 3 percent during the current year.

The sample for the survey consisted of members of the Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers Association, banker participants in the annual Michigan Farm Credit Conference, and county assessors in Michigan. The survey collected farmland valuation and rent information for high and low quality corn-soybean-hay land, sugar beet land, and irrigated land. The major findings of the survey are shown in Table 1.

Land Values

High quality corn-soybean-hay land had an average value of \$1,091 per acre, up 4.6 percent from the previous year. Low quality corn-soybean-hay land had an average value of \$726 per acre, showing a 4.1 percent increase over the previous year.

Sugar beet land averaged \$1,438 per acre, which was a 4.8 percent increase over the year; while irrigated land averaged \$1,259 per acre, which corresponded to a strong 5.4 percent rise over values a year earlier.

High and low quality corn-soybean-hay, sugar beet, and irrigated land are all expected to show similar increases in value during the current year of a little over 3 percent.

Rental Rates

Average cash rent for high quality corn-soybean-hay land was \$67 per acre, while low quality corn-soybean-hay land rented for an average of \$43 per acre. Sugar beet land rented for an average of \$114 per acre and irrigated land had an average rental rate of \$131 per acre.

The average value-to-rent ratio for high and low quality corn-soybean-hay land was 16 and 17, respectively. Sugar beet land showed a value-to-rent ratio of 13 while irrigated land had a ratio of 10.

Value-to-rent ratios are a function of the future cash flows the land is expected to generate. Higher expected future cash flows are "capitalized" into the value of the land today, increasing its value relative to the

Table 1
Southern Lower Peninsula Survey Values

Land Type	Avg. Value Per Acre	Percent Change in Value Last 12 months	Expected Change in Value Next 12 months	Avg. Cash Rent/Acre
High Quality Corn, S.B. Hay	\$1,091	+ 4.6%	+3.2%	\$67
Low Quality Corn, S.B. Hay	\$726	+4.1%	+3.3%	\$43
Sugar Beet	\$1,438	+4.8%	+3.3%	\$114
Irrigated	\$1,259	+5.4%	+3.5%	\$131

current year's cash flow. In other words, higher expected future cash flows translate into higher value-to-rent ratios.

The relatively high value-to-rent ratios for the corn-soybean-hay land suggest three possible situations: 1) the market anticipates that cash flows from corn-soybean-hay production will grow at a faster rate than sugar beets and irrigated land; 2) the corn-soybean-hay land may be switched to alternative production with higher expected cash flows, for example, sugar beets, at some point in the future; and/or 3) non-farm uses of the land in the future may provide higher cash flows than those expected from agricultural production.

Urbanization

Encroaching urbanization is having an impact on both land values and land use in many areas across the state and causing great concern in the agricultural sector. Survey respondents indicated that urbanization was resulting in little impact in some areas but was causing considerable appreciation in farmland values in other areas.

According to the respondents, there are an increasing number of farms being split into smaller parcels and sold for residential building, especially in the southern lower peninsula. Many areas that are impacted by urbanization are seeing significant increases in the nonagricultural-use value of the land.

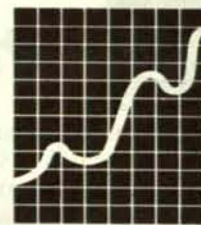
Below average farmland is now selling for more than above average farmland in some areas. The survey respondents indicate that, in some areas, farmland prices are being bid up to prices well above what cash rents can support and that this is removing farmland from production as well as decreasing the number of full-time farms.

In one rural community located outside an urban center in south central Michigan, 10-

acre parcels are selling for between \$40,000 and \$60,000.

General Observations

The respondents also provided general comments on land values. The consensus was that land values for agricultural use are realizing moderate gains. In addition, rural residential and recreational influences are having increasingly strong impacts on land values in many areas.



FARM BUSINESS OUTLOOK

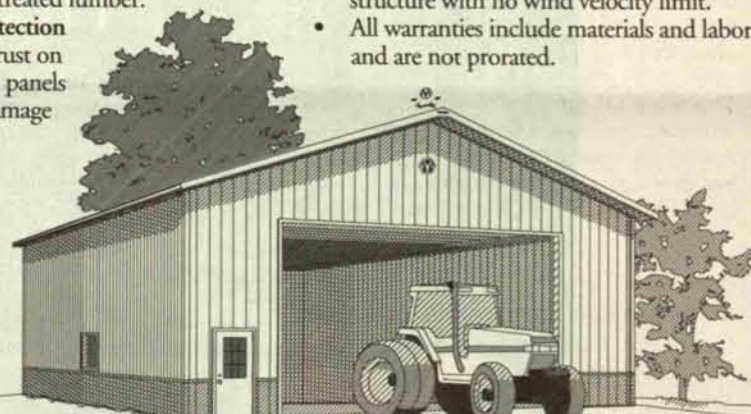
Optimism about farm returns for irrigated and high quality land, coupled with continued favorable interest rates, are allowing many farmers to consider expanding their land holdings.

While urbanization pressures are bidding farms away from agricultural use in some areas, P.A. 116 continues to hold down land values in a number of areas by limiting the land to agricultural uses.

In many areas, the number of tillable acres transferred was relatively high during year. In addition, the non-tillable and recreation land markets were also generally active and selling at a premium.

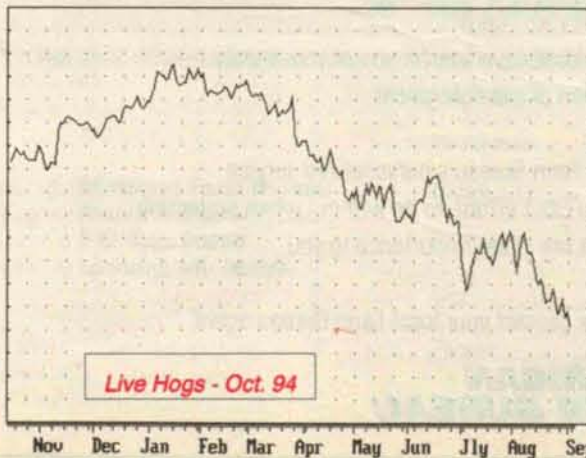
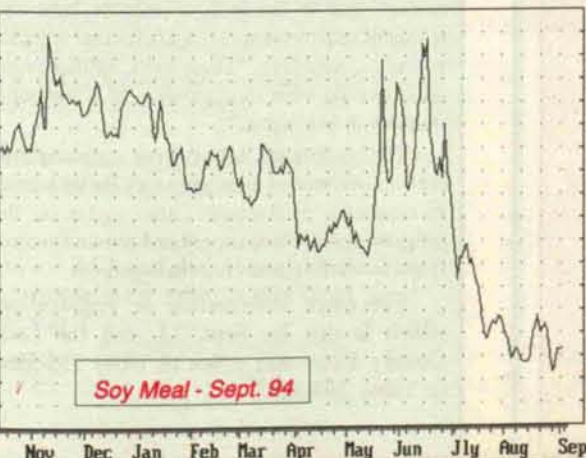
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8 What's the Future of Cranberry Production in Michigan?

With all of our state's agricultural diversity, second only to California, several Michigan farmers intend to make sure that cranberries are one more truly unique crop added to the commodity list.

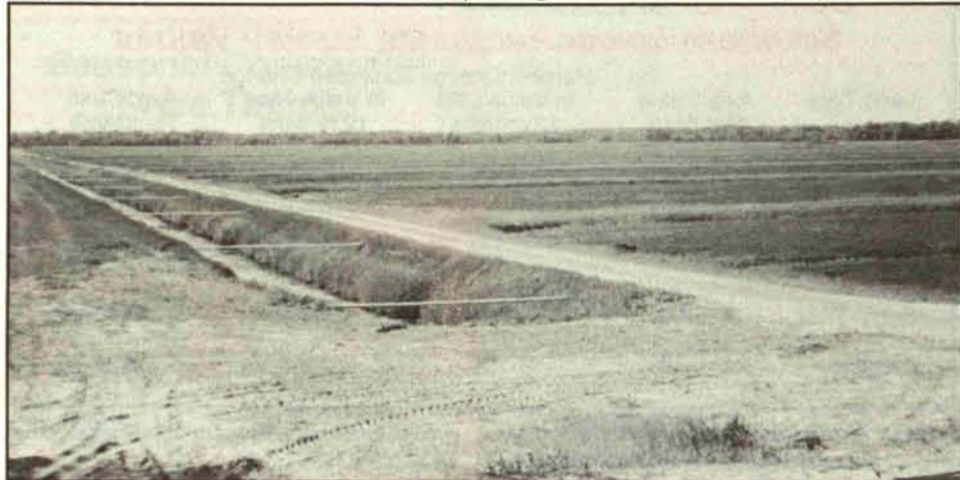
With the expansion of the U.S. cranberry markets to processed products, including bottled juice, canned sauce, frozen concentrate, jams and relishes, the demand for cranberries has risen. Because of this increase in demand, producers are attempting to expand production. What are the opportunities for production in Michigan?

Phil Carpp, president of the Michigan Cranberry Council, explains that Michigan currently has less than 20 acres of cranberries planted, with less than nine producers. He predicts that approximately another 30 acres could be planted this year if all goes as planned.

According to MFB's Commodity Division Director Ken Nye, parts of Michigan have the right type of soil, water and climatic conditions for cranberry production, and an agricultural infrastructure that includes an established fruit industry.

Eric Hanson of Michigan State University reports: "There's been quite a bit of interest in

Several Michigan farmers are attempting to work cranberries into their operation. Cranberry bogs, like this one located in Wisconsin, require a great deal of water and preparation.



expansion in cranberry production all around the world now, so it illustrates that people, in general, feel there's a great deal of potential for cranberry production and that there is a market for additional fruit."

What steps need to be taken before getting involved in cranberry production?

According to Peg Bostwick of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), an

interested potential cranberry producer must identify a location that would be suitable for cranberry production. These sites must meet requirements put forth by the MDNR under the Inland Lakes and Streams Act and the Goemaere-Anderson Wetland Protection Act. Those requirements include permits for work in wetlands, including grading, filling, drainage, con-

Preferred Cranberry Sites

- Sites having appropriate soil types which have previously been drained for agricultural use are the most desirable sites for cranberry development from the perspective of the MDNR.
- Development of a self-contained water supply system (reservoir) is generally preferred as opposed to withdrawal and discharge into natural waterways.
- Support facilities should be located upland.
- Proposals should include Best Management Practices to minimize the impact of the cranberry operation.
- Impacts to sensitive ecosystems and rare species must be avoided.

struction of dikes, ditches or reservoirs, or placement of other structures.

Bostwick says the MDNR Land and Water Management Division utilizes a single application form for wetland permits under the above mentioned acts. She advises interested parties to submit applications far in advance to avoid a delay in proposed projects.

According to Carpp, the initial cost of cranberry production to a producer could reach \$10,000 to \$30,000 per acre, including land preparation, plants and other costs such as a harvesting system. Most of this investment is generally returned by the first full harvest, which is expected in the fifth year of production.

Joe DeGrandchamp of South Haven feels cranberry production could be a viable option for some, especially blueberry growers in southeastern Michigan.

"I think it's something to look at. You would have to see if it fits into your program and if you have suitable land or not," said DeGrandchamp. "I see it enhancing our business because it doesn't conflict with blueberry harvest and we can incorporate it well."

The common production measure for cranberries is a barrel, which equals 100 pounds. Yields range from 100 to 400 barrels per acre with an average of 180 barrels per acre. The 10-year average price received by growers is in the \$47-\$50 per barrel range.

According to Nye, there's no reason why Michigan producers can't grow cranberries; however, there are challenges in wetland regulations and the market will still be fairly small.

"Cranberries could be an important fruit crop here in the state, but it is not going to be competing with apples and cherries," said Nye.

Conference to Explore Potential of Cranberry Production in State

MFB is co-sponsoring a conference on expanding state production of cranberries. The "Commercial Cranberry Production Potential for Michigan" conference will take place Oct. 6 at Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie.

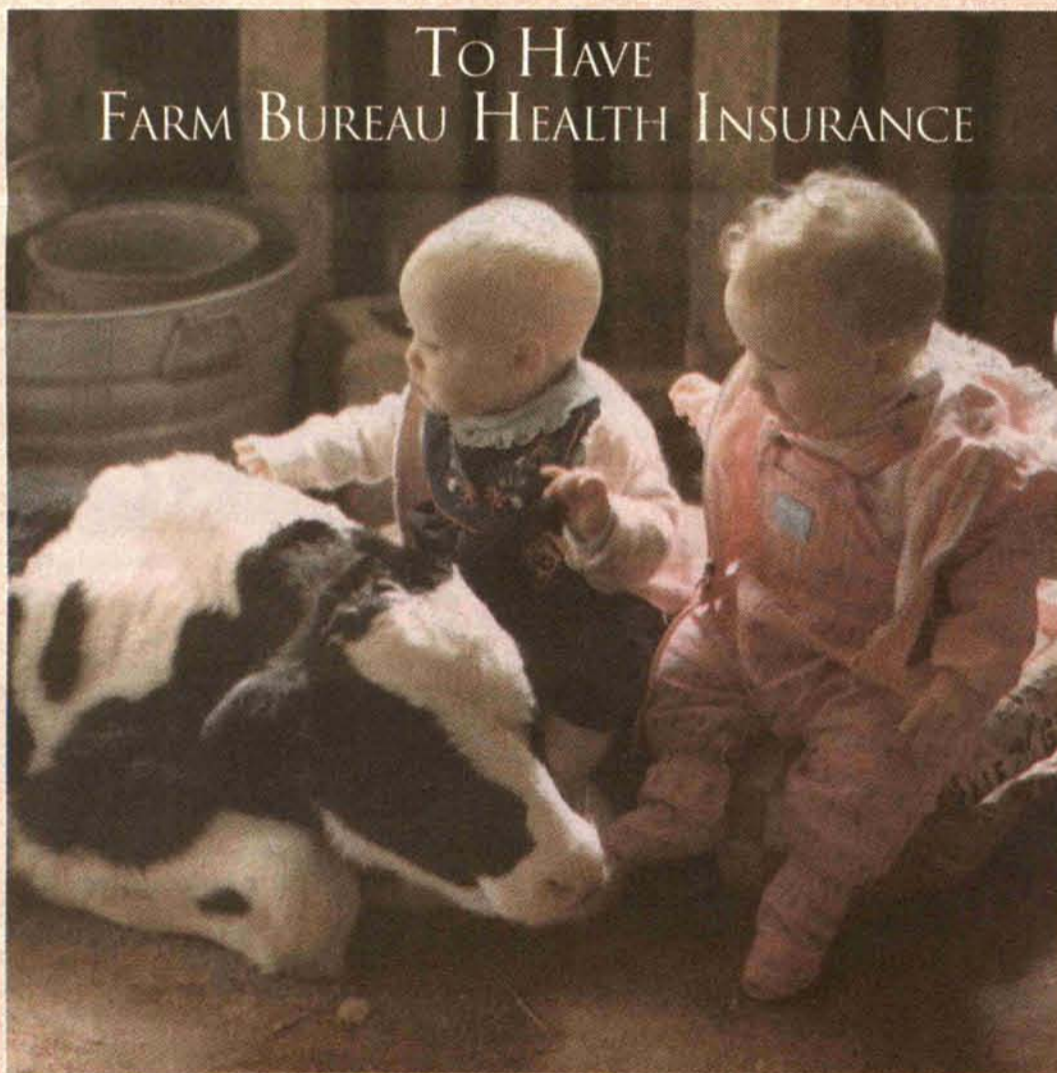
Increased commercial cranberry production in Michigan would expand the state's agricultural base, providing jobs and economic growth, according to MFB Commodity Division Director Ken Nye. "Although there is high consumer demand for cranberries, growers in traditional producing states have not been able to increase acreage due to the lack of suitable land and stringent requirements by agencies that regulate wetlands," said Nye. "These same wetland regulations could stifle development of a cranberry industry in Michigan."

The conference will explore state and federal environmental and regulatory issues related to cranberry production. Other topics on the program will include supply and demand projections, marketing and crop management.

For more information or registration, which is due by Sept. 23, call the Luce County Extension office at (906) 293-5982 or (906) 293-3203.

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Is There a New Strain of BVD in Michigan?

Sudden cow deaths, higher calf mortality rates and aborted calves have researchers looking for clues.

An apparently new form of bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVD) is making its presence known in Michigan, as well as Canada, and other Midwest dairy states. BVD, originally diagnosed in Michigan in the 1940s, has been isolated in 80 different cases in this state since April of 1993, according to MSU Professor of Pathology, and Diagnostics Lab Associate Director, Dr. Thomas Mullaney.

Just how many of those 80 cases can be attributed to the newer form of BVD is unclear, says Mullaney. What is clear and very rare, however, is that in several cases a large number of cows are dying within 24 to 48 hours after developing high fevers, diarrhea and going off feed. The number of cases has also remained consistent throughout the year, when typically summer means a reduction in the caseload.

"The thing that's quite unusual, and we haven't figured out why yet, is that these adult cows die very, very quickly," explained Mullaney. "That's not the usual thing we saw in the past with BVD. So there's something different and new happening that isn't absolutely clear-cut yet."

Don't expect any quick fix either, says Mullaney. Canadian officials have been battling the new form of BVD since early 1993. Ontario has been particularly hard hit with a three-fold increase in the diagnosis of BVD, as well as a 60 percent increase in the number of dead calves in 1993.

"We're dealing with a herd right now where they have lost six adult cows, culled another 20, had 15 aborted calves, and up to 15 calves die," Mullaney said. "In Kentucky, they have herds that have lost between 30 and 50 adult cows with this new form of BVD."

In addition to the cows going off feed, decreased milk production, diarrhea, and cow deaths, Mullaney advises producers to be on the look-out for calves that become unthrifty, develop diarrhea, an increase in aborted calves, particularly in first-calf heifers, and birth defects.

First-calf heifers are more likely to have aborted births and birth defects, since they have not had the years of exposure and vaccination to build up an immunity to BVD, as is the case with older herdsmates. Birth defects can include an underdeveloped cerebellum - the portion of the

brain that allows the calf to balance itself and stand - and eye defects.

Preventative Measures

Closed herds and a thorough vaccination program are your best bet to reduce the likelihood of getting the virus on your farm, says Mullaney.

Introducing new cows, heifers or calves to your herd opens the door to trouble, however, especially if you have the misfortune of getting a "persistently infectious" animal.

"That's an animal that became infected with BVD while it was still in the cow's uterus and its immune system had not developed," said Mullaney. "So instead of mounting an immune response to the virus, the calf's body treats the virus as if it were what we call a self-antigen, in other words, it treats the virus as if it were one of its own cells."

In that scenario, the virus grows unimpeded, meaning the animal will have the virus in its blood all the time, and will constantly shed the virus in its manure, blood, and nasal discharge. That also means it can provide a constant source

of reinfection for the rest of your herd, cautions Mullaney, even after vaccinations are done.

Even if the other herdsmates can mount an immune response to the BVD virus, Mullaney says it will actually suppress the immune system enough that livestock can be more susceptible to other infections, such as bacterial pneumonia.

If a farmer suspects a BVD problem, Mullaney says it's critical that they get in touch with and work closely with their local veterinarian, since he knows the herd's vaccination history and management practices. That knowledge is critical in making treatment recommendations such as whether to use a modified live-virus or a killed-virus vaccination routine.

According to Mullaney, there are two schools of thought regarding vaccinations. A live-virus treatment is more effective, but if the herd is already infected, it can make the problem worse. A killed-virus isn't as likely to create problems, but its effectiveness is questionable. In some states, experts are advising producers to step up their vaccination schedule to four times per year using a killed-virus vaccination.

"Producers have to be very careful about how they manage their young heifers," Mullaney advised. "You have to be particularly stringent in making sure they are immune, as immune as

possible, to this virus before they become pregnant for the first time."

Heifers should be vaccinated with a modified live-virus, followed with a booster shot before they're bred. "If you don't, and they get infected during pregnancy, you are setting yourself up for havoc on your farm for years to come," Mullaney said. "You're basically introducing that virus into the next generation, and creating a persistently infected animal."

Mullaney said that in severe cases, they have started to recommend entire herd blood testing on animals over three months of age. Any animals that test positive for BVD are retested three weeks later. If those animals test positive on the second test, they should then be culled, since they're likely a persistent infectious animal.

If it's not possible to avoid bringing new animals into your herd, Mullaney advises that you attempt to reduce the number of herds you are buying from, ideally to just one, and get to know the producer, and their vaccination program. "If possible, ask the producer you're dealing with if he will allow his veterinarian to share the vaccination history of that herd with you," Mullaney concluded.

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Calendar of Events

Sept. 20-22, Ohio State University Farm Science Review

Sept. 27-29, Farm Progress Show, Bloomington, Ill.

Oct. 6, Commercial Cranberry Production Conference, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. Call (906) 293-5982 or (906) 293-3203.

Oct. 8 - 9, Great Lakes American Ostrich Association Annual Seminar, Radison Plaza in Kalamazoo. Call Barb Smith at (517) 732-2514 or Rick Borup at (616) 642-9134.

Nov. 9-10, 1994 Michigan Rural Health Conference, McGuires Resort, Cadillac, Mich. Call (517) 336-1066 for more information and registration details.

Dec. 14-15, MFB New Presidents Conference

Nov. 28 - Dec. 1, MFB Annual Meeting, Westin Hotel, Detroit.

Jan. 8-12, American Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Mo.

March 6-10, Agriculture and Natural Resources Week, East Lansing

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10 A Refresher on Wheat-Seeding Management Practices

Rick Ward and Larry Copeland, Crop & Soil Science, MSU

No doubt you're making plans for next year's wheat crop. Here are some thoughts on important seeding considerations.

Land Selection and Preparation

Wheat is best adapted to soils that are well drained but have good water-holding capacity. Heavy, poorly drained soils are subject to late winter flooding resulting in poor plant survival.

Sandy soils without irrigation do not have the water-holding capacity needed for optimum productivity. The field should be well tilled or have enough slope to provide good surface drainage and be free of quackgrass and other perennial weeds.

Most Michigan wheat growers prepare their fields for planting using conventional tillage methods. The objectives of tillage are to control weeds, incorporate fertilizers and prepare the field for good seed-soil contact. You may do this by plowing, disking or dragging.

Michigan State University (MSU) research has shown that direct seeding (minimum tillage and no-till) are workable alternatives to conventional practices and have been proven in extensive field trials in Michigan to produce equivalent and sometimes improved wheat yields.

See information below on direct drilling and alternative seeding methods. Also refer to Extension bulletin E-2418, "Direct Drilling Winter Wheat," August 1992.

Depth and Rate of Seeding

Drill wheat in 6- to 8-inch rows about 0.75" to 1.5" deep. Planting too deep retards germination and emergence, while planting too shallow increases the risk of winterkill and poor germination. Seeding rate influences winter survival, yield, and test weight in Michigan. Similar to corn and soybeans, the most meaningful way to calibrate planting rates in wheat is in terms of seeds per acre.

MSU research indicates that optimal seeding rates range from 1.6 to 2.1 million seeds per acre for seed with 95 percent or greater germination. Seed lots of the same variety from the same year can vary in seeds per pound, so the use of a constant seeding rate expressed in pounds or bushels per acre will not provide constant seeding rates.

Determine the number of seeds per pound in your seed lot and calibrate your drill accordingly. See Table 1 for the relationship between seeds per pound and the number of seeds per acre.

Seed counts can be obtained from seed testing laboratories, and seed suppliers should be encouraged to list this information on the seed bag for their customers. Michigan certified wheat seed is evaluated for the number of seeds per pound and this information should be available when the seed is purchased. If this information is not on the tag, ask your seed supplier to provide it to you.

Drills should be calibrated and checked for within and among row uniformity well in advance of planting. Table 2 shows how seeds per row-foot varies with targeted seeding rate and row spacing. These numbers also represent a guide to expected stands. Growers should compensate for poor uniformity by increased seeding rates. Variations in seeding depth or rates will adversely affect yield.

Increased seeding rates can compensate for reduced growth caused by late planting. Planting rates should approach 2.5 million plants per acre when planting after Oct. 15.

Time of Seeding

Plant wheat any time after the Hessian fly-free date, which varies throughout Michigan (Table 3). Although delayed planting may in some cases be benefitted by reduced fall disease and insect pressure, it also increases the risk of adverse planting weather, winter kill, and increased heat or disease stress due to delayed time of heading and harvest.

Minimum Tillage, No-Till, Direct Drilling and Aerial Seeding

Growers can drill directly in no-till or minimum tillage situations using proper equipment that will place the seed for good seed-soil contact. Basically, this requires a heavy drill with coulters that open the soil,

leaving residue on the surface, and a press-wheel that closes the seed opening and firms the drilled furrow.

Research at MSU has shown that such seedings, if properly done, give yields equal to those from conventional seedings. For additional information on direct seeding wheat and specific recommendations, refer to Extension bulletin No. E-2418, "Direct Drilling of Winter Wheat."

Wheat may also be aerially seeded into a soybean field just before leaf drop. Under such conditions, the falling leaves trap enough moisture in close soil contact with the seed to enable adequate stand establishment.

This method can give good results; however, it is more risky than normal drilling because of moisture uncertainty, the possibility of emergence before the appearance of the last Hessian fly broods, and increased risk of winter kill in the event of winter conditions (i.e., no snow cover).

Broadcast Seeding

Avoid aerial seeding or broadcast seeding on bare ground unless you can till the field lightly to cover the seed. It is estimated that 15 to 20 percent of the Michigan wheat acreage is planted to broadcast seed with fertilizer which is then disked or tilled lightly.

Although this method is fast and convenient, it lacks precision in seeding rate and is not as certain as conventional drilling. Seeding rates for this method should be increased by at least 10 percent to compensate for non-uniform seed germination and emergence.

Soft White vs. Soft Red Wheat

About 70 to 75 percent of the wheat varieties planted in Michigan are in the soft white class. This class is unique to Michigan, Ontario, New York and the Pacific Northwest and is used in cookies, crackers, cakes, pastries and soup thickeners.

It's generally easier for wheat producers in central and northern Michigan to market soft white varieties because many elevators in this area only purchase white varieties. Soft red varieties are more readily marketed in the southern-most counties of Michigan. Growers should check with their local elevator before planting to make sure that a ready market exists.

Source and Quality of Seed

Both certified and uncertified seed are available from local elevators, individual certified seed producers, and seed companies throughout

Table 1.
The effect of seed size on seeding rate in pounds per acre at different seeding rates.

Seed size (seeds/lb)	Target seeding rates (millions of seeds/acre)					
	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1
10,000	160	170	180	190	200	210
11,000	145	155	164	173	182	191
12,000	133	142	150	158	167	175
13,000	123	131	138	146	154	162
14,000	114	121	129	136	143	150
15,000	107	113	120	127	133	140
16,000	100	106	113	119	125	131
17,000	94	100	106	111	118	124
18,000	89	94	100	106	111	117

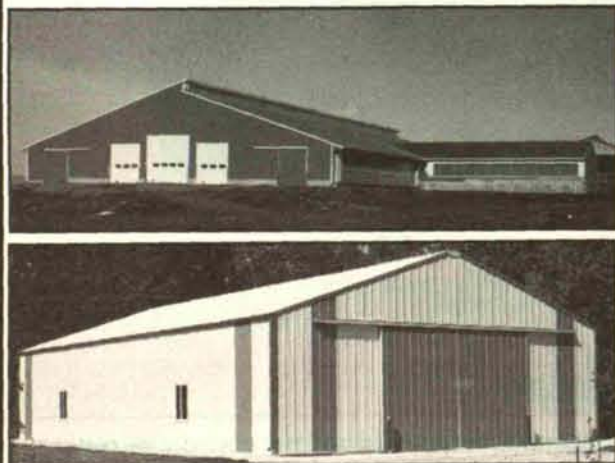
Note: $\frac{\text{seeds/acre}}{\text{seeds/pound}} = \frac{\text{Pounds of Seed}}{\text{per Acre}}$

Example: Target seeding rate = 1,800,000 seeds per acre
 Seeds per pound = 14,000
 Calculate the number of pounds per acre needed
 Pounds of seed per acre = $\frac{1,800,000}{14,000}$
 Pounds of seed per acre = 129

Table 2.
Number of seeds per foot of row for different combinations of row spacing and target seeding rates.

Desired seeding rate	(row spacing in inches)					
	6	7	8	9	10	
Million Seeds/A	Seeds/ft ²	Seeds/ft of row				
1.6	37	18.4	21.4	24.5	27.5	30.6
1.8	41	20.7	24.1	27.5	31.0	34.4
2.0	46	23.0	26.8	30.6	34.4	38.3
2.2	51	25.3	29.4	33.6	37.9	42.1
2.4	55	27.5	32.1	36.7	41.3	45.9
2.6	60	29.8	34.8	39.7	44.8	49.7
2.8	64	32.1	37.5	42.8	48.2	53.6

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Table 3.
Hessian Fly-free Dates for Michigan

County/Earliest Seeding Date (Sept.)			
Alcona.....6	Eaton.....16	Lapeer.....15	Ogemaw.....10
Allegan.....20	Emmet.....4	Leelanau.....8	Osceola.....10
Alpena.....9	Genesee.....17	Lenawee.....25	Oscoda.....7
Antrim.....4	Gladwin.....12	Livingston.....16	Ottawa.....6
Arenac.....13	Grand Traverse.....8	Macomb.....18	Ottawa.....19
Barry.....18	Gratiot.....15	Manistee.....13	Presque Isle.....8
Bay.....14	Hillsdale.....19	Mason.....13	Roscommon.....7
Benzie.....16	Huron.....13	Mecosta.....12	Saginaw.....16
Berrien.....23	Ingham.....17	Midland.....15	Sanilac.....15
Branch.....19	Ionia.....16	Missaukee.....9	St. Clair.....16
Calhoun.....19	Iosco.....7	Monroe.....21	St. Joseph.....23
Cass.....22	Isabella.....11	Montcalm.....15	Shiawassee.....16
Charlevoix.....3	Jackson.....16	Montmorency.....7	Tuscola.....25
Cheboygan.....4	Kalamazoo.....20	Muskegon.....18	Van Buren.....12
Clare.....12	Kalkaska.....5	Newaygo.....15	Washtenaw.....18
Clinton.....17	Kent.....18	Oakland.....16	Wayne.....18
Crawford.....6	Lake.....13	Oceana.....16	Wexford.....9



11 Huron County Innovative Farmers (continued from page 1)

Jim Shaw (left) and son, Mike, operate a 1,400 cash crop farm, raising corn, dry beans and wheat, all with conventional tillage. They agreed to rent 40 acres of their ground to the Innovative Farmers group to try various tillage systems.



to open up the soil. A conventional planter can then be used to plant the crop into the tilled strips.

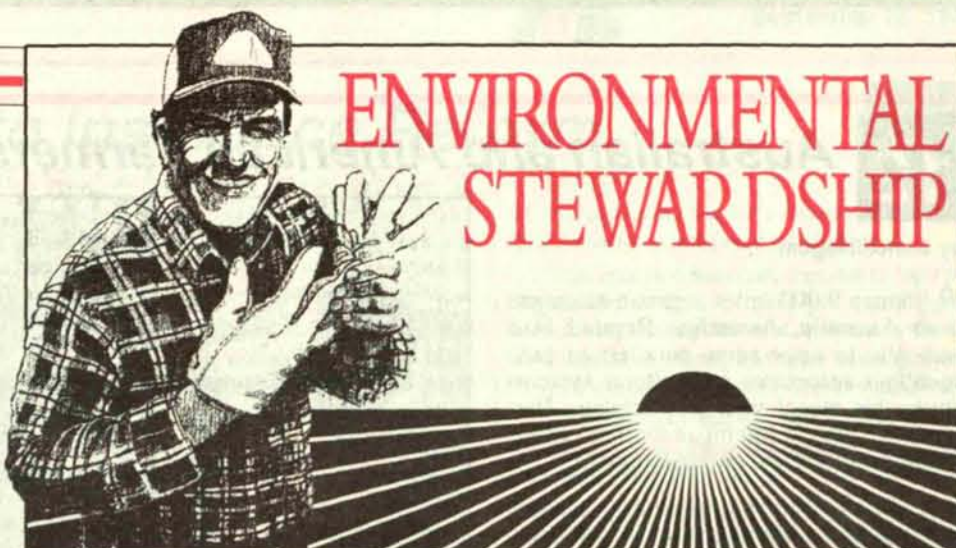
The zone till system consisted of three wavy coulters per row mounted on the planter. Tillage and planting were done all in one operation. Cover crops will eventually be incorporated into all of the cropping systems.

The group is planning to conduct the demonstration for at least five years. In addition to yield and economic evaluations of the plot work, soil quality measurements will be made to determine the amount of change over time in the different tillage systems.

"We know that regulations are just on the horizon and these farmers would like to be prepared if and when that happens," explained LeCureux.

"This is also an opportunity for us to begin a dialogue with environmental groups and let them know that these farmers are just as concerned about the environment. They all have kids that like to use the water to go fishing and swimming," he said.

Innovative Farmer member Mike Shaw agrees wholeheartedly with LeCureux, and adds that the group approach to learning and exploring new systems will make that



eventual transition somewhat smoother and easier to do.

Shaw and his father, Jim, operate a 1,400 cash crop farm, raising corn, dry beans and wheat, all with conventional tillage. They agreed to rent 40 acres of their ground to the Innovative Farmers group.

"I want to be able to see the different systems and what I think is going to work best on my ground," Shaw explained. "Everybody has an opinion on what works best, but this allows us to see it firsthand. When you have these agri-business people backing you up and showing their support, it definitely makes it much easier to try something different."

The support of the ag-business community has been impressive to Shaw, and has actually made the demonstration projects as much their project as those of the farmers. LeCureux believes that participation by these businesses is crucial if reduced tillage and no-till are to ever succeed in Huron County.

"I don't think a farmer can change on his own," LeCureux advocated. "The banker, the fertilizer people, and implement dealers, all have an influence on these farmers and their decisions. We're all trying to learn and change together, because if just one of those key players makes a wrong recommendation to the farmer, the system is ruined."

The other point LeCureux wants to drive home, both with farmers and non-farmers, is that the conversion from conventional tillage to minimum-till or no-till doesn't happen overnight, and that economics play a big role in management decisions.

"Everyone that's driving this call for change has to understand that it's going to take time and it's going to be costly," LeCureux said. "If we're going to make reduced tillage work, we can't have two lines of equipment out here for a farmer. So we've got to figure out how to operate with higher residue levels, and it's got to be economical and profitable."

Innovative Farmers Plot Work

Huron County Innovative Farmers have numerous test plots involving this four-row John Deere planter. They include:

Tillage system Comparisons: The John Deere planter was set up with two rows of the Rawson System and two rows of the Yetter System. The Rawson System consisted of two 8-wave 2 inch coulters, with a 1-inch 8-wave coulters in the center of each row. Residue managers were mounted on the planter units. The Yetter system consisted of a coulters for injecting fertilizer and a combination coulters and residue manager on the planter unit. On one row, a 13 wave coulters was used and on the other row, a 25-wave coulters was mounted in the combination assembly.

Closing System Comparisons: Four different closing systems were compared in the production of corn. System one consisted of the regular John Deere 7000 closing wheels. System two consisted of cast iron closing wheels with the Yetter nylon press wheels located directly behind the seed opening discs. System three consisted of the John Deere 7000 wheels with the Yetter nylon press wheel. The fourth system was the Acra Plant closing system consisting of the spoke press wheels and a large firming wheel behind the planter unit. (See below for additional details on additional plot work.)



Manure Application Techniques: Manure was applied to corn at sidedress time when the corn was six inches tall. A sample of the liquid dairy manure was taken prior to application. The manure was applied at a rate of 12,000 gallons per acre.

Strohm Aerator: A deep tillage aerator was pulled through the soil at sidedress time to reduce compaction caused by prior tillage. The shank, with wings attached, is set just below the

compaction layer. Anhydrous ammonia can also be applied with this tillage tool.

Soybean Row Width Demonstration: Vinton soybeans were drilled in 7-1/2, 15 and 30 inch row widths to look at the difference in yields, standability and white mold.

Aerway Aerator: In the dry bean plots, zone till treatment, the north half of each plot was aerated using the Aerway Aerator. The implement was also operated at various angles for later comparison.

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Identifiable Performance Parameters on Winter Wheat

The following are frequently observed plant responses from soil and foliar applications of ACA on winter wheat:

Visual Response

- Vigorous early plant growth
- More winter hardy
- More fibrous and extensive root system
- Increased tillering
- Larger diameter stem
- Wider, darker green leaves, fuller canopy fill row sooner
- Earlier pollination
- Heavier seed weight

Observation Timing (Stage of Growth)

- Fall – first to fourth leaves unfolded
- Spring – greenup and vigor
- Spring – observation on plant stand
- Fall – first to fourth leaves unfolded
- Spring – emergence of inflorescence
- Spring – from stem elongation on
- Spring – at completion of tillering
- Spring – at completion of tillering
- Spring – at flowering
- At maturity

The identified performance parameters typically result in:

- Increased uptake of soil nutrients
- Increased utilization of sunlight in photosynthesis
- Improved winter hardiness
- Higher yields and/or test weight
- Increased uptake of soil moisture
- Increased tillering and foliage
- Improved standability and ease of harvest

Yield Information Postemergence applications to Winter Wheat (1993)

- 33 total studies • 7.6 bushel per acre increase • 10.5% increase in yield
- Return on ACA investment of \$17.64 (2/3 pint/acre)
- 2/3 pint ACA per acre broadcast [Winter Wheat at \$3.00/bushel x 7.6 bushel increase/acre = \$22.80 - ACA investment of \$5.16/acre (2/3 pint/acre) = \$17.64 R.O.I./acre]

Application Techniques/Procedures

Test results have shown that ACA can be applied to the soil or foliage of winter wheat. ACA can be broadcast incorporated into the soil using water or a fertilizer solution as a carrier with or without a soil applied herbicide. The incorporation or movement of ACA into the soil profile can be by tillage, rainfall, or irrigation. This will position the ACA near the developing root system of the plant.

Foliar applications should be made prior to dormancy break when top dressing wheat. It is not recommended that ACA be applied with any postemergence herbicide or insecticide until further testing has been completed.

Methods of Application

- ACA mixes easily with and fits into the following fertilizer programs:
- Soil Applications**
 - Soil broadcast applied with liquid fertilizers
 - Soil broadcast applied with dry blended fertilizers
 - Soil broadcast applied (weed & feed herbicide/fertilizer solution)
 - Foliar Applications**
 - Application can be made with liquid fertilizers as the carrier.

Other application methods:

- Soil applied broadcast with water as the carrier, with or without a herbicide
- To wheat foliage with water as the carrier



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NOTE: The effect on weed control when ACA is added to post-emergence herbicides is unknown. Thus, it is not recommended at this time to apply ACA with any postemergence herbicide.

12 Australian and American Farmers - A World Apart in Distance Only

by Renee Nugent

Although 9,000 miles separate Michigan from Australia, Australian Bernard Hart was able to draw some parallels to each country's respective agricultural systems during his recent visit to Michigan. Hart spent two days in Michigan touring various farm operations and organizations.

A farmer himself, Hart and his family own and operate a 4,500 acre crop and livestock farm in Southeastern Australia. Hart produces canola, wheat, oats, and barley on 3,500 acres, while 7,000 Australian sheep are rotationally grazed on the rest of it. The farm's seed division also processes and markets 70 percent of the canola seed sold in Australia.

Total rainfall in his region of Australia is only half of Michigan's total rainfall. According to Hart, precipitation levels drop one inch for every 10 miles further inland from the coast, meaning that nearly 80 percent of Australia's population lives within 30 miles of the coast line.

The environment is an issue that Hart sees as a concern to both Australians and Americans. "We've been conscious of it for a lot longer," Hart said. "The soils in Australia are just so old and so decayed that you just have to handle them very carefully."

Australia and the U.S. are relatively the same size, but 60 to 70 percent of the Australian land is "zero" or no-tilled. According to Hart, a massive revegetation program has been established with a target of a billion trees to be planted by the year 2000.

The program is not government supported and is done on a voluntary basis. According to Hart, this issue has brought many Australian communities - non-farmers and farmers - together. City folks will often spend a weekend helping farmers plant some type of permanent vegetation.

A dry climate, highly acidic soils, and the misconception that the trees were going to be there forever, have made reforestation a serious issue and a top priority in Australia. "It's not that we overcleared; we didn't realize that the trees just didn't live as long in that type of climate," Hart said.



Hart also identified international trade and GATT as a matter confronting both America and Australian farmers. About 85 percent of Australia's total agricultural production is exported, making it hard for the Australian government to justify agricultural subsidies, explained Hart.

"Australia is caught in the cross fire, but I think that the recognition that no country can support high subsidy levels forever is probably the best thing that's ever happened," Hart said. "If we can bring that level playing field back, I think that we can build trade quite regularly."

After visiting European Economic Community countries, Hart said he could understand why the United States would want to counterbalance European subsidies through the Export Enhancement Program.

Another correlation Hart recognized was the importance placed on education. Along with being a full-time farmer, Hart works a lot with education by opening his farm to students. "I'm a firm believer that we've got to fix up the education system, so we have farmers that are smart business farmers when they come home," Hart said.

Michigan State University faculty initially met Hart when he hosted a group of MSU

students during an overseas study program to Australia. While in Michigan, Hart was impressed most with the dedication that Michigan State University showed. "They had a vision that they were going to have some of the best trained people out there," Hart said.

Hart sees the future of the agricultural industry in the hands of our young leaders. "To the world, agriculture is a dirty word," Hart said. "We've been blamed for polluting the rivers and causing the sun to go down early, and what we've got to do is have people in the next 10 years that really know what agriculture's all about. If we can train them well, they will lead the agricultural industry in the right direction."

Hart's interest in alternative higher valued crops and better management systems that Australian farmers could utilize to keep their production costs low, earned him the 1994 Swire Group Churchill Fellowship, which has the objectives to investigate the varieties, agronomic growing conditions, methods of disease control and the end uses of grain legumes.

Hart is the chairman of the Grain Legume Association of Australia and deputy chairman of the Grains Research and Development Corporation of the Southern Panel.

During his two-day tour of Michigan, Australian farmer Bernard Hart toured the Oesterle Brothers & Golden Acre Farm, located near Mason in Ingham County. At left (left to right) MSU's Dr. Frank Brewer, Lyle Oesterle, and Hart share a few thoughts about the Oesterle operation.

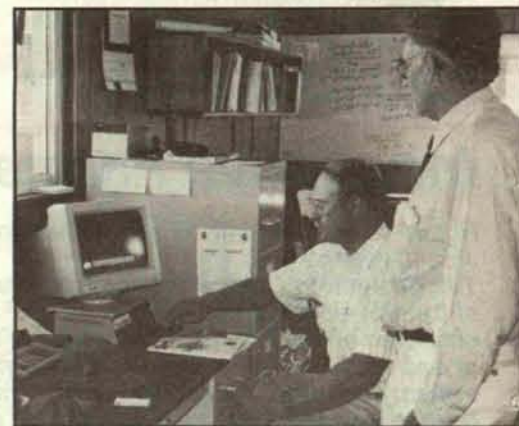
The operation, consisting of father Lyle, and brothers Brian, Bruce, Gordon, and Marvin, annually raises 3,500 acres of crops including corn, wheat, and soybeans. They also feed out 500 to 600 head of cattle annually, in addition to running a 150 head cow/calf operation.

While there, Hart toured the operation's 350,000 bushel grain storage facility, complete with weigh scales, and fertilizer storage facility. He was also quite interested in the operation's crop rotation, which is currently two years corn, followed by one year soybeans, and one year wheat.

The Oesterle's tillage system consists of fall chisel plowing and, soil conditions permitting, one pass with the field cultivator in the spring before planting. All nitrogen is applied in the form of urea in the spring prior to planting. They apply all of their own herbicides pre-emerge, with post-emerge rescue treatment used only when and where needed.

Hart said he was most impressed with the professionalism of the operation, calling the farm "simply outstanding." "They (Oesterles) know what they're all about," he said. "It's all about making money and good honor. Good luck to them!"

Below, Marvin Oesterle shows Hart how the operation monitors the markets and weather via their FARMDAYTA system.



Purchasing Development Rights is Goal of New Program (continued from page 1)

values reaching nearly \$6,000 an acre at some locations. In at least two instances that Manigold was aware of, farmers own shoreline property that can reach a value of anywhere between \$1,000 to \$2,000 a foot.

According to Manigold, who is also a fourth generation cherry farmer, the Peninsula Township began looking at different ways of preserving farmland in 1988. The township conducted surveys among township residents on what was important to them. Farmland, shoreline and scenic

views came back on every survey as top priorities. Those findings led to some very different views of how best to protect those assets.

"We had some people who felt that zoning was the answer to all of our problems," said Manigold. "But I personally think zoning amounts to nothing more than a taking, and that there had to be a fairer way to create a voluntary program. This program allows the farmer to get his development equity out of the farm, but also

keep his farm and preserve all of his rights as a farmer."

The only rights that participants are giving up is the right to develop the land, explained Vicki Pontz, legislative counsel for Michigan Farm Bureau. "Participants in the program give up, in perpetuity, their rights to develop land," explained Pontz. "But they have not given up their right to farm it or sell it for agricultural purposes. It's also important to remember that it's strictly a voluntary program."

Dennis Bidwell, director of land protection for American Farmland Trust, characterized the program as "an innovative and equitable means of protecting farmland and open space."

"We believe the Peninsula Township program will serve as an inspiration for other Michigan communities seeking new tools for protecting their threatened farmland," said Bidwell. "In fact, I am convinced it could well become a model for the rest of the Midwest and beyond."

Pontz, however, is less enthusiastic about the concept being applied on a widespread basis, saying the aesthetic value of the Peninsula makes the situation a little unique and that may not apply elsewhere in the state. "I think we need to look closely at the fact that residents of the Peninsula Township wanted to protect an agriculture that has a beautiful, aesthetic view in a scenic location," she said.

"Whether or not those same concepts could transfer to a Cass County hog farm and corn field is questionable in my mind," Pontz cautioned. "That doesn't mean that other local units of government shouldn't consider it, but I think it's less likely that local tax payers are willing to pay for preserving farmland if it's not something that has such aesthetic value to go along with it."

P.A. 116 Implications

Would this program replace Michigan's Farmland and Open Space Act, P.A. 116, program? Absolutely not, says Pontz. In fact, she contends that similar development rights programs would actually complement P.A. 116, especially in areas where development pressure is so intense that P.A. 116 might not provide a strong enough incentive to protect farmland.

"There's a lot of areas in this state where P.A. 116 has effectively preserved farmland," Pontz said. "In areas as unique as the Peninsula Township, however, the development pressure and consequently, the value, is so high that getting out of P.A. 116 and paying back credits is peanuts. They'll actually use both programs on the same piece of property in Peninsula Township."

Manigold agrees with Pontz, saying that P.A. 116 and the program's payback funds can actually be used by the Department of Natural Resources to purchase development rights on high-value properties, such as the case with shoreline property.

Case in point, Manigold says, is the recent DNR acquisition of development rights on a 72-acre winery known as the Chateau Grand Traverse located on the Old Mission Peninsula, a first for the state. The DNR is also in the process of purchasing development rights of land located in Emmet County valued at \$20,000 an acre.

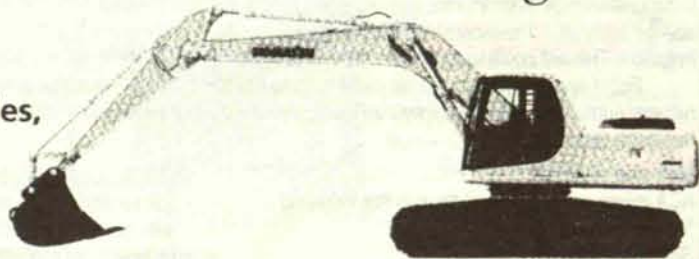
The big difference between the DNR purchase of development rights and Peninsula Township development rights purchase program is who actually owns the development rights. In the case of the DNR, the state of Michigan owns the rights, in the case of the township program, the township owns the rights.

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October Discussion Topic -- Auto Insurance Reform

13

It's about time. Finally, the people of Michigan have been given the opportunity to take control of their own auto insurance needs and purchase policies that reflect those needs. For too long, we have endured an auto insurance system where we are forced to pay for policies that are weighted down with unnecessary costs - dollars that all too often end up in the hands of

trial lawyers and those who file fraudulent, unnecessary or ridiculous claims.

After careful consideration, intense debate and compromise, the Legislature last year made a major advancement toward meaningful reform of the auto insurance system with the passage of P.A. 143, a comprehensive package of auto insurance reforms designed to immediately lower our rates and help keep them down over the long term by introducing cost-cutting measures, stricter regulations, consumer information provisions and mandatory rate reductions.

P.A. 143 Provisions

- Discounts for drivers with safety features on their vehicles (including air bags, anti-lock brakes, shock-absorbing bumpers and enhanced sidewall protection).
- Stricter anti-fraud and fraud investigation requirements.
- Reform designed to put a stop to the proliferation of expensive, unjustifiable and often downright ridiculous lawsuits which are driving up our rates and undermining the entire no-fault concept.
- An end to the practice of requiring motorists to purchase and pay for medical coverage that is not needed -- instead giving drivers the

power to choose their own desired level of coverage -- requiring insurance companies to offer drivers policies ranging from a required minimum of \$1 million to up to \$5 million in medical coverage.

It's plain to see, P.A. 143 will benefit Michigan drivers, bringing real reform to the system and saving us up to \$700 million dollars annually in insurance premiums.

But enjoying the benefits of these reforms isn't going to be that easy. Powerful special interests who benefit from the status quo aren't going to allow its reform without a fight.

That's why Michigan's trial lawyers paid signature gatherers to circulate petitions to block the enactment of P.A. 143. That cynical action stalled the implementation of the reform package and has already cost Michigan drivers **more than half a billion dollars in insurance rate reductions.**

Michigan Farm Bureau is a member of Michigan Citizens for Insurance Reform (MCIR), a coalition of nearly 50,000 individuals and dozens of major Michigan organizations.

Other members of MCIR include the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, National Federation of Independent Business/Michigan, the

Michigan Deputy Sheriff's Association and the Traffic Safety Association of Michigan.

This coalition has come together to fight for the survival of P.A. 143 and put a stop to the self-serving attempt by trial lawyers to thwart auto insurance reform and deny Michigan motorists choices and real control over future rates.

The P.A. 143 reforms will survive only if Michigan voters ignore the campaign of deception being waged by the law's powerful opponents to mislead voters into rejecting the package. Michigan voters must take the final step by saying "YES" to reform on the November ballot.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you believe that frivolous lawsuits have driven up the cost of auto insurance?
2. Should motorists be allowed to purchase the amount of medical coverage they desire? How much coverage do you believe is appropriate for your needs?
3. How much money will you save on your auto insurance if auto insurance reforms are permitted to take effect?



From Farm Bureau Insurance

Protect Your Respiratory System

Dusts and molds are common hazards in farming. They can threaten your good health and, in some cases, even cause permanent or fatal damage to your respiratory system.

Dusts, which can develop from small particles created during the harvest of immature grains, may cause a condition known as organic toxic dust syndrome (OTDS). Depending on a person's susceptibility, OTDS can develop after a single exposure to dust and molds, or symptoms may appear only after several exposures.

Flu-like symptoms such as coughing, chills, fever, fatigue, muscle aches, and sometimes shortness of breath that may begin to develop two to six hours after exposure are indications of OTDS. Persons usually feel better within two to three days, but fatigue and shortness of breath may continue for weeks. Severe cases may require medical attention.

Molds that develop in corn can produce pneumonitis in humans. Symptoms include fever, drippy nose, persistent cough, and pneumonia. Symptoms may appear within hours of exposure, or may take up to two weeks to develop.

Breathing dust from moldy feed materials can cause farmer's lung, one of the most disabling conditions among dairy farmers. Symptoms are easily mistaken for bronchitis or pneumonia and may not be noticed for several hours after exposure. Irreversible lung damage and even death may result if the condition is not diagnosed and treated in early stages. Long-term suffering includes shortness of breath, requiring the victim to take frequent rest periods, severely limiting the amount of work a farmer can do.

Even nuisance dust, the dust a farmer is commonly exposed to while working in fields or around livestock, can decrease a person's lung capacity and cause greater susceptibility to respiratory infections.

You can reduce the risk of respiratory problems from dust and molds by storing only dry grain and dry, well-cured forages and hay.

You can also reduce dust exposure by keeping animal areas as clean and dust-free as possible. Stale dust and feed accumulations attract moisture from the air, creating an environment for mold and other microorganisms to grow.

And you can protect your respiratory system by using . . .

- Disposable dust masks or respirators with replaceable cartridges designed to filter dusts. These devices ensure an adequate supply of clean air. Change the mask or cartridge frequently for greatest protection. Do not depend on a standard painter's mask to provide protection from mold or grain dusts.

- Filter masks, which may provide adequate protection from common agricultural molds, dusts and chaffs. Keep in mind, though, that they will not offer protection from agricultural gases. A self-contained breathing apparatus similar to those worn by firefighters is needed for work in oxygen-deficient areas such as freshly filled silos, manure pits, or grain bins during and after fumigation.

WORRIED FACES OF OUR INSUREDS.



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Regrettably, two in five older adults will require nursing home care.¹ With costs averaging about \$30,000 per year² it's easy to see just how devastating this can be.

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1. Consumer's Guide to Long-Term Care Insurance, HIAA 1989
 2. U.S. News & World Report, Aug. 13, 1990
 3. Independent analysts of the insurance industry who base their analysis on financial strength and operating performance.

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 P.O. Box 30960
 Lansing, MI 48909

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City _____

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ZIP _____

Phone _____

County _____

14 - Michigan Farm News Classifieds -

01
Farm Machinery

GRAVITY BOX \$100, gravity wagon with New Holland running gear \$500 and John Deere Seeder \$75. Call 616-676-9459. John Deere 148 Loader \$1800, 616-691-8506.

01
Farm Machinery

INTERNATIONAL 1466 tractor, 3800 hours. Cab, air conditioning, front weights, axle duals, new heavy duty torque and clutch 500 hours ago. Excellent condition! \$12,000. 1-313-242-8945.

01
Farm Machinery

IH 756 TRACTOR, \$7,250. New Orthman disc Stab with long arms, \$700. JD 95. IH 403 combine, \$1,595 each. IH 16' drag, \$150. Brillion 20' S-line cultivator with rolling basket, \$2,500. Two brown Swiss bulls, 11 months old, \$950 each. 1-517-868-3263

01
Farm Machinery

1966 FORD TANDEM dump truck. 391 gas, 5-speed, two speed rear, air brakes, upgraded with maxis. \$4,000 or best offer. 1-616-868-7464

1966 FORD eleven ton truck. 16' flatbed. Newer brake cylinders, starter and industrial grade battery. Call 1-517-291-3044 evenings between 7pm-9pm.

2 THREE BEATER, 16' H&S chopper boxes with running gears. One 2000-150 Heston forage chopper with 2 row corn head and hay head. One 2000-150 Heston forage chopper with 2 row corn head for parts. One Brillion culti-packer. One 6 row IHC corn planter, #58. One IHC #55 forage chopper with hay head. One John Deere 4 row bean puller, complete. One John Deere 6 row stalk chopper. 616-754-9404.

500 GALLON Milk bulk tank. Delaval. Creamery package. For more information call 616-794-2408, or 616-794-0427.

AGRICULTURAL REPLACEMENT BELTING: Complete line of Cougar Replacement Belting for round baler, bottom platform bale thrower, tub grinder, hammermill, feed conveyor and combine pickup belts. Plus, farm duty electric motors.

Edwards Industrial Sales
1-800-442-5086

ATTENTION Farmers, Carpenters, Sawmill or Shop owners. Early 70's Massey Ferguson 6000/lb tractor type fork lift. Raises 21'. Good rubber, drive train and hydraulics. \$5500, OBO. Case 6000/lb tractor type, 14' with side shifter. \$4500 OBO. Baker 8000/lb Fork Lift, 12' lift, air tires, 6-cylinder. Excellent condition! \$5000, OBO. 1-616-754-0572 anytime.

BALED WHEAT STRAW: Badger forage wagon. New Holland blower, flail choppers, 2-row narrow picker, gravity boxes, International drills, stalk shredders, brush hogs, elevators, hay bines. Call 1-517-773-5347 after 1pm. Dan Reid.

BRAND NEW 1994 John Deere 750 grain drill. John Deere 3600, six bottom reset trailer plow. Wayne Shinabery, 1099 South Meridian Road, Hudson, MI 49247

COMPLETE solid set irrigation system. Covers 40 acres! Includes pumps, risers, sprinklers, all connections. Ready to use! Good buy. Call 1-616-599-2251.

HESSION 2 row beet harvester. Field ready! Call 1-517-684-4461 evenings after 8pm.

INTERNATIONAL 826 diesel tractor for sale. Double PTO, low hours, no cab, \$7,000. 1-616-875-9873

IRRIGATION SYSTEM for sale. 2-3-4" aluminum pipe, covers 5 acres. Gorman-Rupp PTO pump. Asking \$8900. Call 1-517-727-9945.

JOHN DEERE 894, 5 bar rake, excellent, \$800. Farmall A with 5' belly mower, new paint and tires, \$2400. Call 1-616-754-9474 or 1-616-754-4890.

JOHN DEERE 4310 beet harvester. Completely rebuilt including the ferris wheel. Owner has approximately \$1000 in new and extra parts that will be included. \$8500. Contact Sue Kostal, 1-517-875-4181 work, 1-517-875-3912 home or Don Heimburger, 1-517-875-4923 home.

MASSEY FERGUSON 4-row narrow corn head for sale. Model #1143. Call 1-517-587-4305 evenings, after 6pm preferred.

01
Farm Machinery

MF COMBINE 540-D. Air floation grain head for corn, \$2200. JD 4030-D wide front, 2700 hours, PS, positive traction. Plow, Wil-Rich, 418 International bottoms, spring reset. JD 10' wheel disk. Two gravity boxes. Call 1-313-426-8330.

JOHN DEERE 15 hole grain drill w/grass feeder. Very good condition! \$800. New Idea corn picker, 2-narrow row, 8 roller. Very good condition! \$1500. 1-810-664-4942.

LUCKNOW MIXING wagon. New, never used. Call 1-616-749-4712

Nice 4047 International single axle tractor. Air, new tires, thirteen speed, 240,000 original miles. No rust, excellent shape. \$5,000. 1-313-242-0388 after 6pm

RAIN CONTROL Manure, drip and sprinkler irrigation systems. New and used available. For free product catalog, contact us at 1-517-263-5226. Fax, 1-517-263-6153. Adrian, MI.

RB DRYING WAGON, 8'x18' box. Very good condition! \$5500. Call 1-906-466-2682.

SEVEN CHERRY TANKS for sale. Meyers, 100 gallon sprayer. Excellent condition. Call 1-616-823-2184.

SKIDSTER CASE, 1991 with forks, 45hp diesel. 300 hours. \$13,000. Call 1-517-879-4445 evenings. Pinconning, Michigan.

WANTED TO BUY: Late model John Deere, Case IH, Ford tractors, combines and cornheads. Call Wayne Shinabery Equipment 1-517-448-8091

TWO KASTEN FORAGE wagons for sale. Eight ton gear, 9.50x15" tires. Call 1-517-669-9376.

USED VALLEY CENTER pivots and other makes with related equipment. Call any time, toll free. 1-800-248-8589

WANTED TO BUY: Older or newer model farm tractors running or not. State age, price and condition. Send to Wayne Shinabery, 1099 South Meridian Road, Hudson, MI 49247

WHITE DIESEL 2-70: 1500 hours, \$8500. MF 17-disc grain drill, like new, \$1800. 6-row planter, 41 units, \$800. Miller 6-row cultivator, \$1100. Five-Tine V-Ripper, \$1100. Culti-Hoe, 6-row, \$250. 1-517-777-7955.

02
Livestock Equipment

300 GALLON stainless steel milk tank and compressor motors. Excellent condition! Call 1-517-732-5522.

MANURE SPREADERS: New and used, Balzer, Better-Bilt parts. UPS daily. Also grain dryers and handling equipment. **Hamilton Distributing Co.** 1-800-248-8070

STOCK TRAILER: WW Gooseneck, 22' bed, 7 1/2' wide. Good condition and ready to go! \$3950. Cedar Springs. 1-616-696-0075.

SUNSET 1000 gallon bulk tank with compressors and washer for sale. \$3500. Call 1-616-672-5781.

USED FREE STALLS: Loop style. 80 stalls at \$10 each. Used Burr Mill, \$300. Call 1-517-386-4835 evenings.

03
Farm Commodities

ALFALFA: Top quality! 800 bales, first cutting, \$2. Later cuttings will be available. Hay is stored in Ottawa County. Call 1-800-300-6184.

HAY/STRAW: Truck anywhere! 45 years of service. Call **Raymond Oates**, 1-517-286-6241 or 1-517-286-6871. Waldron, MI.

PUMPKINS FOR SALE by the ton only. Reasonably priced! All sizes, can deliver. Call 1-517-828-5481.

WEATHER DAMAGED HAY for mulch, composting or bedding type usage. Approximately 800 firm/dry square bales. 65¢ per bale. Call 1-616-636-8449. Kent County.

04
Seeds

MICHIGAN CERTIFIED Chelsea wheat seed for sale. Cleaned, treated, bagged and tagged. \$7.50 per bushel. Call **Schmidt Farms of Auburn**. 1-517-662-2695.

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05 Livestock

ANGUS BEEF: Bulls, heifers and cows with calves. Performance tested, semen tested. Free Delivery! Call anytime, **Shagbark Farms** Alto, Michigan 1-616-868-6040

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QUALITY HOLSTEIN service age bulls (out of high producing dams). \$800-\$900. Call 1-517-644-3519.

REGISTERED BELTED Galloway bull for sale, 12 months old August 4, 1994. Call 1-517-546-7730.

05 Livestock

LLAMAS: Pet males. Halter trained! Also available weanling and adult female breeding stock. Great wool for hand spinners! Call 1-616-582-7473. **Horton Bay llamas** Charlevoix, MI

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OSTRICH CHICKS Exceptional South African bloodlines available in all ages. Let us introduce you to America's newest agricultural industry. **Blackwing Ostrich Ranches**, 1-216-325-3456 or 1-708-541-4888

PIEDMONTESE CATTLE: Lean, tender, double muscled, good calving ease. Quality registered breeding stock. Also available embryos and semen. **Redbird Farms** Lapeer, Michigan 1-810-797-4701

05 Livestock

QUALITY ANGUS BREEDING STOCK Performance tested, Bulls semen tested. Free delivery. Also Border Collie Stock Dogs. Call today. **BORDER ANGUS FARMS** Sturgis, MI 616-651-8353.

SCOTTISH HIGHLAND CATTLE: Registered, various age bulls for sale. 1994 calfs (heifers and bull available in October). Call 1-517-543-7979.

SOYBEAN ROASTING feed right on your farm! High fat, high energy roasted soybeans. See the difference. We do other grains also. **Short's Roasting** 1-800-634-2368.

06 Poultry

FOR SALE: Emu Chicks and Yearlings. Reasonably priced. Parents produced more chicks than anticipated. Need new homes! **J J Emu Ranch** 1-512-972-3278

07 Dogs and Puppies

AKC, UKC, registered dogs/puppies. Dalmatians, Eskimo Spitz, Rat Terriers, Great Danes. Best buys ever! Reducing kennel stock. Leasing possible. **Wright's Corral Kennel** 1-517-291-5041

WANT TO BUY: Male Sheltie for stud. Sable and white, 12"-14" high, AKC. Nine months to two years. Call 1-517-423-3069.

08 Ponies/Horses

FOR SALE: Purebred Arabian horses. Show quality! Banat, Bask, Aloes. Call 1-616-533-8669 after 6pm.

09 Help Wanted

SEMI TRAILER REPAIR mechanics wanted. Mechanical aptitude and own hand tools required. Must be available for second shift. Mid Michigan Trailer Service. Apply in person, 4537 Roger Chaffee Drive, Grand Rapids

Grain Dryer Repair Person needed. Full time year round work for the experienced person. Send resume with background to: Grain Dryer Repair, Michigan Farm News, PO Box 6, Stanton, MI 48888. All replies confidential.

11 Agricultural Services

BARN FOUNDATION REPAIRS: Underpins, repositing, footings, silo repairs. Anywhere in Michigan! Since 1973. **J.M. Graham** Saginaw, Michigan 1-517-792-3299 after 5pm.

EXPERIENCED Michigan agribusiness attorneys with farm backgrounds. Knowledge and experience in all farm areas; restructure, stray voltage, bankruptcy, estate planning. **EAST SIDE:** Thomas J. Budzynski, 43777 Groesbeck Hwy., Mt. Clemens, MI 48036, 313-463-5253; **WEST SIDE:** Robert A. Stariha, 40 W. Sheridan, Fremont, MI 49412, 616-924-3760.

11 Agricultural Services

SAVE MONEY Recycle your diesel and industrial air intake filters using the Sonic Dry Clean System. No liquids or detergents used. 50% savings over new filters. **Recycle Now, Inc.** Holland, MI 1-616-396-7724 1-616-396-8102, Fax

STARTERS, alternators, generators. Rebuilt for cars, trucks and tractors. Diesel and heavy duty work. In business since 1970. **Armature Rewind and Rebuilding**, Bay City. 1-517-686-3450

OLD PRINTED MATERIAL: Pre-1950's magazines, newspapers, sheetmusic, postcards, calendars, posters, etc. Will pickup. **Richard Harris**, 715 Luce, Fremont, MI 49212. 1-616-924-6788. Save this ad!

12 Business Services

AERMOTOR WINDMILLS. New/reconditioned. Parts, pumps, cylinders, well supplies. Miniature lawn windmills. Repair/restoration. **Sam's Windmill Service**, 14386 CR 14, Middlebury Indiana 46540. 1-219-825-2877

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14 Real Estate

160 ACRE FARM, #1 Shebeon Loam Land (except approximately 2 acres). Good drainage, tiled, large dairy barn, milk house, pole type beef barn, 3 silos, machine shed, grainery, insulated 3-bedroom home, attached single garage. Huron County. 1-517-269-7320.

20 ACRES, Hillsdale County. OK for mobiles or build. Paved road. \$25,000. Some woods. Terms! (F-781) **Faust Real Estate** Adrian, 1-517-263-8666 Call for brochure!

WE HAVE CASH BUYERS for farmland in northwest Michigan. Call Ron McGregor for details. 1-616-929-1515 or 1-616-947-6211 evenings. **Northern Michigan Land Brokers, Traverse City**

FOUR FARMS: 100, 80, 79 1/2, 40 acres. Hillsdale County, Michigan. No till drill. Call 1-517-869-2113.

IRONS, MICHIGAN: Think retirement! Three bedroom, 2 bath doublewide on 5 wooded acres. Blacktop road. Possession at close. \$29,900. **Thistledown Real Estate** 1-616-754-2201

15 Real Estate Wanted

HUNTING LEASES WANTED: 80 acre parcels or larger, anywhere in Southern Michigan. 5,000 acres needed by 10-1-94. First come, first served! 1-616-561-2994, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

LEASE PROPERTY WANTED: Three experienced responsible Mid-Michigan hunters wish to lease Northern lower or South Central Michigan property for the 1994 Archery and possibly firearms Deer Season. Call 1-517-676-0486.

15 Real Estate Wanted

2-3 SPORTSMEN looking to lease land for hunting Goose, Duck or Pheasant. Please call 1-616-458-6055 days. 1-616-887-9603 evenings.

17 Auctions

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18 Antiques/Collectibles

AMISH BUGGY with harness for sale. Two seater and extras. \$1000 or best offer. Call 1-616-788-3417.

19 General

STRAW CHOPPERS: We rebuild and balance. Some exchanges. We stock chopper parts. **ENGINE REBUILDING** our specialty. Auto-Truck-Tractor-Antique-Continental-Kohler-Onan-Wisconsin engine dealer.

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19 General

PROFESSIONAL HOOF trimming: Statewide! Over 14 years experience. Prices start at \$7. Call **Norman Beale** 1-616-775-0488

SAWDUST DELIVERIES: Nice animal bedding. Also, tri-axle truck with driver for lease for grain hauling or ? 600 bushel. Call 1-616-696-1421. Rockford, Michigan.

20 Wanted to Buy

BUYERS OF STANDING timber and veneer logs. **Devereaux Sawmill, Inc.** Pewamo, MI. Call 1-517-593-2552.

Central Michigan Metals Buyers of all grades of scrap metal. Call Kevin Ferguson, 1-517-386-2409 or 1-800-835-1170. 1215 East Maple Road, Clare, MI 48617

WANTED: Old motorcycles, snowmobile and off road vehicles. 1965 and older. Call JD, 1-517-676-0583.

21 Special Events

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, FIJI: 12th Annual Dairy Tour. February 3-March 2, 1995. Dairy farming, intensive grazing, research, farm stays, scenery, vacation. Fee \$4295. MPLS/US/ \$4095 LA. Tax deductible for qualifying farmers. University of Minnesota Extension Service. 405 Coffey Hall, St. Paul 55108. 1-800-367-5363.

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER American Ostrich Association invites you to attend their Seminar, October 8-9, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo, MI. Exhibitors Seminar Raffle Auction, Ostrich meat for dinner. For rates call, Barbara Smith, 1-517-732-2514, Derrick Borup, 1-616-642-9134.

FOR DISPLAY AD INFORMATION CALL 1-800-292-2680 EXT. 3201

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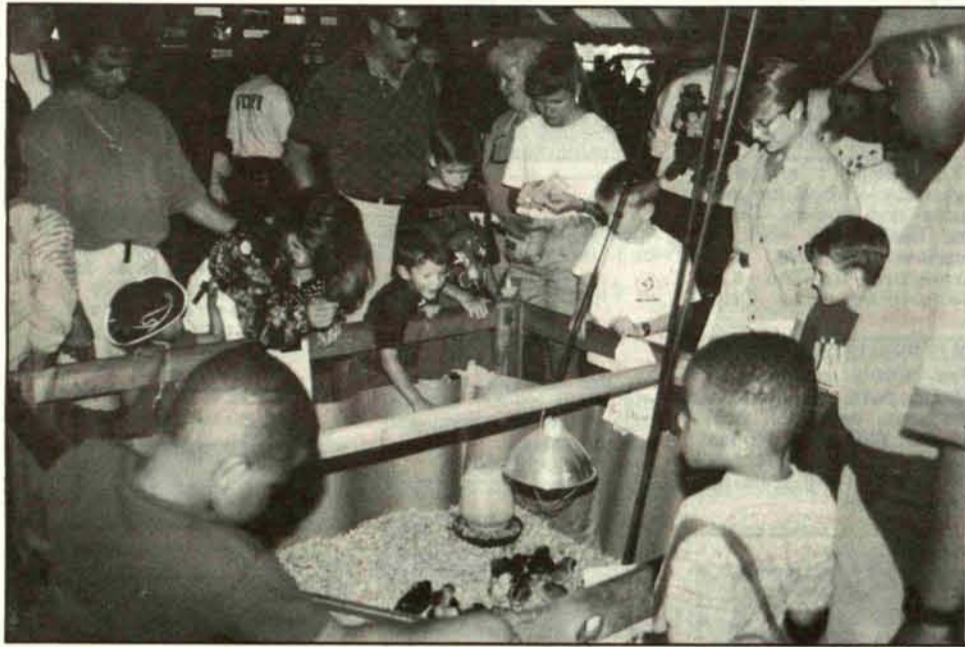
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It was standing room only at the Michigan Farm Bureau and Blue Cross/Blue Shield sponsored "Miracle of Life" exhibit at the 1994 Michigan State Fair. Tens of thousands of fairgoers were able to witness real live births of pigs, cows, sheep, and chickens. Michigan State University veterinarians were on hand to monitor the births and provide information about the animals. County Farm Bureaus in southeastern Michigan provided people to staff the Farm Bureau exhibit. Consumers were able to talk to real farmers and were also able to see different types of grains that animals are fed. The display enabled many consumers to experience and learn about animal agriculture.



Farm*A*Syst Environmental Farm Plan Satellite Conference Scheduled for Sept. 29

16

Farm*A*Syst and Environmental Farm Plan, voluntary farm pollution risk assessment programs, will be the focus of a satellite video conference Sept. 29.

The Farm*A*Syst and Environmental Farm Plan programs help farmers and rural residents protect their well water and the environment from pollution by identifying pollution risks on their property.

The primary purposes of these programs are to assist participants in evaluating approaches for making voluntary pollution risk assessments available to farmers and rural residents; and to identify mechanisms for increasing the availability of pollution prevention products and services.

With a set of step-by-step work sheets, Farm*A*Syst and the Environmental Farm Plan programs help participants evaluate pollution risks from each farmstead activity or structure that can cause groundwater contamination.

Participants identify possible sources of contamination from toxins, nitrates and microorganisms on their own property. They also learn what steps to take to reduce and eliminate pollution.

Farm*A*Syst and Environmental Farm Plan assessments are confidential. Participants choose their own action plans and keep records with their own private files.

Tentatively scheduled are opening comments by USDA Secretary Michael Espy; EPA Administrator Carol Browner; Canadian Agriculture Minister, Honorable Ralph Goodale; and Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, Honorable Elmer Buchannan, who will identify the relevancy of this program to environmental policies and programs.

Panelists participating in the interactive program are: Gary Jackson, director, National Farm*A*Syst and Environmental Farm Plan Project and University of Wisconsin-Madison/Extension professor; Ted Loudon, Michigan State University Extension professor of agricultural engineering; Don Hill, Ontario Environmental Farm Plan program coordinator; and representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, Soil Conservation Service and the private sector.

The program will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the following Extension offices:

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