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 **Farm News**

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

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SCIENCE  
DO NOT CIRCULATE



The advent of MI-OSHA is closer to reality this year. With a Michigan administration and regulation of occupational safety, farmers believe that the accent will be more on training and education rather than on heavy-handed enforcement.

—MICHIGAN FARM NEWS, November 1973, Page 1

The advent of MI-OSHA did become a reality; farmers' hopes that the accent would be more on training and education rather than heavy-handed enforcement did not. Those hopes, in fact, have been dashed repeatedly since MI-OSHA's "birth" with farmers finding the regulatory body an adversary rather than a partner working toward the same goal — a safe working environment.

### From the Desk of the President

## Co-op Challenges Need Member Action

MI-OSHA's constant emphasis on enforcement rather than on education has created a climate of resistance rather than cooperation. In this kind of situation, safety — which should be the primary concern — loses top priority, sort of like the sweetheart who is forgotten while two rivals fight it out.

In 1976, nearly 200 farmers stormed the citadel of the Michigan Department of Labor to voice opposition to an unacceptable farm machinery retro-fit proposal. In 1977, we were called upon once again to fight the costly retro-fit standards. In the spring and summer of 1978, MI-OSHA concentrated its efforts on our country elevators, issuing citations and demanding changes that would put many of them out of business. Now, after a short lull, that same problem has once again surfaced, causing concern throughout the agricultural community. Farmers and elevator

operators are FOR safety, not against it. It's the limbs and lives of themselves, their own families and employees they care about that are at stake. So why do they find themselves in a continual battle against the regulatory agency which supposedly was created to maintain a safe working environment?

The economics involved have stimulated Farm Bureau members to be active participants in all of these battles with MI-OSHA. But it isn't economics alone that spurs farmers to do battle with a powerful regulatory agency. It's fair conviction that ever-growing bureaucracies with their ever-growing powers to regulate them right out of business must, somehow, come to a halt.

Perhaps if we once again speak with a strong, united voice, as we have in the past, MI-OSHA will get the message that its role in occupational safety should be

one of help — not harrassment.

### Co-op Growth Threatened

On a different battlefield — this one in Washington, D.C. — farmer cooperatives are fighting yet another government bureaucracy that seems bent on gaining control over our industry by reshaping the Capper-Volstead Act.

The national anti-trust review commission, led with support staff and witnesses from the Justice Department, and members totally unfamiliar with agricultural production and marketing, has presented President Carter with recommendations that threaten our family farm system and our cooperative bargaining power.

This commission, acting on the Justice Department's contention that cooperatives and federations of cooperatives have become

too large and powerful, has proposed that all co-op mergers and marketing federation activities be subject to review and approval by the Justice Department and Federal Trade Commission. The watchdog responsibility over the marketing practices of farmer cooperatives would also likely be moved from the Department of Agriculture to the Justice Department of Federal Trade Commission, another step toward control of our industry by those who have little or no understanding of it.

Cooperatives have grown; they have had to grow to have any degree of bargaining power at all against the giant food conglomerates. Both farmers and consumers have benefitted from this growth because cooperatives have provided some balance to the economic power of other corporations.

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## What Can One Farmer Do?

Farmers' awareness of the need to communicate with non-farmers — consumers, legislators, public officials, bureaucrats — has never been higher than it is today. However, their willingness to get personally involved in promoting an understanding of their industry by our society's decision-makers has

not kept pace with their concerns.

Too many feel that their dues or commodity check-offs are sufficient investment — without investing anything of themselves. Certainly, what organizations do on behalf of their members to promote understanding and support is important, and most of them

do an exceptional job. But, to be truly effective, what the organizations do should be only a part of the total information network. The other part — the really potent part — is the farmer taking every opportunity to "tell it like it is" from first-hand experience.

The American Dairy Association of Michigan, the Michigan Beef Industry Commission, most any commodity organization, will readily testify that a real, live farmer standing beside one of their beautiful, taste-bud-tantalizing displays, telling consumers, "I produce this; try it — you'll like it!" adds credibility and impact. Your Michigan Farm Bureau staff may design and coordinate exhibits that tell the story of agriculture — but they leave the important one-on-one communications with city people to the real experts — those who have left their fields, not their drawing boards. It's a team effort, professionals working together to bring about the understanding and support agriculture needs.

An illustration of the need for this understanding took place at a recent meeting in Ann Arbor where farmers had gathered to ask the "experts" for answers to questions of real concern to them. . . real crime, safety, minimum wage, workers' compensation. . . How can a farm employer get equal rights? . . . Does a farm employee have ANY responsibility for his own

safety and health? . . . How long can I stay in business when I have to pay \$21,000 for workers comp coverage?

They got some answers they didn't like, but were a fact of life at this time. They also had an exercise in futility when they tried to get facts from a bureaucrat who was completely out of his realm — who didn't know what agriculture was or how the laws apply to it. By all rights, he should have been the audience and the farmers should have been the panel of experts. In the end, however, it was a valuable exercise — because this is the type of bureaucrat farmers must often deal with. . . and they had better realize it and accept part of the responsibility for his ignorance.

On the same program was a real expert on Workers Compensation laws and an expert on handling hostile audiences. He reminded the irate farmers that HE did not make the laws — the legislature makes the laws, the Supreme Court interprets them (both bodies heavily influenced by labor), and that insurance companies had not "gotten off their duffs to do anything" to solve the problem. As an effective Grand Finale, he put the monkey back on the backs of his audience: "This is the year for Workers Compensation reform. If you don't like the way it is — lobby like hell to change it!"

Whether these farmers will handle that monkey on their backs or wait for someone to



do it for them remains to be seen. Certainly, the Farm Bureau policy gives them the ammunition they need to change things for the better. They have the structure; they have the knowledge; they have the professional staff; the "climate" is right — but will they be willing to get involved themselves? We'll see. . .

Among those who don't sit back and say "Let George (or Georgia) do it" are the Farm Bureau Women. They have accepted their share of the responsibility of educating the non-farm public by proclaiming April 30 as "Agriculture Understanding Day." Taking action to make it more than just another "Day," they are planning statewide activities to live up to the title, and they'll be enlisting your aid. They realize (do they ever!) that this is a busy time of year for farmers. . . but they also realize the importance of investing just a few hours to share the story of agriculture.

When they approach you, don't automatically say "No, I'm too busy." Give them your full support. The hour or two you invest could pay off in

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### About Our Cover

## Ag Understanding Day Set for April 30

What can one farmer do to promote an understanding of his industry? Robert Exelby, Clinton County Farm Bureau member, frequently welcomes children to his St. Johns sheep farm, where many enjoy their first opportunity to actually touch a baby lamb.

Although 2½ year old Kelly Elkins of DeWitt has a farming heritage (his great-grandmother has a sheep ranch in South Dakota), this was his first encounter with a farm animal — one he will obviously not soon forget. Like most young children today, he is generations removed from the farm and, except for farmers like Exelby, would grow up (perhaps to become one of those government decision-makers) unaware of the relationship between the wool in his coat and this baby lamb.

In an effort to bridge this "educational gap," Farm Bureau Women have taken the story of agriculture to the schools and the school children to the farm. Farm tours will be one of the

many activities undertaken throughout the state on "Agriculture Understanding Day" — April 30 — sponsored by the Farm Bureau Women.

"As a small four percent of the population, farmers desperately need the understanding and support of the non-farm public," said Vivian Lott, chairman of the Farm Bureau Women's Committee. "Most of the people who introduce legislation, those who interpret it and administer it, have no knowledge of the agricultural industry and how it is affected by these laws. This special day, with statewide efforts, gives us an opportunity to share our story."

The state women's committee is suggesting several projects to the county Farm Bureau women's committees including rural-urban meetings, flyers in supermarkets, appearances on radio and television talk shows, special classroom activities, farm tours, newspaper articles and exchanges with local and state public officials.

—Photo by Marcia Ditchie

**What One Farmer Can Do**

**New Ag Chairman Gets "Short Course"**

*"Getting to know him has laid my fears to rest..."*

*--Dave Peckens  
Livingston County  
Young Farmer*



Story by Donna Wilber  
Photos by Marcia Ditchie  
When the announcement was made that Representative George Cushingberry, Jr., a Detroit legislator and avowed consumer advocate, would be the new chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, the first reaction from Michigan's farming community was shock, and then anger.

Why, they asked, should a man who admittedly knew little about the industry be named to this important position? He did not endear himself to the state's farmers when he publicly stated he "belonged" to his Detroit constituents and hoped to carry on his "philosophy of urban politics."

Some agricultural groups were vocal in their displeasure with Cushingberry's appointment, calling it "a slap in the face." The Michigan Farm Bureau (contrary to widespread reports) did not issue a critical statement. The state's largest farm organization, in fact, announced Cushingberry's appointment to its 63,000 member families with its senior legislative counsel's analysis: "We have found him to be fair, reasonable and extremely capable."

Livingston County dairy and cash crops farmer, David Peckens, immediate past chairman of the Michigan Farm Bureau's Young Farmer Committee, and former member of the board of directors, decided there must be something constructive he could do about a political situation that had, indeed, become a fact of life for Michigan agriculture. If we can't have a farmer as chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, Dave thought, then he, as a farmer, had a responsibility to help the appointee become more familiar with agriculture and its special concerns and needs.

Dave credits MFB's involvement in AgriPac and the fact that his state representative was designated a candidate worthy of the organization's

*"...a positive step to better communications."*

*--Rep. Fred Dillingham  
51st District*

endorsement with Rep. Fred Dillingham's enthusiastic receptiveness to his "better idea" — an educational farm tour for Rep. Cushingberry. Rep. Dillingham's invitation to Rep. Cushingberry and the latter's acceptance to participate in a two-day show-and-tell exercise on February 9-10 signaled "all systems go" and the team effort was on.

That team included Dave, his Livingston County Extension agent, Duane Girbach, Rep. Dillingham's staff and a number of Livingston and Ingham county farm and agribusiness families.

Rep. Cushingberry's agricultural "short course" began at 5 a.m. (after a 24-hour day so he could fit the

farm tour into his schedule) Friday, February 9. Hardier members of the press were on hand to capture the Detroiters' reaction for the 6 a.m. first stop in 20 degrees below zero weather at the Kreeger Farm dairy operation in Fowlerville. Next was Klein Fertilizer in Fowlerville, and then the Harry and Bob Esch dairy farm near Fowlerville.

The entourage of press had grown by this time, with photographers jostling for good position to record the tall, stocking-capped legislator's obvious interest in his hosts' operations, and numbed fingers making a valiant effort to note his most colorful remarks — of which there were many.

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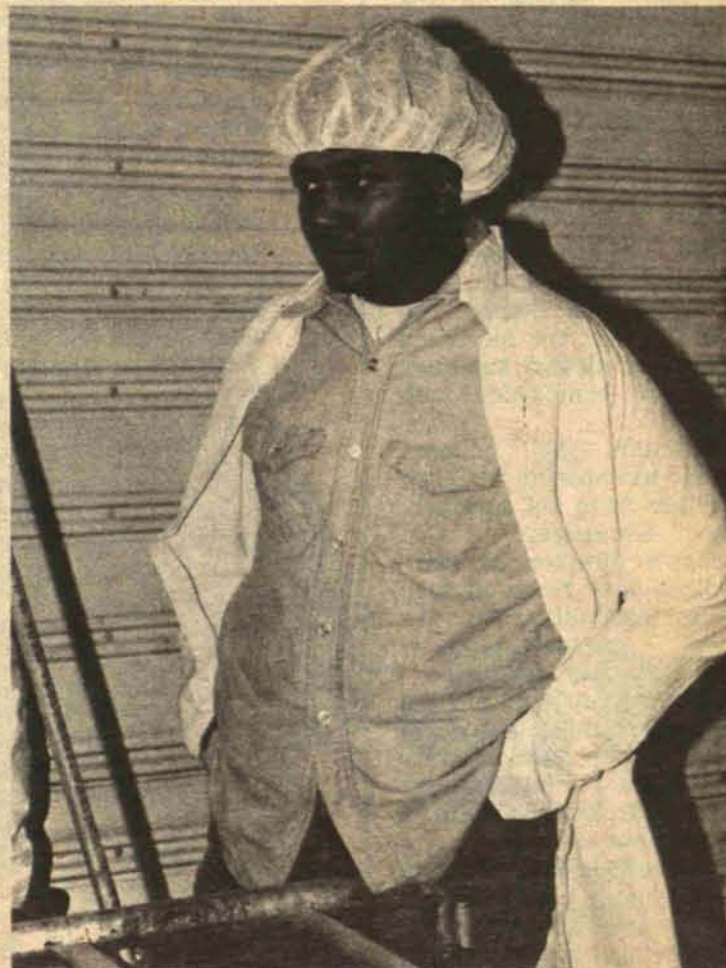
Roy DeGroot, manager of VernDale Farms near Gregory and Livingston County Farm Bureau's "distinguished young farmer," explains the 1600-head farrowing operation from birth to market.



The new chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, Rep. George Cushingberry, Jr., learns what goes on in the milking parlor of the Harry and Bob Esch dairy farm near Fowlerville.



Rep. Fred Dillingham (left) and Rep. Cushingberry (center) tell news media that they hope the legislative exchange program will build bridges of understanding between urban Detroit and rural outstate citizens.



Rep. Cushingberry, along with all other tour participants, had to don appropriate garb before entering the "nursery," where the 80 degree temperature was a welcome relief from the 20 degrees below zero weather outside.

# FPC Introduces Gasohol

By Paula Mohr

Gasohol, a nine: one blend of unleaded gasoline and ethanol alcohol, found a home in mid-Michigan gas pumps in late February. Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., a Michigan Farm Bureau affiliate, introduced the fuel at its Breckenridge cooperative with a grand opening held February 21-23. Governor William Milliken, Department of Agriculture Director Dean Pridgeon and Farm Bureau President Elton Smith were present for the ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

The decision to market the fuel extender to Michigan residents was not made in haste. Farmers Petroleum had been involved in gasohol developments with other regional cooperatives, such as Land O' Lakes, FS Services and Indiana Farm Bureau for about a year-and-a-half.

"We decided as soon as ethanol alcohol became available and as stations geared up for it, we would distribute it," Ben Hall, marketing director of Farmers Petroleum said.

Six thousand gallons of the alcohol did become available and was delivered to the Breckenridge outlet February 12. A new tank and new pump had been installed for the fuel. Selected area farmers field-tested the gasohol prior to the public sale.

"We plan to distribute alcohol to other Farmers Petroleum stations in the future," said Ron Sprinkel, vice president of Farmers Petroleum, adding that six more outlets would be selling gasohol in the next 30 days.

"We'll expand as fast as the alcohol supply allows," he said.

Hall said he believes alcohol suppliers in the U.S. are limited in number, so naturally with the increased demand for alcohol, suppliers would be bombarded with orders.

Although the gasohol market has opened, research activities have not subsided. Paul Kindinger, Farm Bureau's director of commodities and research said gasohol feasibility studies are being pursued more vigorously than before.

Farm Bureau and Farmers Petroleum, along with Ohio Farm Bureau, have become involved in a joint research project with Battelle Institute of Columbus, Ohio.

"We're also looking at other joint ventures," Sprinkel said, adding that he and Kindinger are planning to apply for federal alcohol research grants regarding gasohol projects.

Farmers Petroleum also had field-tested gasohol in

several company cars before selling it state-wide. But Sprinkel said the gasohol's performance reports were inconclusive.

"Mileage results weren't much different, and exhaust emissions were disputable," he said. "But the cars did have a higher engine performance level since gasohol posts approximately three points more octane."

Economics seem to be a stumbling block for some impeding gasohol marketing, Kindinger said.

"The big question, is, 'will people buy it?'" he said.

"We have to throw economics and feasibility aside," he continued. "We've used gasohol before and it has proven itself. We ought to be producing and selling it."

Kindinger and Sprinkel both agree gasohol is an emotional issue.

"Grain producers believe that grain alcohol is some sort of salvation for their product, and that it's good for agriculture," he said. It is in a sense, since it does create additional markets for Michigan grains, potatoes and sugar beets. "That's why we like the idea," he said.

Michigan Farm Bureau has

(Continued on Page 5)



Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., introduced agrihol for the first time in Michigan on February 16 at its Breckenridge Cooperative. Station attendant Gene Alvis pumps the first tank of agrihol with Breckenridge Co-op board president Kenneth Graham, Breckenridge manager Gene Felgenhauer, FPC department of energy and hardware Bill Rocky and FPC vice-president Ron Sprinkel standing by.

## Gasohol: An Energy Alternative?

Gasohol has had limited use as a fuel alternative in times of war and peace, therefore, the technology for its production is not new. The gasohol blend combines unleaded gasoline and ethanol alcohol in a 9:1 ratio to produce a high octane fuel.

Ethanol is a denatured alcohol distilled from a wide variety of agricultural products such as corn, wheat, potatoes, sugar beets, cheese whey and stored milk.

In the past, energetics and economics have prevented gasohol production and marketing from being pursued by petroleum companies and suppliers as a viable fuel alternative. Those considerations may still play a significant part in the general acceptance and availability of the blended fuel.

The potential for controversy lies in the fact that it takes more process energy to produce alcohol than is contained in the alcohol product. It takes energy to make energy, but the relative costs of processing vs. the energy potential of the product must be carefully weighed.

In the changing economic and environmental situation, the use of gasohol may very

well become an attractive fuel alternative.

Alcohol's higher octane content reduces engine knocking and releases less carbon monoxide into the atmosphere. Therefore, no known safety, social or environmental problems can be associated with its use as a component of the fuel blend.

In addition, faced with an increasingly dark forecast for reliable import oil supplies at reasonable prices, the U.S. consumer is confronted with the probability of reduced supplies of gasoline at significantly higher prices. To counter the undue influence of foreign oil suppliers, the use of the gasohol product could reduce our crude oil requirements. Agricultural products used to produce alcohol cannot solve the U.S. energy problem, but could provide significant contributions to relieving specific energy use pressures.

Since alcohol can be distilled from grains and other agricultural products, the raw materials to produce ethanol alcohol are renewable. In addition, new markets would open for farm produce surpluses.

Governmental actions have been supportive of the

gasohol fuel concept. Recent National Energy Act provisions excluded gasohol from the federal four-cent gasoline tax. Michigan legislators have recently introduced a bill that would repeal the state's gasoline tax. So the economic gap is being narrowed.

Countering arguments stress that the attractiveness of the use of grain alcohol depends too heavily upon government subsidies and the willingness of the business sector to make major capital expenditures required to change current gasoline handling methods. Some say that while gasohol prices would increase to \$1 a gallon, grain prices would have to remain at today's level for grain alcohol production to be economically feasible. More land and fertilizers would be needed than presently utilized by farmers, say opponents.

Gasohol's full potential cannot be foreseen until it is produced and marketed on a broader scale, but the increasing energy needs of the U.S. and the uncertainty of petroleum supplies in the future demand that every possible energy alternative be tested.

# ...Called Agrihol



Station attendant Gene Alvis and FPC's Bill Rockey watch the agrihol flow for the first time from an FPC co-op station pump in Breckenridge. Area farmers filled their tanks and field tested the agrihol prior to the February 21-23 grand opening. FPC will be selling the agri-fuel under the registered name of "agrihol." Agrihol derives its name from a nine: one blend of unleaded gasoline and ethanol (grain) alcohol. Agrihol sold for 81.9 cents during the field test sale.

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taken a strong position this year in promoting gasohol research. More important, Farm Bureau has emphasized the use of agricultural commodities in alcohol production.

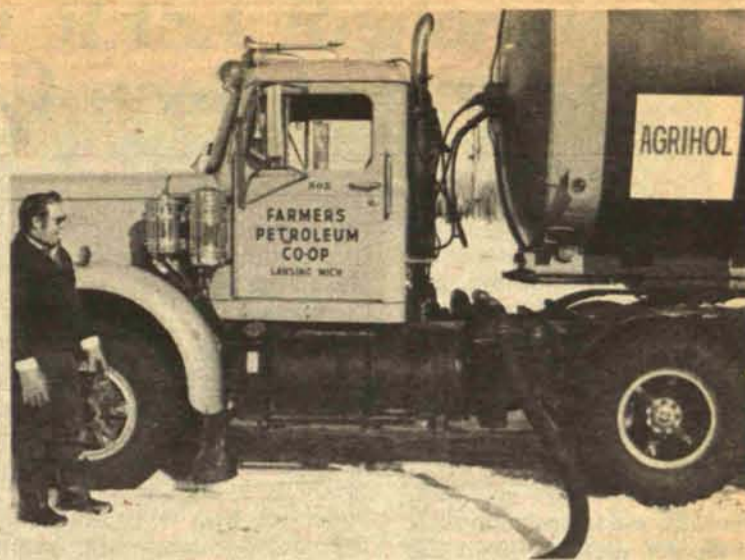
"These commodities are a renewable energy source and utilized as such would accomplish significant energy conservation of non-renewable resources," states the 1979 Farm Bureau policy position.

"Using agricultural products would also contribute to the economic stability of agriculture," it concluded.

Increasing gasoline prices and uncertain oil and coal reserves are hastening the exploration of new and the reviving of old energy sources. Gasohol offers one solution to the energy problem.

With the U.S.-Iranian oil situation and import oil limitations curtailing the country's fuel demand, it's time to explore gasohol's capabilities, Kindinger said.

"It will take a few years to prove gasohol to be a viable mixture but we shouldn't wait. Now is the time to move," he said.



FPC received 6000 gallons of ethanol alcohol, blended it with unleaded gasoline and delivered the fuel to its Breckenridge outlet on February 12. Six other Michigan FPC branches will distribute agrihol before the end of the month.

## AFBF "Distinguished Young Farmer"

### Blosses Say "Thanks"

Michigan Farm Bureau Members and Staff:

Now that we are home from Florida and catching our breath from such an eventful trip, we wish to express our gratitude for the opportunity we had in participating in the Young Farmers and Ranchers program and to see what the AFBF is like.

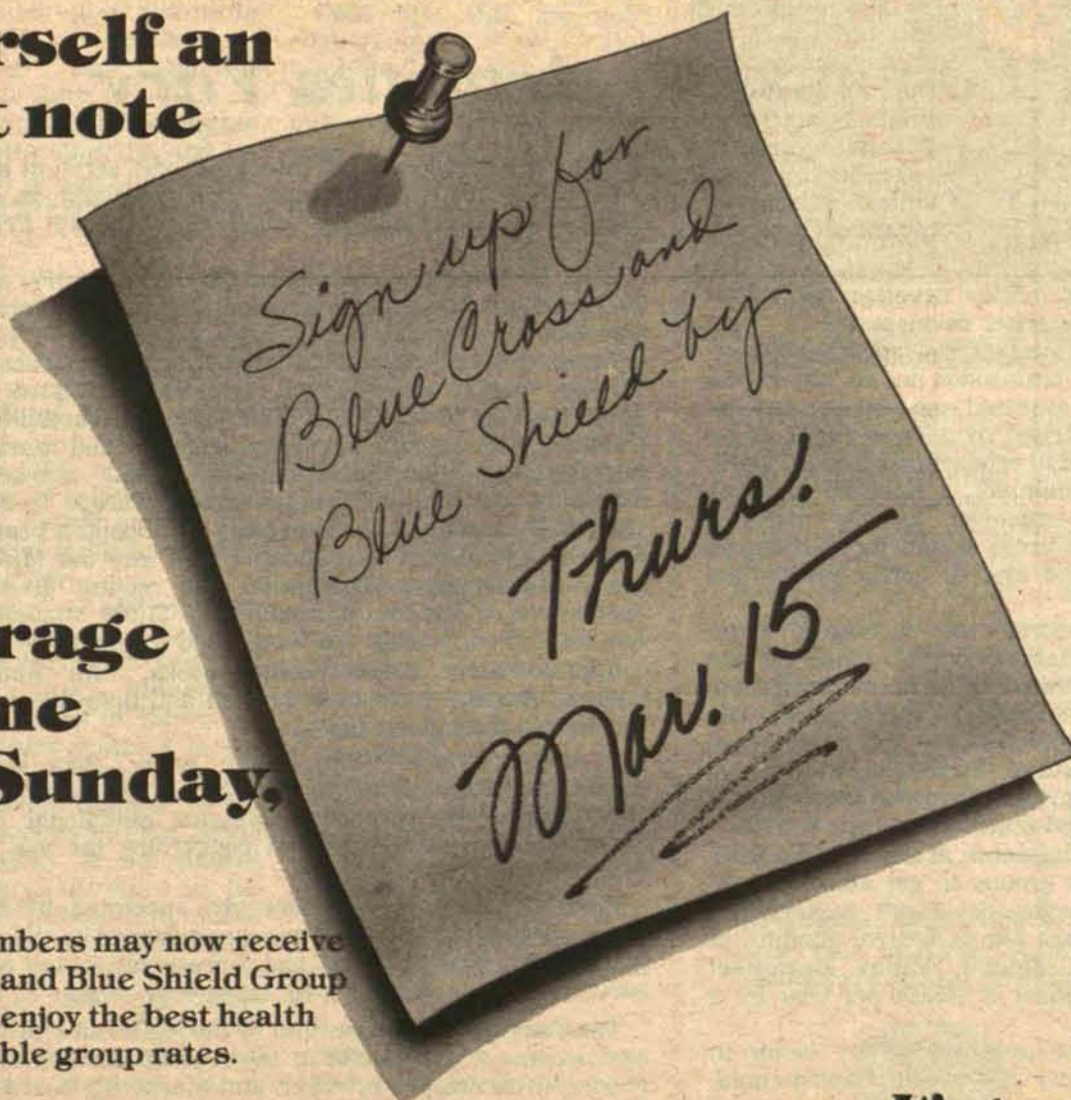
It was our pleasure to represent Michigan and to help others realize that Michigan is not all industrial and automotive. We realize there are many good farmers here that we, as a couple, represent... and we cherish the opportunity of knowing many of them through Michigan Farm Bureau.

Again, thanks to all who made it possible for the Blosses to achieve a "time to remember."

Roger and Linda

## Michigan Farm Bureau Members...

write yourself an important note today!



Your coverage will become effective Sunday, May 20

Eligible Farm Bureau members may now receive the benefits of Blue Cross and Blue Shield Group Coverage. Join today, and enjoy the best health care protection at reasonable group rates.



Blue Cross  
Blue Shield  
of Michigan

It's good to belong.

# Future of Bean Commission in Growers' Hands

By Paula Mohr

Michigan bean growers will be deciding the future of the Michigan Bean Commission with a referendum scheduled for February 28-March 17.

The question on the ballot is, "Should the Michigan Bean Commission be terminated?"  Yes  No

If the producers vote yes, the MBC will be terminated. If producers wish to retain the Commission, they must vote no.

A petition signed by 1509 dry edible bean growers requested the termination of the Bean Commission because they believe past commission legislative measures to be "un-constitutional."

The problem stems from legislation enacted with the 1977 bean crop. Assessment rates were raised from three-cents to five-cents per cwt, with the two-cent increase earmarked for domestic promotion.

At the same time, the escape clause written into the 1965 Bean Commission law was amended. The clause previously exempted non-participating growers from paying per cwt assessments. But the amendment changed the assessment option and made bean assessment payments mandatory.

However, a five-year referendum clause was also

added. This required a referendum to be held every five years and therefore placed the future of the Bean Commission in the grower's hands.

They were also given the right to petition for a referendum if a minimum number of 1500 bean producer's signatures were collected, with no more than 500 names coming from any one district.

A public hearing was held January 30 by the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) to discuss the upcoming referendum. Twenty-five people attended, representing bean growers, bean commissioners and Farm Bureau.

Lee Oxendale, one of three Eaton County bean growers who circulated petitions calling for the referendum, said he objects to the mandatory five-cent assessment and the two-cent increase.

"There wasn't any problem before with the voluntary act," he said, adding that bean growers never had a voice in the assessment increase. Growers desiring exemption filled out forms and were assigned exemption numbers that identified them as non-participating producers. Roughly 10 per cent of the growers exercised this right.

But Maynard Brownlee,

executive-secretary of the Bean Commission, explained later in a telephone interview, that the assessment increase was publicized in the bi-monthly Bean Commission News and a public hearing was held prior to the legislative - enacted action.

"The Bean Commission requested the two-cent raise because we (along with a majority of bean growers) needed more funds for domestic promotion. And that's where it has gone," he said.

The Bean Commission was also under pressure from bean producers to amend the exemption clause.

"Farmers saw some of their neighbors getting a 'free ride' and benefitting from product promotions and research, and they didn't think that was fair," he said. Therefore, a trade-off was instituted, resulting in mandatory assessments for growers with a five-year referendum included.

Several problems developed when the petitions were filed in March, 1978, with the MDA questioning the legality of the signatures gathered. MDA officials said several persons who signed the petitions were not bean producers and that more than 500 signatories were gathered from one district.

Another problem occurred when the assistant attorney

general told the MDA that people under 18 years of age could not sign the petition, Brownlee said.

It took an Eaton County court order to have the attorney general's decision appealed. The judge who reviewed the case said those under 18 could sign the petition, providing they were bean growers, Brownlee said.

"It was the MDA's decision to question the authenticity of the signatures, not ours," he said.

Brownlee said he believes district divisions to be another contributing factor to dissatisfied bean growers.

"Districts are not geographically the same size. They are divided and based on equal tonnage production," he said. "With sprawling districts, communication is difficult. I feel part of the problem is the feeling of isolation, of not being informed," he said.

Oxendale, along with Willard Mikesell, an attorney representing Oxendale and others in the Eaton County court case, were concerned with the publicity of the public hearing and the upcoming referendum. The hearing was publicized in only three newspapers, and by chance, they said they learned of the bean commission hearing.

"We want publicity and

expect those 1509 who signed petitions to receive ballots," Mikesell said, "adequate notice of the referendum should be given to all bean growers."

MDA was responsible for the public hearing's publicity and an official said notices were not required to be sent to every grower about it. The purpose of the hearing was to inform bean growers of the issues at hand, and that a referendum would be held regardless, the official said.

MDA also said ballots would be mailed to all bean growers prior to February 28, and would be available at all county extension offices and at the MDA.

Paul Kindinger, director of the Commodity Activities and Research Division of Michigan Farm Bureau, said Farm Bureau believes producers should exercise their right to petition for referendum and vote.

"We support the producer's right to promote the commodities that they produce," he said, adding that each grower must evaluate the cost of the Bean Commission's activities against the benefits they derive.

"We hope all growers take their responsibilities seriously and realize what is at stake," he said.

Brownlee said he believes most bean growers support the Bean Commission and its past marketing, research and educational activities.

## Bean Commission Activities Vary

By Paula Mohr

Basically, the Michigan Bean Commission has three purposes:

- 1) To support bean research to lower the cost of production,
- 2) To promote domestic market development, and
- 3) To promote foreign market development.

The nine-member Commission has spearheaded efforts to amend the Bean Commission law so that for the first time, shippers were assessed one-cent per cwt, an assessment which is matched by grower funds of an equal amount and directed to production research work.

As a result of this amendment, a full-time research agronomist has been employed as the industry representative to propose areas where more research and information is needed and to carry out in-field demonstrations.

The Commission supports the Michigan State University Experiment Station budget, which for the past six years, has resulted in a line item state appropriation of \$75,000 per year for the operation of a 120-acre Saginaw County research farm. The commission also owns one-quarter interest in the farm, which is leased to MSU to carry out research on the production of dry beans, sugar beets and other cash crops.

It supports and uses its influence at the national level in cooperation with other groups to get congressional action to provide funds for dry bean research in Michigan. This activity has led to federal funding of research work at the Saginaw Valley Bean-Beet Research Farm in the amount of \$45,000 per year for a five-year period.

A nation-wide promotion program of dry beans in major U.S. market areas has been implemented.

Promotions are conducted through media services and with major restaurant chains, with emphasis on so-called "fast food outlets," such as Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Also, the two-cent increase paid per cwt on the 1977 and 1978 crop has been solely directed at domestic market development work.

Growers have been brought into active participation in foreign market development and have assisted in programming foreign market development activities. Contacts with foreign importers, canners and market surveys help determine potential bean markets. Seminars are held in Michigan and in Europe to emphasize the quality and availability of Michigan beans. Since this is a joint effort with USDA and the Michigan Bean Shippers Association, the modest grower assessment invested (approximately \$7,000 annually) has multiplied in program funds used in this area.

Approximately 200,000 recipe books, "All About Cooking Beans," have been printed and distributed to consumers throughout the U.S.

A new brochure, "The Canny Bean," has been produced (100,000 copies) for distribution to restaurants and schools. The brochure contains nutritional information and useful material concerning the use of beans in the diet.

Bean Commission members are appointed by the governor from a list of bean growers provided by the six districts. Each district has one representative and can serve for a maximum of two, three-year terms.

The Commission was created by the legislature in 1965 and became active in 1966 at the request of state bean producers desiring a research and marketing board.

### MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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## Farmer Concerns Discussed at MASA Regionals



Ron Nelson, local affairs specialist for the Michigan Farm Bureau, and Trooper Robert Brandt of the Ypsilanti State Police post (right) spoke on "Rural Crime and your Legal Rights" at the Southeast regional MASA meeting held recently in Ann Arbor.



Members attending the MASA meeting also heard presentations on minimum wage, workers' compensation (see DONNA Column, Page 2) and farm safety. The series of regional meetings was held throughout the state during February.

## Youth Employment Act Could Affect Michigan

The Michigan Department of Labor is working on new standards regulating the employment of minors on farms.

The Michigan Youth Employment Standards Act, which went into effect June 1, 1978, regulates the employment of all minors under age 18 in Michigan. Though farm work for youths employed outside of school hours was exempted from this act, it remains under the control of the Michigan Department of Labor.

"Youth farm employment has been regulated so far by federal law. The regulations set by the Michigan Department of Labor will have to be at least as strict as the federal regulation," says Howard J. Doss, Michigan State University Extension

specialist in agricultural engineering.

Under federal law, minors under 16 years of age cannot be hired or permitted to do any jobs listed as hazardous. This includes operating tractors over 20 PTO horsepower, operating general machinery and handling toxic chemicals.

Work on a farm owned or operated by the youth's parent or legal guardian or work as part of a high school cooperative student-learner program is exempted from this federal law. Training certificates are available which allow youth employment for specific hazardous jobs.

"These training exemption certificates allow 14- and 15-year-olds to operate tractors over 20 PTO horsepower and

certain other machinery," Doss says. "They are available through either high school vocational agriculture programs or 4-H programs.

"In my opinion," says Doss, "these programs are valuable whether the individual works on his family's farm, the neighbor's farm or anywhere else."

Doss points out that many jobs do not fall under regulation. Included are loading and unloading hay bales, pruning Christmas trees, milking cows and clearing brush.

Doss says that the new regulations from the Michigan Department of Labor may allow only 18-year-olds to do hazardous jobs.

"This could be disastrous," he says. "We may lose a lot of

young people who would otherwise go into agriculture, just because they can't get the farm work experiences they need."

Michigan law requires that public hearings be held on the proposals. Times and locations of these hearings will be announced in the next

few months.

Information on federal regulations and 4-H programs may be obtained at county Cooperative Extension Service offices. Ask for "Youth Employment in Hazardous Jobs in Agriculture," Bulletin AEIS No. 315.

## MSU Offers Placement Training for Agricultural Tech Students

Placement training highlights an 18 month alternative approach to the more traditional four-year university course in agriculture offered by Michigan State University. MSU's Institute of Agricultural Technology offers a varied curriculum, including dairy, livestock, cash crops, fruit and vegetables, in its production agriculture program.

A typical term in this curriculum might include courses in farm management, communications, farm power and equipment, crops and soils, and the area of specialization.

Under the guidance of Ag Tech personnel, a student's program is carefully planned to correspond with individual

interests and career goals. Each plan is individualized to help the student correct any deficiencies in his-her chosen field of study.

Students attend classes from September to March in the first year and typically begin the placement training period in March.

Placement training is the heart of the Ag Tech program and exposes students to actual practices in their areas of speciality. If the student has a farm to return to, he/she may choose to fulfill placement training at home, however positions may be secured on farms and ranches throughout the country. Former students have held positions in Montana, Texas, Florida, Iowa, Indiana, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Ohio,

Pennsylvania, California and Michigan.

Students return to the MSU campus in September to complete their programs and graduate in March.

Ag Tech also offers opportunities in the areas of animal technology, elevator and farm supply, commercial floriculture, soil and chemical technology, landscape and nursery, power equipment technology, electrical technology, and turfgrass management.

For additional information concerning any of the 13 programs, contact:

Institute of Agricultural Technology  
120 Agriculture Hall  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI., 48823



## Look ahead this Spring

A good farmer we know says he'd be better off in the long run if he'd spend more time planning and less time doing things he's used to doing, even at planting and harvesting.

But humans are creatures of habit, who do things they're used to doing and find ways to avoid things they're not used to doing, even when the payoff can be so much greater.

Look ahead this spring. Make sure your plans are in order and your course is set. You'll be a much more effective manager that way.

Look to PCA for help. A line-of-credit from PCA puts money there when you need it so you can concentrate more on farming and less on borrowing. It's a lot easier to follow a plan, and the payoff is generally much greater that way.

### Michigan Production Credit Associations

Alma / Bay City / Grand Rapids / S.E. Michigan (Adrian) / Kalamazoo / Lansing / Sandusky / Traverse City



Farming is  
everybody's bread  
& butter.

# Elevator Operators to Appeal Citations--

By Connie Lawson, Marcia Ditchie,  
Mike Rogers, Donna Wilber

*(Editors' Note: Remember the MI-OSHA vs. country elevator controversy of last fall? At that time, protests from elevator operators and agricultural support organizations such as the Michigan Grain and Agri-Dealers Association and Farm Bureau Services, Inc., gained what appeared to be a reprieve. Even Governor Milliken, in his Co-op Month address, recognized the problem and promised to deal with it. Now, however, the wheels of administrative government are once again in motion.*

*Department of Labor administrative hearings on appeals of elevator inspection citations related to alleged violations of the National Electric Code will begin on April 4-5. The first of these hearings will likely be precedent-setting and establish legal arguments and documentation for subsequent hearings. Hearing dates for Farm Bureau Services cooperative elevators have not been determined at this writing, but are expected to be set for sometime this spring.*

*Michigan's elevator operators contend that the stringent interpretation of the National Electric Code by Michigan OSHA inspectors translates the regulations into a real financial back-breaker for the small rural businesses. Reports are that the average costs for bringing a single elevator operation in line with MI-OSHA demands could be \$80,000.*

*Farm Bureau members are encouraged to use the information in this special feature to respond knowledgeably to this current challenge.)*

Although Michigan Department of Labor officials insist that MI-OSHA's elevator inspection program has not put anyone out of business, the industry estimates that 60 percent of existing country elevators would shutdown as a result of continued enforcement of the National Electric Code, class II, division 1 standards. The National Electric Code, developed by an independent panel of experts, forms the basis for federal and Michigan OSHA program safety standards. Until last year, Michigan's country elevators operated under the less stringent Class II, division 2 requirements for electrical motors and wiring installation.

Following a series of grain elevator and terminal ex-

plosions in the southwest in late 1977, OSHA issued a hazard alert. In compliance with that alert, the director of the Dept. of Labor ordered an intensive elevator inspection program. The department also re-evaluated its NEC standard interpretation and determined that grain elevators in this state were primarily Class II, division 1. As a result of the new designation, over 200 elevators were cited by MI-OSHA inspectors.

Approximately 90 percent of the elevator operations cited in the inspections have entered appeals with the Department of Labor. Disagreement between state inspection officials and elevator operators centers around re-classification of country elevators and

disallowance of the widely-used TEFC (totally-enclosed, fan-cooled) U-frame, electric motors.

The controversy is further complicated by the fact that elevator operators contend the frame-structure, country elevator does not constitute a Class II, division 1 hazardous location and was properly classified under the division 2 standards. "There is a big difference between a concrete-and-steel terminal structure and the frame elevators that are prevalent in rural communities throughout the state," says James R. Suchodolski, safety committee chairman for the Michigan Grain and Agri-Dealers Association.

Department of Labor bureau chief, Bob Burns, agrees that frame elevators have more ventilation, but, using the criteria established for determining a Class II, division 1 area, Burns maintains that the department is interpreting the NEC standard correctly. "We have determined that in a grain elevator or storage elevator where there is an accumulation of  $\frac{1}{8}$ " of dust, at some time there would have been enough dust in the air to cause an explosion," explains the MI-OSHA official. "Where there is less than  $\frac{1}{8}$ " of accumulated dust, we classify that area as division 2."

Caledonia Farmers Cooperative board president, Bob Wenger, calls the MI-OSHA designations arbitrary and says there is no certainty that the Caledonia elevator can continue to operate under the division 1 standards. "I don't know how we could meet the codes; in some phases, yes, but some ser-

vices would be eliminated," he says. "When you try to meet the codes in an older building, it's almost prohibitive."

The Caledonia Co-op serves 1100 accounts in a 15-mile radius. Elevator closings in nearby Kent County communities have already been felt in the Caledonia operation. Wenger attributes Caledonia's increased elevator activity to elevator closings in Middleville and Hastings. "Farmers in this area really need their elevator. That's why I'm committed to appealing these citations and even going into Circuit Court," says Wenger. "Compared to the cost of renovation, court costs would be 'chicken feed.'"

The Department of Labor recognizes the problems faced by elevator operators claims MI-OSHA administrator, Bob Burns. Enforcement of NEC standards have not been accompanied by fines against elevator operations and Burns offers assurances that the Department of Labor is willing to work with the industry. "We have made sure they (elevator operators) are aware of their appeal rights and if our position is upheld, we'll give them all the leeway we can."

Burns points to options within the appeals process that can provide some recourse for elevator operators to ease compliance. "We give six months after the citation (for compliance) and the hearings judge will give them the same amount of time. The department will also grant extensions upon request.

According to James R. Suchodolski, safety committee chairman for the Michigan Grain and Agri-Dealers Association, "The Department of Labor has locked themselves into a policy position by adopting these NEC standards and they are asking this industry to toss out 15-20 million dollars in equipment because they think it may cause an accident.

"Our experience with both types of motors has shown more failures with the T-frame motor than the TEFC U-frame. In fact, the TEFC U-frame has a lower heat rise than a T-frame explosion proof motor," says Suchodolski. He indicates that in 62 percent of the explosions which have occurred, no known cause has been identified; of the remaining 38 percent, only 6 percent could be related to electrical causes. Based upon these reports, Suchodolski charges that the federal and state OSHA officials have a responsibility to conduct further investigation into the potential hazard of TEFC motors before they are banned from division 1 locations.

"If the first hearing decision is rendered in our favor, the elevators have the right to appeal to Circuit Court, but if they decide to accept the decision, then some of the elevator operators could begin to formulate a phased plan. At their hearing, they could present such a plan for compliance to the hearings officer and there is a good possibility that it would be accepted if it was not unrealistic."

## Scientist Studies Elevator Explosions

A scientist from Kansas State University, the center for grain explosion research in the United States, says that the current furor over electric motors may be drawing attention away from the real safety problems of the country elevator.

Dr. Robert Schoeff, the extension state leader in grains science and industry programs in Kansas, says that "we feel there are many others areas that deserve much more attention than electric motors in terms of improving the safety of our elevators."

Dr. Schoeff has been studying grain elevator explosions for the past five years and helped put together a slide-tape on elevator explosions that is used all over the world. "Regardless of the construction of the elevator -- wood, concrete or steel -- dust is the risk factor," he says. "There have been three elevator explosions in

Nebraska in the past three months, and there is no indication that electric motors were factors in any of the incidents."

A small country elevator, he says, is vulnerable to a dust explosion primarily because of poor house-keeping.

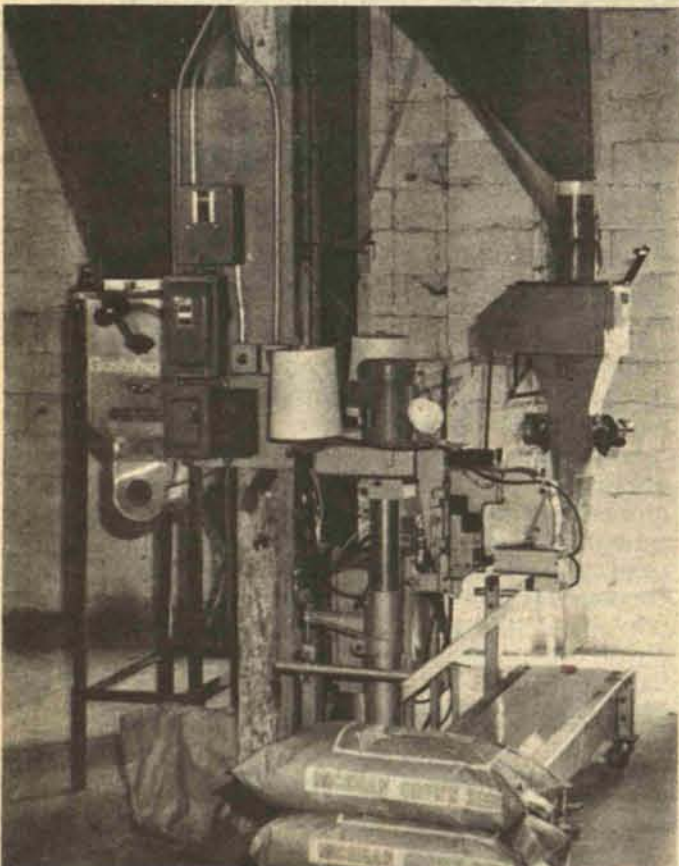
"It's been our observation that there has probably been too much emphasis placed on the type of electrical facilities, particularly as it relates to motors," Dr. Schoeff says. "Now there's no question that you must have a safe motor that is reasonably dust free and can't overheat and cause a fire which in turn would cause a dust explosion. But I'm not aware of very many cases where it's been documented that an electric motor has been the cause of a dust explosion."

Dr. Schoeff was asked if safety inspectors seem to be focusing on electric motors partly because of the ease of

inspection. "That appears to be the pattern as I've followed it in several states and in some instances here in Kansas," he says. "One reason is because it's very easy for the inspector to come in, rub the dust off the plate on the motor and cite you if you don't have the correct label. These motors are very visible." He added that the focus on electric motors "is unfortunate because there is no question that we have some problems and we can improve our safety."

Dr. Schoeff said that the best safety measure is not allowing dust to accumulate. Dust ignites in a secondary explosion, and "it's the second and third explosions that do all the damage."

Good housekeeping and emphasis on safety may also help certain areas of an elevator keep a Class II, division 2 classification, he noted.



Good housekeeping practices and an on-going employee safety training program will help protect lives and elevator property, experts agree.



## "Regulation is Getting Out of Hand"

"We are going to have to go to our legislators and senators and get a petition circulating to lay-off. There is too much pressure for what's going on here and I think we're going to have to go to higher people to slow this thing down -- it's getting out of hand." This was the analysis of Ron VanTol, president of the Advisory Committee for the Farm Bureau Services' Pinconning Plant, regarding MI-OSHA's electrical citation campaign against Michigan's country elevators. VanTol is also a cash crop farmer, farming 625 acres near Pinconning.

On April 4-5 a hearing will be held before an administrative judge regarding citations for violations on electrical motors, switches and wiring against the West Mac Elevator in Newaygo. Reliable sources in the Michigan Grain and Agri Dealers Association see this case as potentially setting a precedent regarding all country elevators in Michigan being forced to make capital expenditures ranging from \$3,000 to over \$100,000 to bring them in compliance with the National Electrical Code, the basis on which MI-OSHA inspectors say they are citing the elevators.

Should the West Mac case become precedent for all elevators, the estimated cost for making corrections on the Pinconning plant would total near \$100,000. VanTol was asked how this cost would affect him as a producer.

"This will cost the elevator patron a lot of money and in the long run, it might cost the loss of the elevator. Consumers are going to pay for it, too, because prices are going to go up; everything's going to go up because we will be paying for something that's unnecessary."

Additionally, should the West Mac case set a precedent, estimates are that as many as 60 percent of the state's country elevators would be forced to close because of lack of funds to make these electrical corrections. The farmers who use the local elevators would be the ones hurt the most by a cutback in services and VanTol explains why. "We would have to transport our crops longer distances, maybe 50-100 miles and this will cost more. We would be limited even on what we could raise because not every farmer can transport his crops a longer distance. We need a local service."

If farmers are forced to transport their crops further distances because local services are cut back, VanTol foresees an even greater safety hazard than that which MI-OSHA has already been citing. "The safety of transporting crops these long distances is important. There would be more farm vehicles on the road and the remaining elevators would be forced to pick up the slack, working harder and longer hours. Many farm vehicles are set up for local distances and it is not justified to have to haul

our commodities such long distances when we have local services. Why take this elevator out of business for, in my feelings, some unnecessary judgments?"

Last summer, the Pinconning plant was cited for nearly 100 violations in electrical "deficiencies" -- motors, because they weren't labeled properly, conduits and lighting. Since that time, the plant has had a couple informal hearings in Lansing on the citations and some have been abated, such as the outside motors. Plant manager Edsel Brewer explained a problem area that still exists, however. "Our problems here come in the areas of totally enclosed motors and electrical, and those areas for which we feel we are unjustly cited. We may have to go to court to get the law changed because we feel that totally enclosed motors do not present a hazard to the industry." The next step for the Pinconning plant is a formal hearing in June with the Department of Labor.

Ironically, the Pinconning plant will be receiving a safety award from Farm Bureau Services later this month. Brewer was asked what this award means to him and the employees of the plant. "I feel it is a real honor to receive this award. It gives us a feeling of pride. We have taken a lot of effort and have stressed safety."

Brewer explained the safety programs that were conducted by the plant and



Regulatory pressures are threatening local elevator services, say Ron Van Tol (left) and Edsel Brewer (right) of Farm Bureau Services' Pinconning plant. Farmers who use the local elevators would be the ones hurt the most by a cutback in services, they say.

his employees in order to win this award. "We have a safety committee meeting every month and this committee brings to our attention any possible hazards. We take action immediately to correct them and if it deals with an expenditure, we see that the money is appropriated. We have a system of check-out at night to see that all power is off and we have a housekeeping program where each employee is responsible for a certain area in the plant.

"We had a meeting with the fire department, getting them familiar with our plant in case of a fire or explosion and we went over a disaster

procedure with them and our employees. Last year we did not have any accidents that caused a loss of time for our employees a record we are very proud of, too."

Because of no loss of time due to accidents, Brewer was asked if he felt MI-OSHA was over-stepping their boundaries in citing the plant. "Yes, MI-OSHA has taken credit for a 15 percent reduction in accidents, themselves. I think that we have probably done more within our organization to make this accident rate drop than MI-OSHA. Many of the things that MI-OSHA has cited us for are not the things that cause accidents."

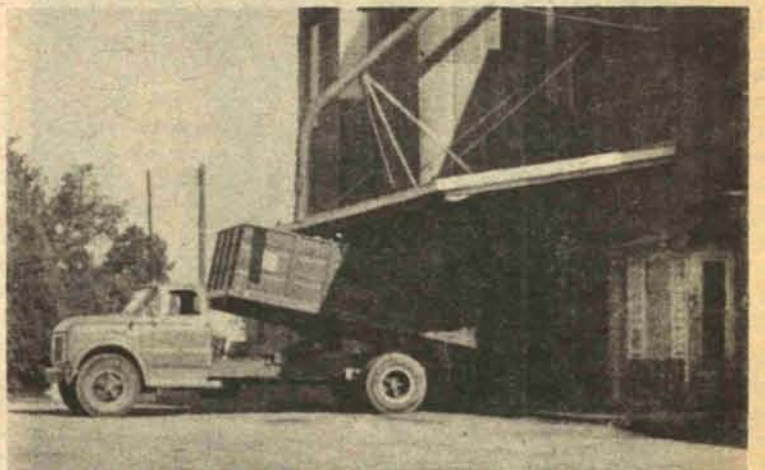
### MAFC Council Pledges Support

## Elevator Closings Would Affect All of Agricultural Industry

Members of the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives administrative council, recognizing that the future viability of their local co-ops is important to the entire agricultural industry, have pledged their support to the Michigan Grain and Agri-Dealers Association in its efforts against MI-OSHA's "regulatory overkill."

Stan Sherman, executive vice president of the Michigan Grain and Agri-Dealers Association, predicts that if MI-OSHA wins this current "battle," 60 percent of the state's elevators would be forced to close because they would be financially unable to meet the standards.

At a recent MAFC council meeting at Farm Bureau Center in Lansing, members agreed that these closings would affect other than just grain farmers. Dave Morris of Grand Ledge, president of the Michigan Live Stock Exchange, explained: "To



livestock farmers, our need of the local co-ops to serve us is just as vital as the gas station to the traveler or the supermarket to the homemaker. We use our local elevators for supplies, not only for our general farming, but livestock production as well."

Morris believes that many of the regulations and standards which are set forth

are not always the intent of the law that created MI-OSHA, and that a degree of harassment against elevator operators does exist.

"It certainly appears that MI-OSHA is looking for problems that do not exist. In most small elevators, the owner is involved in the actual operation himself and so it's not a case of him being far

(Continued on Page 21)

## Where to Write

As indicated by cooperative leaders, elevator operators, and their respective boards of directors, rigid enforcement of the MI-OSHA electrical standards could have a negative effect upon the availability of elevator services to farmers.

If you are concerned, too, about the impact of reduced or lost local elevator services on your farming operation show those concerns with the OSHA/MI-OSHA agency administrators.

Listed below are names and addresses of key people to whom you may direct your comments regarding the OSHA/MI-OSHA safety standards for electrical motors and installations:

Barbara Bryant, Chief  
Division of State Plans - Eastern  
OSHA - U.S. Department of Labor  
3rd at Constitution, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20210

Ron McCann, Director  
OSHA Region  
U.S. Department of Labor  
230 South Dearborn St., 32nd Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Patrick Babcock, Director  
Michigan Department of Labor  
309 North Washington Avenue  
Lansing, Michigan

# CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith

## Taxation--Wetlands--Gasohol--PBB Testing

### TAXATION

The House Taxation Committee has voted out two bills (H.B. 4076 and H.B. 4077), for floor consideration. They would, among other things, exempt electricity, gas and steam from sales and use taxes. The committee also has under consideration major changes in taxation policy. H.B. 475 would increase the income tax from the present 4.6 percent to 5.6 percent. The personal exemption would be raised from \$1500 to \$1800. The "Circuit Breaker" property tax relief program could then be changed from 60 percent to perhaps 75 percent and more state aid could be available for schools. Farm Bureau policy points out that the present \$1200 limit on the "Circuit Breaker" should be

raised to at least match inflation costs.

### WETLANDS

This proposed legislation is extremely important to farmers. It is also very controversial. Farm Bureau has testified before both the House and Senate committees to oppose any restrictions on farmers other than those already required by federal law as enforced by the Corp. of Engineers. Farm Bureau has stated that farmers must be permitted to construct and maintain tile and drainage ditches on land used for farm production.

One publication stated that "the strongest opponent of the bill was the Michigan Farm Bureau which feared that normal drainage of field crops would be prohibited." The House Conservation

Committee chairman, Rep. Anderson, arranged a special meeting with Farm Bureau, the oil industry and others to try to solve the objections.

### GASOHOL - Farmers Petroleum Co-Op

A Farm Bureau affiliate has received wide radio, newspaper and T.V. publicity for being the first to introduce gasohol in Michigan. Ethanol alcohol, distilled from agricultural crops such as corn, sugar beets and other grains is blended with unleaded gasoline in a 9 to 1 ratio to make gasohol.

Three bills concerning gasohol have been introduced in the Legislature. H.B. 4001 provides for a study of the feasibility of the use of alcohol in internal combustion engines and to promote its use if found

practical. S.B. 9 would require state owned vehicles to use gasohol for study purposes. S.B. 10 would eliminate the state fuel tax on gasohol. Congress has already eliminated the federal tax for this purpose.

Farm Bureau supports this legislation in order to make the cost of gasohol competitive with regular no-lead gasoline.

As the price of oil continues to increase, it is possible that many farm produced commodities can be used for fuel.

### PBB TESTING

On January 30 the Attorney General ruled that the provision in the law permitting exemption from testing by resolution of the Legislature is unconstitutional. As a result no further exemptions will be

permitted until the law is amended by the Legislature.

Two bills have been introduced, S.B. 67 by Senator Allen and H.B. 4107 by Representative Hoffman, to put into the law specific exemption procedures.

More than 2/3 of Michigan's herds have been exempted from further testing. The Upper Peninsula, Ionia, Clinton, and Lapeer counties have been exempted by resolution. Since last October other herds became exempt when 15 percent of the herd had been tested and found clean.

Lansing

## MFB Policies Presented



Speaker of the House of Representatives, Bobby Crimm (D-Davison), right, receives a copy of the Michigan Farm Bureau 1979 policy booklet on state issues from MFB Legislative Counsel Robert E. Smith. Discussion included areas of concern to the agricultural community such as budget, natural resources, land use, wetlands, wilderness areas, energy, labor issues, taxation, education, transportation, health, rural crime, etc.

## Inheritance Tax Bill Signed



Governor Milliken signs into law S 1447 which amends Michigan's Inheritance Tax to be compatible with the new Federal Estate Tax which has been reported in Michigan Farm News. Those witnessing the signing are (left to right) Representative Quincy Hoffman; Farm Bureau Senior Legislative Counsel, Robert E. Smith; Bob Craig, DNR Technician; Senator Gary Corbin; Representative Stanley Powell; and Karl Hosford, DNR. The new law will be known as the Gary Corbin - Quincy Hoffman Act, as these two legislators were leaders in helping to pass it through the Legislature.

## Governor Presents Budget to State Legislature

Governor Milliken has presented his 1980 budget of \$9.48 billion to the Michigan Legislature. Of this amount, 48 percent will go to local governments, twenty-six percent will be for individual citizen programs, 1 percent for debt service, 4 percent for capital outlay and 21 percent for the administration and operation of all facets of state government. This is an over 9 percent increase over the 1979 budget. It's interesting to note that such a large percentage of the total state budget goes back to local governments.

The total state budget is actually divided into two budgets. The General Fund or General Purpose budget is projected to be \$4.58 billion. This is the portion of budget that the Legislature controls by appropriations. The other

4.9 billion dollars making up the total state budget are earmarked funds such as the portion of sales tax and other taxes that go to schools automatically, gas and weight taxes that are earmarked for road and highway purposes and several other expenditures that are controlled by a constitutional requirement or otherwise not controlled by legislative action.

As promised, the budget does not rely on any increase in taxes but does assume that the Legislature will back a highly controversial proposal to give the state's employees a smaller pay increase than they are presently expecting to receive. This is unlikely as the pay increase cut is very controversial and would require a 2/3 vote of the Legislature. It is noted that

the proposed budget is about \$270 million below the tax limitation limit voted by the people at the November election. It is based on an inflation rate of 6.9 percent and, it is said, reflects the anticipated economic slowdown.

It is estimated that the Budget Stabilization Fund or "rainy day" fund will not have any additional set-asides this year. It is expected the fund will contain about \$235 million by September 30, 1979 and \$250 million dollars by September of 1980. It has been projected that present income taxes will produce an over 12 percent increase in revenue and other taxes. For example, consumption taxes may rise by 7.3 percent; the revenue from the Single Business Tax is expected to

(Continued on Page 18)



MFB President Elton R. Smith (right) and Vice President Jack Laurie (left) were present for the official presentation of the 1979 policies to Governor Milliken.

# NATIONAL NOTES

## Bergland Reports on "State of Agriculture"

USDA Secretary Bob Bergland delivered his state of agriculture address recently to the House Agriculture Committee recently.

The combination of farm and off-farm earnings made 1978 a record total income year. For all major regions of the country, farm incomes were higher and most farms shared in the improved prosperity.

Bergland said that "Despite general and widespread economic progress in agriculture, there remained individual farm operators in every region of the country who did not fare well in 1978."

"Nevertheless," he continued, "in virtually every respect 1978 was a substantially better year for American agriculture."

In his testimony before the Committee, Bergland emphasized these highlights for 1978:

- Farmers produced larger food and record feed crops.
- Volume of exports rose 18 percent to 125 million metric tons.
- Farm prices rose 25 percent.
- Net farm income totaled \$28.1 billion.
- Value of farm real estate rose nearly 12 percent.

-Value of farm animals increased 34 percent.

-Farm machinery values rose 8 percent.

-Farmers are worth 11 percent more than last year.

Bergland foresees 1979 as another good year, but said we must be cautious. No one can accurately predict weather patterns or know the outcome of global economic developments.

## Set-Aside Sign-ups Announced

Ray Fitzgerald, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, has announced a sign-up period for the 1979 feed grain and wheat set-aside programs.

On Feb. 15 to April 30, the sign-ups will be held in county ASCS offices.

Producers may certify their fall seeded crops (barley and winter wheat) during sign-up eliminating a second trip, Fitzgerald said.

"Farmers should consider taking advantage of a premeasurement service before planting to guarantee the size of their fields," said Fitzgerald.

## Ag Research Cut in Carter Budget

### President Recommends Elimination of Dry Bean Research Program

Dr. Sylvan Wittwer, the director of the Michigan State University Agricultural Experiment Station, has criticized a proposed cutback in federal funds for agricultural research.

In the federal budget that President Carter presented to Congress, funds for agricultural research have been cut by 4 percent. Wittwer said that federal funds make up about 15 percent of MSU's agricultural research budget, and a 4 percent cut in funds will translate into a loss of about \$1 million over two years.

"This comes as a shock because there was no increase in research funds last year either, while inflation continues," Wittwer said. "The cut will have a serious impact, and the only way we can manage is through a reduced outlay for operations."

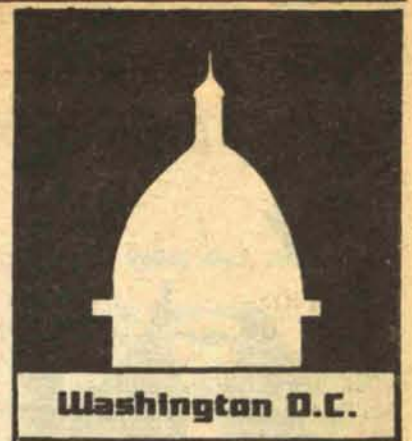
Wittwer said that the agricultural experiment stations will have to reduce overall personnel, and won't be able to improve equipment or facilities. "This is where it will hurt," he said. "We'll continue to use antiquated

equipment and archaic facilities that have not been upgraded for 15 years."

President Carter's budget also recommends that funding for the dry bean research program in Michigan be eliminated. This cut in funding is part of the budget recommendation that redirects agricultural research monies away from single commodity programs, and towards research on such things as nutrition, energy, pollution and nonchemical pest control.

Dick Leach, Jr., a bean grower from Saginaw and chairman of the Michigan Farm Bureau dry bean advisory committee, said that "the price picture for dry beans right now is depressing. We need that research money so we can find ways to grow beans more efficiently. The research program is tremendously important, and I'm upset that farmers are being forced to shoulder the burden of budget cuts."

Leach said he hoped that Congress would restore the research money.



## Farmland Gains More Protection

Important farmlands gained further protection with the state's Farmers Home Administration's new loan policy. FHA loans will only go to support "appropriate" planned growth. Projects which unnecessarily convert agricultural, timber and swamp lands will be exempt from receiving loans, the policy states.

Michigan is currently losing an estimated 200,000 acres of cropland each year, due in part to FHA loans granted to home construction, sewers, business and industrial projects.

"The new FHA policy in Michigan is consistent with the overall goal of preserving land," Robert Mitchell, director of FHA said recently, "and it is a statement of our commitment to the revitalization and improvement of our existing cities."

## A Word From Washington

By Pete Hively  
AFBF Washington Office

### Farmers' "Good Guy" Image Slipping

(Editor's Note: On February 8, about 100 American Agriculture Movement members forced their way into the Washington Office of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Furniture was overturned, carpeting burned, a

large plant thrown from the seventh story window, and AAM stickers pasted on the walls. Pete Hively, AFBF staff member, had these editorial comments on the incident.)

demonstrators like to think of these events as "free publicity." Perhaps Walter Cronkite will mention their name, or the NEW YORK TIMES will run their picture.

But in the cruel world of facts and figures, nothing is free, not even a mention on the evening news. The costs are difficult to measure, but they are being steadily compiled in dozens of different ways.

The simplest totals to try and understand are damages to property. Dirty walls are repainted and burned carpets are replaced. The property owner who happened to get in the way of this exercise in free speech foots those bills.

Out in the public arena, there are blocks of torn up sod and knocked down trees. The park service will make the repairs and the taxpayer will pay the tab, conservatively estimated at a half million dollars for the farmers tractorcade alone.

Other costs are harder to assess. Extra police are brought in to handle traffic and protect

public buildings, and they must be paid. Vehicles are damaged and must be replaced, and mountains of official reports will swirl into the bureaucracies of the city of Washington to be absorbed into a dozen different budgets. Some officials set the cost at a million dollars a day for the tractorcade.

Most difficult of all to assess is the damage to reputations. In the tractorcade, many now worry about the damage to the reputation of all the nation's farmers.

Polster Leon Shapiro regularly checks the country's attitudes toward farmers. A year ago, we were perceived as hard working and the backbone of the nation. But a check after the demonstrations of a year ago showed a perceptible slide in that "good guy" figure. . . a slide that Shapiro says can doubtless be attributed in large part to militant farmer protests.

This changing attitude was indirectly discussed by Dr. Patricia Edmister, on television.

She warned that children, taught to respect the farmer, are likely to be confused by his participation in violent acts of civil disobedience. She said they will probably put two and two together and decide the best way to get something they want is through a temper tantrum. She concluded that adults who get their way through displays of force can expect to reap a harvest of the same kind of treatment from their children.

Demonstrations have been with us for a long time. The farmers of the Constitution wanted guarantees of free assembly and the right to petition the government. They had no way of foreseeing the magnitude these protests might reach when richly fertilized by television. Nor could they foresee the costs in dollars and reputations.

As demonstrating farmers move toward their goals, they should carefully assess those costs and be prepared to accept the bill when it comes due.

### Demonstrations Cited as Cause

During the turmoil of the Vietnam protests, someone changed the name of civil disobedience to "the politics of confrontation." Under that new title, this kind of politics is flourishing.

Washington is a city battered by all kinds of issues. It has seen students for and against the Shah slugging it out in the streets. Maoists shouting on the White House lawn, Taiwan supporters marching outside the gates, and the tractors of protesting farmers splashing through the reflecting pool.

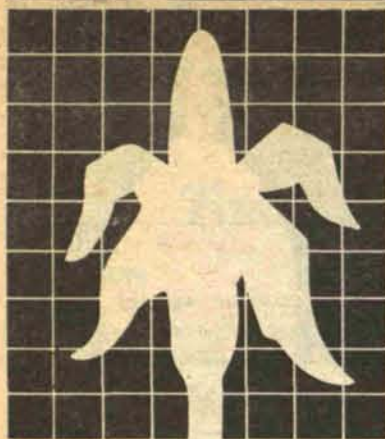
All of these events have a single purpose — and no one should be confused about that purpose. Under the guidelines of this confrontation politics,

demonstrations are not outpourings of emotion by anxious citizens. Spontaneity died shortly after the invention of television.

Protests of today are well planned, well advertised, and carefully coordinated events.

When the farmers left their tractors to storm the offices of the American Farm Bureau during the first week of their protest, they brought with them a coterie of reporters and cameramen. There was no benefit to be derived from frightening secretaries and sticking bumper stickers on the walls. The benefit was to come from the images projected that night on television.

With all protests, the



# Marketing Outlook



## Juice Apple Market to Improve

By Ken Nye

Commodity Specialist

Several important changes have occurred during the last year or two which have greatly improved the apple outlook in the future.

One very noticeable change is the strong sale of apple juice and cider, which has created increased demand for juice apples. This segment of the industry is extremely important to Michigan growers and processors as it makes up approximately 50 percent of our processing apple market and about 25-30 percent of the entire apple market.

The tremendous growth in

the juice market can largely be attributed to the improved quality of today's product. Better growing and handling technology has vastly improved both the quality and uniformity of apple juice. This should not be sacrificed now that we have a growing market. The consuming public's demand for a consistent quality product cannot be overlooked. Today's desire for a "natural" product has also improved the juice market.

In response to this growing market segment, some growers have shown an interest in planting and-or growing blocks of apples for

juice only. The emphasis would be a quantity of fruit and not quality. While this may be an attractive alternative for some orchards, it may be doubtful that this practice could be used on a long-term basis. If orchards are planted with only juice markets in mind, we must remember that today's conditions could quickly change.

The juice apple market offers great potential. But, we must not forget that quality improvements must be maintained and planting intentions should always include a careful regard for the proper orchard site.

## Four More Counties Eligible for Aid

Governor William G. Milliken announced recently that Allegan, Gratiot, Kalkaska and Macomb counties have become eligible for Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster aid as a result of extensive crop losses and damage last year due to droughts and storms.

Nine Michigan counties previously had been declared disaster areas, making them eligible for low-interest loans from the SBA.

State officials estimated that a tornado in Allegan County affected 20 farms and

caused more than \$141,800 in damage last summer, while drought caused more than \$16 million in damage in Gratiot, Kalkaska and Macomb counties.

Officials said 2,700 farms in Gratiot County suffered damages amounting to \$13.4 million due to drought from January through September; 180 farms in Kalkaska County had losses of \$666,150 due to drought from June through August; and 400 farms in Macomb County experienced more than \$2.3 million in damages due to drought from April through September and a severe hail storm on July 26.

## Part VI: Government



## ANATOMY OF A PRICE

By: Dr. Paul Kindinger  
Director  
Commodity Activities and  
Research Division  
Michigan Farm Bureau

During the past several months we have explored many of the traditional "market" forces that go into establishing a price. We have examined various aspects of supply, demand, and competition. There is, however, one more important consideration in the price discovery process: the role of government.

The fundamental economic principle of the United States and our free enterprise system provides that the most desired economic unit should be operated by individual, private, competitive enterprises. The results of such individual efforts and private organization would provide the maximum economic good for all. Embodied in this principle is the assumption that private, competitive business would be self-sustaining "if" government would just leave things alone.

Situations have arisen, however, in which the market price does not provide a sufficient incentive to bring about economic adjustments at a "socially desired rate." Thus, over a period of time a variety of governmental programs have been implemented to influence the behavior of market prices and trade.

There are numerous instances where laws have been passed by legislative bodies, interpreted by the courts and carried out or enforced by various administrative agencies. Some of them have the effect of accelerating change, while others retard it. Some serve to stabilize market prices, while others cause modifications of product flows. Most laws and regulations usually restrict the freedom of action of some groups so that others will have more. The end result of such programs is usually an alteration of the result that would have been achieved by only market forces.

A critical policy and economic question thus becomes: What is the optimal mix of traditional market and governmental programs in the price determination process? How much regulation, for instance, is necessary in the trucking industry or in the automobile manufacturing industry or in the food industry? There may be a place for governmental regulations or laws in these areas. Such decisions, however, are normally decided in the political arena where considerations of economic efficiency, profit maximization or cost minimization may become merely secondary issues.

Sometimes it is not the law or regulation itself that is a cause of concern, but the manner in which it is administered. Similarly, certain laws or regulations

outgrow their usefulness. Our society is dynamic in nature, ever changing and adjusting, and laws are designed only to meet a specific problem or situation at a given time.

In last month's discussion of competition, it was pointed out that the changing structure of our economy will probably invite additional governmental intervention into the price determination process. As the unhindered operation of supply and demand becomes more difficult and impractical, our society quite often looks toward new methods of adjusting economic activity. Such solutions are usually second best or non-optimal in an economic sense. And all too often the economic impact of public policy solutions is ignored when making decisions that can affect the lives and livelihood of many people. Take the example of a new regulation restricting the ability of a petroleum company to drill for oil in a certain area. Such regulations generally require only that an environmental impact statement be filed before a permit or permission to drill in the affected area is granted. The environmental statement is often the only rationale used in making the final determination. Where does economics fit into the decision? What about an economic impact statement?

While neither economics or politics should overshadow the other, a more reasonable balance must be attained. The public should have the benefit of both political and economic consequences before a policy course is charted. After all, public policy often creates new laws or regulations that ultimately have an impact on how the traditional market forces operate.

It is evident that governmental programs do affect the price we pay for nearly all the goods and services we purchase. It is highly unlikely that the United States will ever have a totally market oriented economy. With these realizations it becomes even more imperative that each one of us become more sensitive to and involved in our political process. The decisions which must be made in the future will be even more complex than those being made today. Careful consideration will have to be given to the exact role the government should and will play. This becomes especially crucial if we wish to carry forth the basic tenants of the free enterprise system for future mankind to enjoy!

June 18-22

## Albion College to Host Citizenship Seminar

Albion College will be the headquarters for the 1979 Young People's Citizenship Seminar, June 18-22, in Albion, Michigan. Approximately 230 high school juniors and seniors will gather on the Albion campus to participate in a five-day "summit meeting for youth."

During the Seminar, students will participate in a mock democratic government to help them gain a better understanding of our electoral process and its effect on their own lives, their communities, state and nation.

The young people will be introduced to the social, economic and political viewpoints expressed by this year's speakers: Dr. Clifton Ganus, president, Harding College, Searcy, Arkansas; Dr. John Furbay, noted lecturer and author; and Maria Schultz, Ukrainian refugee and naturalized U.S. citizen.

Students selected for the Young People's Citizenship Seminar must be high school juniors or seniors in the 1979-1980 school year and should be interested in Seminar topics. They should have leadership potential and be motivated to learn and discuss principles and issues. Students must have demonstrated scholastic ability and be willing to speak

with groups after the Seminar. Students should be those who will proudly represent their school or organization.

The cost of this year's Seminar is \$80 per student for room, meals, enrollment and furnished material for five days. A \$40 non-refundable deposit must be submitted with enrollment forms and the balance paid before June 15. The deposit is transferrable to another student. **THE ENROLLMENT DEADLINE IS APRIL 15, 1979.**

Each county Farm Bureau may send four students to the Seminar. One or more qualified alternates should be selected to insure fullest participation in the Seminar.

The seminar is sponsored by county Farm Bureaus in cooperation with the Michigan Farm Bureau. In some counties, applications will be solicited, screened and selected by the county committee. In other counties, school leaders will be involved in recommending students for selection by the committee. Even though schools may cooperate in screening qualified applicants, the final selection is the responsibility of the county Farm Bureaus. Final approval by the county Farm Bureau Board of Directors is required before students names are sent to Michigan Farm Bureau.

## MAFC Directors' Clinic Scheduled for March 13-14

The Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives (MAFC) is sponsoring a 1979 Directors Seminar on March 13 and 14 and the Lansing Hilton Inn.

Primarily for new directors, the program will begin at noon on Tuesday, March 13 and conclude at noon on Wednesday, March 14. The two-day program will feature sessions on director-board legal responsibility, financing cooperatives and Michigan's co-op role in the agricultural economy.

## MAFC to Sponsor Manager-Director Clinics

The Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives (MAFC), in cooperation with the Michigan State University Agricultural Economics Department and the St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives, will sponsor a series of clinics for cooperative managers and directors during March.

The clinics will be held March 5 at the Hoffman House at the Midway Motor Lodge in Grand Rapids,

Program participants will include Charles Ingraham of Ohio State University, Jim McKee from the St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives, Ed Thompson of the Interstate Livestock Producers Association and James Anderson, John Brake and Glynn McBride, all from Michigan State University.

Reservations should be made through L A Cheney, Manager, MAFC, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

March 6 at Zehnders in Frankenmuth and March 27 at the Chalet Inn in Gaylord.

Each of the day-long clinics will include a financial profile of farmer cooperatives in Michigan, measuring a cooperative's profitability and motivating employees.

Reservations for the clinics should be made through L A Cheney, Manager, MAFC, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

# What's Happening?

March 1-4	Genesee Valley Mall Display	Genesee Valley Mall, Flint
March 5	District 1 Farm Bureau Women's Council Meeting	Berrien Co. Farm Bureau Office, Berrien Springs
March 5	MAFC Manager-Director Clinic	Hoffman House at Midway Motor Lodge, Grand Rapids
March 6	MAFC Manager-Director Clinic	Zehnders, Frankenmuth
March 6	District 7 Farm Bureau Women's Council Meeting	Country House Restaurant, Big Rapids
March 7	District 6 Farm Bureau Women's Council Meeting	Teale's Cafe, Marlette
March 7-9	Young Farmer Leaders' Conference	Valley Plaza Ramada Inn, Midland
March 9	District 3 Farm Bureau Women's Council Meeting	Richard Sharland Home, Plymouth
March 13-14	MAFC 1979 Directors Seminar	Hilton Inn, Lansing
March 13	MASA Agricultural Labor Conference and Annual Meeting	Long's Convention Center Lansing
March 19	District 5 Farm Bureau Women's Council Meeting	York Steak House, Meridian Mall, Okemos
March 19-23	Farmers' Week	Michigan State University
March 27	MAFC Manager-Director Clinic	Chalet Inn, Gaylord
March 29-31	Briarwood Mall Display	Briarwood Mall, Ann Arbor
April 2-7	Washington Legislative Seminar and Heritage Tour	Washington, D.C.
April 3	District 2 Farm Bureau Women's Spring Rally "Hats Off to Spring"	Litchfield United Methodist Church, Litchfield
April 3	District 3 Farm Bureau Women's Spring Rally	First United Methodist Church, Plymouth
April 15	Deadline for submitting students' names for Young People's Citizenship Seminar to Michigan Farm Bureau	

## Cushingberry is Headliner at MASA Annual

The Michigan Agricultural Services Association (MASA) annual meeting will be held Tuesday, March 13 at Long's Convention Center in Lansing.

The MASA annual will be held from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. followed by an address by Paul Slade, general manager of the Ohio Marketing Association. Slade will speak on what takes place when labor unions move into the fields.

One of the featured luncheon speakers will be Representative George Cushingberry, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. Also appearing on the luncheon program will be Representative Perry Bullard, chairman of the House Labor Committee. It is also expected that two senators will be on the program.

The afternoon speaker will be Dennis Emerson, assistant to the president of the Florida Farm Bureau Federation, who will speak on "Food Costs Compared to What."

March 19-23

## Food Production Topic at MSU Farmers' Week

Many of Michigan State University's Farmers' Week activities, March 19-23, will dwell upon food production from the viewpoint of the producer and consumer.

Thomas L. Thorburn, Farmers' Week general chairman, says that the event's theme, "Food: America's Essential Resource," reflects the role the United States will play in meeting world food demand in the future.

"The U.S. is a leader in world food production and those demands in the future will be enormous," Thorburn relates. "One of the reasons is the sheer number of mouths to feed each day. Statistics show that the U.S. population increases at a rate of five persons per minute. The world population grows 60 times faster -- five persons per second. Thus, there are 80 million more persons to feed each year."

"A big question is, how to meet that challenge. Part of the answer is through

education, which is one of the purposes of Farmers' Week," Thorburn says.

"Many of the sessions offered this year are aimed at learning how to increase food production and cope with inflation. Others are aimed at understanding the food production process, the laws and consumer expectations surrounding that process," Thorburn adds.

The 64th Farmers' Week, the oldest continuing farm event of its kind in the nation, offers more than 180 educational programs and features over 300 speakers from MSU, the state and nation. There will be scores of MSU departmental displays and activities, and a farm trade show containing nearly \$3 million in farm equipment.

A complete description of sessions, time and location, along with information about expanded parking facilities, are detailed in a brochure available at all county MSU Cooperative Extension Service offices.



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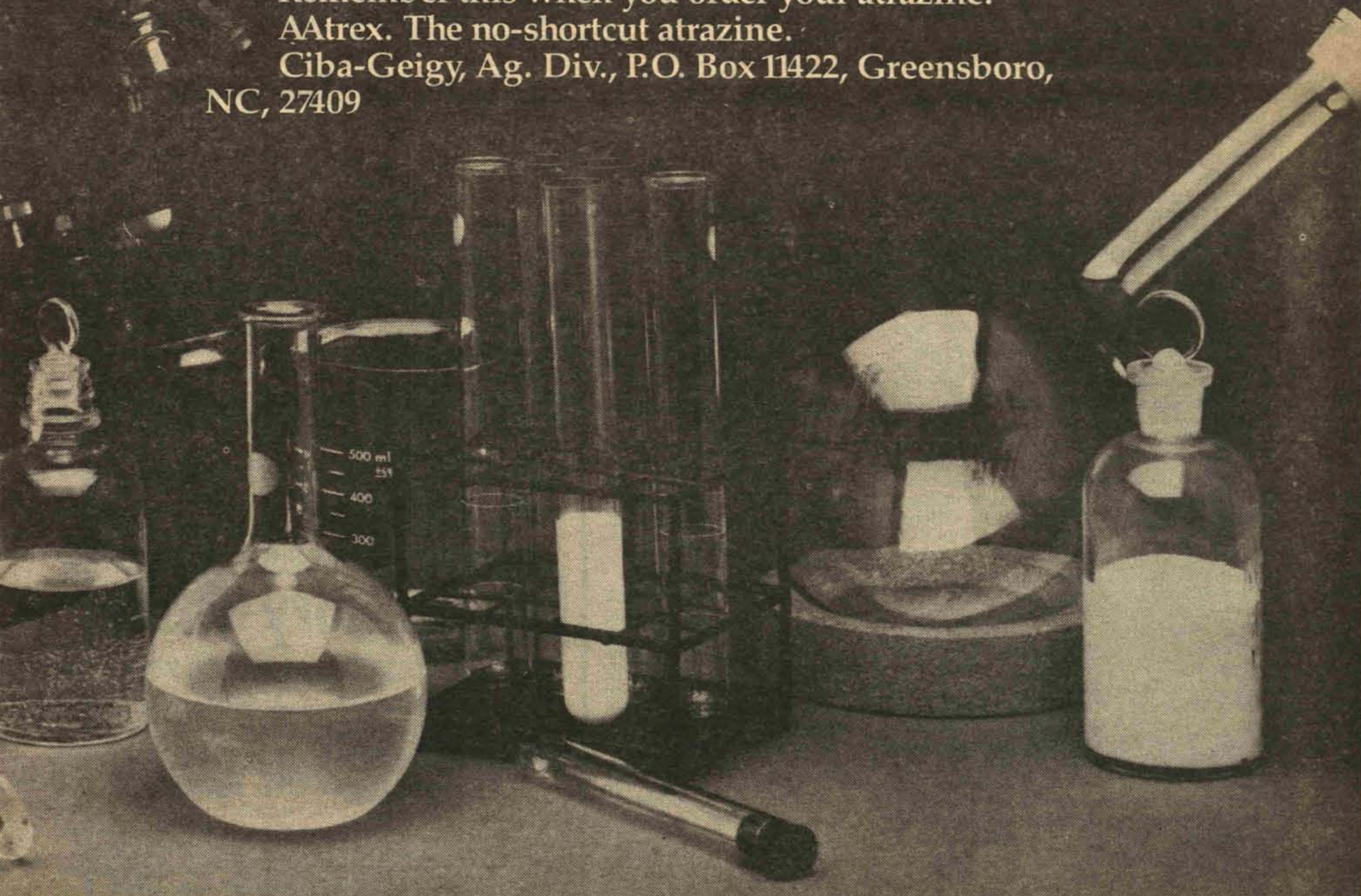
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## FB Jargon

## Michigan Farm Bureau's Affiliated Companies

In response to member requests, the editors of Michigan Farm News have compiled a brief explanation of the Michigan Farm Bureau affiliated companies. To those of us in Farm Bureau and agriculture, we use initials of the affiliated companies and they are as familiar as the initials USA and we assume everyone is also familiar with them. Therefore, some excerpts from the booklet "Michigan Farm Bureau and Affiliated Companies - Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" describing the affiliated companies are listed below.

### MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF FARMER COOPERATIVES (MAFC)

The Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives was formed March 20, 1945. Since its founding, the association has operated as a division of Michigan Farm Bureau.

The purpose of the association is to protect the legislative interests of farmer-owned businesses on both state and national levels, to provide a public relations, educational and members' service programs.

### MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING ASSOCIATION, INC. (MACMA)

The Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association, Inc. was organized on February 21, 1961 as an affiliate of Michigan Farm Bureau to assist farmers in marketing commodities they produce. It is a voluntary membership organization operating under the federal Capper-Volstead Act and the Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act.

MACMA consists of divisions geared to the needs of members' commodities or farm enterprises and include: Michigan Processing Apple Growers Division; Michigan Asparagus Growers Division; Grape Growers Division; Red Tart Cherry Growers Division; Feeder Pig Division; Livestock Order Buyer Division; Kraut Cabbage Growers, Potato Growers, Pickling Cucumber Growers Divisions; Michigan Plum Growers, Peach and Pear Growers Divisions, Direct Marketing Division and Michigan Certified Farm Markets Division.

### MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION (MASA)

The Michigan Agricultural Services Association was organized on February 21, 1966 as an affiliate company of Michigan Farm Bureau at the request of members. MASA members are provided with a labor information service in the form of a notebook covering major agricultural labor laws. Consulting services are available from the organization on a need basis and legal representation is provided on a state and federal basis to assure that the position of agricultural employers in Michigan is heard before proposed legislation becomes law.

### FARMERS PETROLEUM COOPERATIVE, INC. (FPC)

In 1949 Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. was formed to assure a source of quality petroleum supplies to serve the needs of agriculture. Through the years, the cooperative has kept pace with the times and needs of patrons supplying gasoline, diesel and heating fuels and other related petroleum supply needs.

At the present time, FPC has interests in oil wells located in Michigan, Indiana and Illinois. In addition, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. and eight other inter-regional cooperatives own a cooperative refinery located at East Chicago, Illinois called Energy Cooperative, Inc.

### FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC. (FBS)

Farm Bureau Services, Inc., organized in 1929, is a federated cooperative organization owned by Michigan Farm Bureau and 92 affiliated farmers' cooperative associations and over 8,000 farmers. Farm Bureau Services is an extensive company, handling innumerable items and performing a vast number of services mainly for farmer patrons, although many urban and suburban customers are also served. FBS is organized into four divisions and include the Farm Supply Division, Michigan Elevator Exchange Division, Finance Division and Retail Division.

### FARM BUREAU INSURANCE GROUP (FBIG)

Beginning in 1949, Farm Bureau Insurance Group has grown to provide insurance coverage for just about "everything you need." Through seven corporations, it provides a full line of life and property-casualty insurance products for more than a quarter-million policyholders.

### MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU GROUP PURCHASING, INC. (SAFEMARK)

Michigan Farm Bureau Group Purchasing, Inc. began

(Continued on Page 24)

## Bay County Youth Wins Trip to 4-H Commodity Symposium

A Michigan youth, who raised five different field crops and sold them for a cash profit, won an expense-paid trip to the 28th 4-H Commodity Marketing Symposium held in Chicago Feb. 25-28.

Robert Kernstock, 17, 5050 South Eight Mile Road, Auburn, was among 25 4-H'ers who attended the four-day educational event in the Windy City. Winners were selected by the Cooperative Extension Service.

Young people from 41 states are eligible for trips to the symposium in the 4-H commodity marketing awards program sponsored by the Chicago Board of Trade. The annual event brings together 4-H'ers who have completed outstanding commodity marketing projects during the last year.

Kernstock, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence L. Kernstock, Bay County Farm Bureau member, is an eight-year 4-H'er. He graduated from high school last June and plans a career in farming and as a machinist.

The Bay County youth raised sugar beets, corn, soybeans, navy beans and

wheat and sold the crops for a cash profit in his commodity marketing project.

The 4-H'er said he found that sugar beets have the potential for the most profit among his field crops but are a bigger gamble. Uncertainties about beets include whether herbicides will work properly, whether there will be enough rain and warm weather, what effect winds will have on seedlings, and what the sugar content of the beets will be.

The youth said his corn and soybeans have not been the moneymakers during the past two years that they have been in other years. He added that all of his field crops are affected by some of the same factors as his beets.

The final question on each crop, Kernstock said, was "When do I sell? I need to be sure I will have enough profit to start out again next year with fertilizer, herbicides and seed, not to mention the repairs on the machines and fuel costs."

The 4-H Commodity Marketing Symposium, arranged by the National 4-H Council, is designed to help participants understand the



ROBERT KERSTOCK

basic principles of commodity marketing, and how these principles apply to commodities sold in cash markets and traded in futures markets of major commodity exchanges.

Delegates participated in seminars, tours and activities that explained the use of futures markets as a management tool and aided them in adapting market information and knowledge of market functions to ongoing 4-H projects.

## State Fairgrounds to be Renovated

Governor William G. Milliken recently announced a proposed master plan for the redevelopment of the 160-acre Michigan State Fairgrounds in Detroit into a year-around agricultural and recreational center.

Milliken hailed the proposal as the foundation for a new rural-urban partnership.

"I think this is a very exciting plan. The rejuvenation of the State Fairgrounds is important to the entire state," the governor said. "Michigan is made up of many facets. It is rural and urban, agricultural and industrial, yet each section is interdependent.

"No where is that more apparent than in this proposal for the redevelopment of the State Fairgrounds. The plans provide for the rebirth of the State Fair through improved facilities for agricultural exhibits and education and at the same time permit more efficient use of the Fairgrounds through the creation of year-around urban recreation programs," he said.

"Creation of a model interpretative farm on the grounds and new and rehabilitated facilities for agricultural displays and horse shows will provide

attractive showcases for Michigan agriculture in the heart of the state's largest urban community," said O.J. Scherschligt, DNR deputy director in charge of the project.

Phase I proposals encompass 46 acres along Woodward Avenue to be

developed over a two-year period and include two new agricultural exhibit buildings totaling 56,000 square feet to replace existing buildings. A new 125,000 square-foot exhibition structure will also be built and serve a wide range of agricultural and commercial exhibit purposes for the State Fair.

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# MFB's 1979 "Fabulous Fifteen"



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Betty & Lyle Robinson  
Iosco



Foster McCool  
Kalkaska



Stan Stempky  
Cheboygan



Wayne Thompson  
Muskegon



Richard Beck  
Ogemaw



Ray Doty  
Ionia



Cloral Beeler  
N.W. Michigan



Duane Wagner  
Lapeer



Alvin Gaertner  
Monroe



Mr. & Mrs. Rich DeKleine  
Ottawa



Bob Kissane  
Clinton



Ed Hebler  
Saginaw



Keith Strum  
Huron

## Directors have Stake in Standings

Fifteen county Farm Bureaus have the distinction of being a member of Michigan Farm Bureau's "Fabulous Fifteen." The "Fabulous Fifteen" consists of the first three counties in each of the five membership categories to report 1979 membership goal.

Following are the "Fabulous Fifteen" for 1979: 1-350 - Clare, Iosco and Kalkaska; 351-650 - Cheboygan, Muskegon and Ogemaw; 651-1200 - Ionia, Montcalm and North West Michigan; 1201-1500 - Lapeer, Monroe and Ottawa; and 1501-over - Clinton, Huron and Saginaw.

As of February 16, twenty-two counties have reported 1979 membership quota and Michigan Farm Bureau was at 97.05 percent of state goal.

Counties that have reported 1979 goal and their membership chairmen are, in the 1-350 category, Antrim - Bruce Chellis, Clare - Dan Bay and Don Davis, Copper Country - Dan Linna, Iosco - Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Robinson, Kalkaska - Foster McCool, Mac-Luce - Fred Pershinske, and Menominee - Gunter Kusig.

Three counties in the 351-650 category have reported goal: Cheboygan - Stan and Anna Marie Stempky, Mason-Daryl Peterson, Muskegon - Wayne Thompson, and Ogemaw - Richard Beck.

Counties reporting goal in the 651-1200 category are Ionia - Ray Doty and Harold Swiler, Montcalm, and North West Michigan - Cloral Beeler.

Four counties have reached quota in the 1201-1500 category and include: Kent - Katherine Goodfellow and Mike Bowman, Lapeer - Du-

ane Wagner, Monroe - Alvin Gaertner, and Ottawa - Richard DeKleine. Counties reporting goal in the largest membership cate-

gory of 1501-over include: Clinton - Bob Kissane, Huron - Delbert Roberts, and Saginaw - Ed Hebler.

### TOP DISTRICT



District 6 Director Jack Laurie proudly models his new T-shirt for his district being in first place in membership standings for his fellow board members.

### BOTTOM DISTRICT



District 1 Director Art Bailey reluctantly holds his "Gutter Award," symbolizing a last place standing in membership.

## Kalamazoo FB Members are Defendants

## DNR Files Suit in Wetlands Case

Four Kalamazoo County residents are facing charges filed by the state Attorney General's Office and the Department of Natural Resources to stop the draining and dredging of 100-acres of a 600-acre marshland.

The area, known as Kramer Marsh, has been described by the DNR as a home for migrating waterfowl, muskrat, minks and raccoons. Officials argued that the wetland was of significant regional importance and draining it would be in violation of the state's Environmental Protection Act and the Michigan Inland Lakes and Streams Act.

Defendants in the case are the marsh owners, Ralph and Nina Balkema, and Farm Bureau members John and Dorothy Balkema. The Balkemas intended to use the drained area as additional cropland.

A suit was filed in Kalamazoo County Circuit court with the first hearing held February 5. No verdict was reached since presiding

Judge Robert Borsos said further evidence was needed. The DNR sought a request for a temporary injunction, which would discontinue the water pumping.

Another hearing was scheduled for February 27. DNR officials said Kramer Marsh was one of the few remaining wetlands in southwestern Michigan.

"About 20 species of waterfowl are known to have nested in this area, along with aquatic mammals," Dr. Don Inman of the DNR said. The swamp also functioned as a water cleansing facility, protecting nearby Harrison Lake from farm fertilizers.

"We are objecting to the permanent modifications that would result," he said.

The Balkemas began pumping water from their portion of the marsh in the summer of 1977, with intermittent pumping resuming in 1978. Under Michigan laws, a permit is required to alter surface waters. The Balkemas contend they did not secure a permit because their wetland property did not

fall under the provisions outlined in the Inland Lakes Act, Inman said.

The Balkemas could not be reached for comment.

The DNR classifies Kramer Marsh as an aging lake, in its utrification stage. A permit is required for draining, dredging, enlarging or diminishing any body of water.

At one time, sources say the area was used for grazing, when the water level was low. But, Inman said lakes do rise and fall, and the land once used for grazing was put to its proper use.

However, he pointed out, local records dating from 1829 had classified the area as a lake.

The question at hand was one concerning future generations and the balance of agricultural lands and wetlands.

"We realize the importance of Michigan wetlands and of agriculture," he said and commented that here the controversy lie.

"It's hard to separate the two issues," he said.

## DeVuyst Named V.P.

## Farm Credit Board Elects Officers



Raymond L. Driscoll (left), East Grand Forks, Minnesota, was sworn in as director of the Farm Credit Board of St. Paul by Ralph E. Baker, Jonesville, Michigan, board chairman and Hillsdale County Farm Bureau member, at the Board's first 1979 meeting. At the same meeting, Earl E. Guenther of Columbus, Wisconsin, succeeded Baker as chairman, and Larry DeVuyst of Ithaca, Michigan, Gratiot County Farm Bureau member and a district director on the Michigan Farm Bureau board, was elected vice chairman. Baker was elected to represent the 7th District on the Directors Policy Coordinating Committee. District 7 includes Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

## CAPITOL REPORT

## Governor's Budget

(Continued from Page 10)  
rise about 8.8 percent.

The school aid recommendation is for \$1.97 billion, an increase of nearly \$73 million. The general fund portion of school aid is recommended at nearly \$899 million which is a decrease from the dollar funding of the current fiscal year.

It is estimated, however, that Michigan is as much as \$100 million short as far as this year's (1979) expenditures are concerned and that the Legislature will have to pass so-called supplemental appropriations to properly fund the present year's expenditures. This could be approximately \$60 million for welfare, \$30 million for the double bottom tanker restriction program, over \$3 million for increases in swamp tax payments to local governments, to name only a few as examples.

The Tax Limitation Amendment passed by the people in November will create a great deal of legislative action in order to put it into affect. In order to come within the present year's budget the governor has asked for as much as 4 percent cut across the board from all the departments. This, however, means that in some cases the cut could be extreme because there are certain expenditures that are

difficult if not impossible to reduce.

Another area that will be expensive is the implementation of Proposal B or the elimination of "good time" for prisoners. It is expected that \$2 million will be needed to find sites for additional prisons and \$200 million or more for building those prisons.



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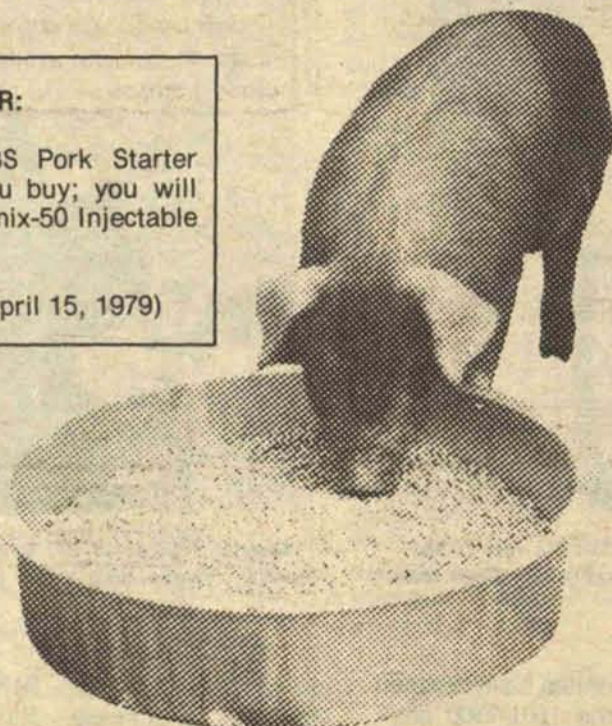
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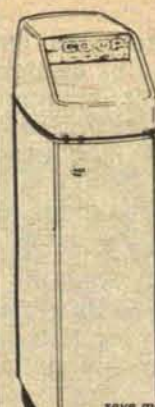
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- FBS—Pinconning
- FBS—Remus
- FBS—Saginaw
- FBS—St. Clair County/Yale
- FBS—Schoolcraft

- FBS—Scottville
- FBS—Traverse City
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- Allegan Farmers Co-op
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- Branch County Grain
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- Chesaning Farmers Co-op
- Kent City Farm Bureau
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- Ypsilanti Farm Bureau

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- FPC—Breckenridge
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- FPC—Comstock Park
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- FPC—Jonesville
- FPC—Linwood
- FPC—St. Johns
- FPC—Sandusky
- FPC—Scottville
- FPC—Traverse City
- Branch County F.B. Oil Co.
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- Chesaning Farmers Elevator
- Marshall Farm Bureau Oil Co.
- Saginaw County F.B. Oil Co.
- Thunder Bay Farmers Co-op

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# Gratiot County Farm Bureau Hosts TV Show

by Mike Rogers

It can be tough trying to talk to city folks about farming. You can run into everything from kids who don't know that ham comes from pigs to consumer advocates who refuse to believe that our food supply is safe.

To meet the challenge, the Gratiot County Farm Bureau uses the same communication device that "Mork and Mindy" and "Laverne and Shirley" do... television. Every two weeks viewers of the Gratiot and Isabella county cablevision system can tune in to the Gratiot County Farm Bureau "Agrinews" show.

The show is hosted by Denise Muscott, publicity chairman for the Gratiot County Farm Bureau, and it's shown on the cablesystem's public access channel. "They didn't have any type of farm program and they were real anxious to get our viewpoint on," Denise says. "And since the cablesystem is mostly in urban areas, we decided to try to aim it at consumers."

The program is filmed at Alma College, and Denise and her guests have talked about chemicals and food, wood burning stoves, homemade Christmas ornaments and the function of the county Farm Bureau. She uses members of the women's Speakers'



From left, Michigan Farm Bureau's Outstanding Young Farm Woman, Edith Humm; Gratiot County President Dave Longanbach, representative to the state Young Farmer's Committee Roy Shankel, and interviewer Denise Muscott prepare the "Agrinews" show.



Denise Muscott, publicity chairman for the Gratiot County Farm Bureau, is at her photogenic best when in front of the camera. She's become known as the Dinah Shore of Gratiot County.

Bureau, county board members and experts from the Michigan Farm Bureau office in Lansing.

"We have a committee that picks topics for the program," Denise says. "The group consists of a member of the county board, a member of our Young Farmer's committee, a representative from our women's Speakers' Bureau and myself. We rotate the members every three months to get new ideas and subjects and we try to focus

on topics that communicate the relationship between the farmer and the consumer."

Denise, who has been called the Dinah Shore of Gratiot County, says she doesn't have any special background in television beyond "a gift for gab." She admits that although she is married to a farmer, she's not that familiar with agriculture. "I guess that's why I like doing this," she says, "because I'm not that familiar with farming, and our Farm Bureau

people help me understand it."

Dave Longanbach, president of the Gratiot County Farm Bureau, thinks that the program is important because it conveys agricultural problems and concerns to an urban audience. "We have to talk to the towns," he says, "because our children are there and they just don't understand agriculture. We'd like to tell people that farming is a lot more complex

than they think."

Dave says that one positive aspect of the program is that it seems to be helping to revitalize interest in the county Farm Bureau. "We've had some situations lately where our members say we aren't doing enough to educate our members as to Farm Bureau policy, or we aren't doing enough for the individual member," he says. "We hope that this TV program will at least show them that we're making an effort."

## Peace Corps Recruiting in Michigan

The Peace Corps will conduct a six-community Michigan recruitment campaign the week of March 27, 1979. Peace Corps recruiters hope to interest persons for overseas programs beginning this spring and summer.

Agricultural volunteers are needed with 4-H, livestock, crops, beekeeping, artificial insemination, and farm equipment maintenance skills. Tradesmen with carpentry, masonry, plumbing, drafting, machine and electrical skills are also needed.

Currently the Peace Corps has over 7,000 volunteers working in 64 developing

countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa. The minimum age for joining the Peace Corps is 18, however, there is no upper age limit. The average age of Peace Corps volunteers today is 27, while more than 300 volunteers now serving are over 50 years of age. Volunteers must be U.S. citizens.

Travel, living and health care expenses are provided by the Peace Corps. A vacation allowance is also provided as well as a readjustment allowance of \$3000 after 24 months of service. Living conditions vary widely depending upon the country program and volunteer site.

Running water and electricity may not be available.

Volunteer motivation is an important factor in the selection of volunteers because of different living conditions, cultural differences, and the nature of Peace Corps Service.

Peace Corps recruiters will be in the following Michigan locations from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.:

**March 27**  
Kalamazoo - Holiday Inn-Expressway  
Coldwater-Coach Lite Inn  
**March 28**  
Jackson-Holiday Inn  
Charlotte-Lansing-Holiday Inn-South (Lansing. I-96)  
**March 29**  
Bay City-Saginaw-Holiday Inn-East (Saginaw. I-75)  
Bad Axe - Franklin Inn  
**March 30**  
Bay City-Saginaw - Holiday Inn-East (Saginaw. I-75)

## VOLUNTEER PEACE CORPS

**Agriculturalists and Tradesmen:** Your skills needed by Peace Corps in 64 developing countries around the world. Paid expenses, living allowance, U.S. citizens only; singles and married couples. Contact recruiters in Michigan between 1 p.m. and 9 p.m. on dates and locations below:

**March 27**  
Kalamazoo - Holiday Inn - Expressway - 616-381-7070  
Coldwater - Coach Lite Inn - 517-278-4501  
**March 28**  
Jackson - Holiday Inn - 517-783-2681  
Charlotte-Lansing - Holiday Inn South - 517-393-1650

**March 29**  
Bay City-Saginaw - Holiday Inn East - 517-755-0461  
Bad Axe - Franklin Inn - 517-269-9951

**March 30**  
Bay City-Saginaw - Holiday Inn East - 517-755-0461

## Co-op Challenges

(Continued from page 2)

We have some knowledgeable allies in this fight. Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Thomas Foley, has said: "Nobody should forget that existing law already forbids certain cooperative actions which result in undue price enhancement. Certainly we need to enforce that historic safeguard in full compliance with the original intent of Congress, but I have serious questions about the need for actions which could block efforts to make cooperatives more efficient."

Secretary of Agriculture Bergland testified before the commission, telling its members that in his view, as a farmer and former co-op member, there was no need for the Capper-Volstead Act to be modified.

But we, as farmers and citizens, cannot sit back and assume that our allies will fight the battle for us. Congressmen must hear a grass-roots chorus of concern from their constituents, convincing them not to change a system which has worked so successfully, both for farmers and for the general public.

Discuss this serious issue with your congressman so that when legislation concerning the Capper-Volstead Act is introduced, he will have the facts he needs to vote knowledgeably. You can be sure he will be hearing much from the experts in regulation; make sure he hears from the experts in food production and marketing — that's you.

Elton R. Smith



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# CLOSINGS WOULD AFFECT ALL OF AGRICULTURE

(Continued from Page 9)

removed from any problems or safety hazards," he explained. "He is there and recognizes them because it's his own arm, his own leg that might be in jeopardy if there were a serious occupational hazard."

Gerald Surbrook of Rives Junction, who represents the Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative on the MAFC council, agrees. "The track record of local co-ops as far as accident rates are concerned has been excellent. Our elevators have met the electrical standards according to our insurance companies codes and there have been no problems in the past. I think the philosophy of MI-OSHA has been regulatory overkill."

Surbrook says the closing of country elevators would be a great loss not only to agriculture, but to local communities as well. These small businesses have added a stability, he said, to both agriculture and rural communities.

Wally Frahm of Frankenmuth, president of the MAFC administrative council, calls the situation "a classic example of what happens when you have the government do things for you. They usually end up doing them TO you, instead of FOR you. As in so many other programs, we ask the government for help and end

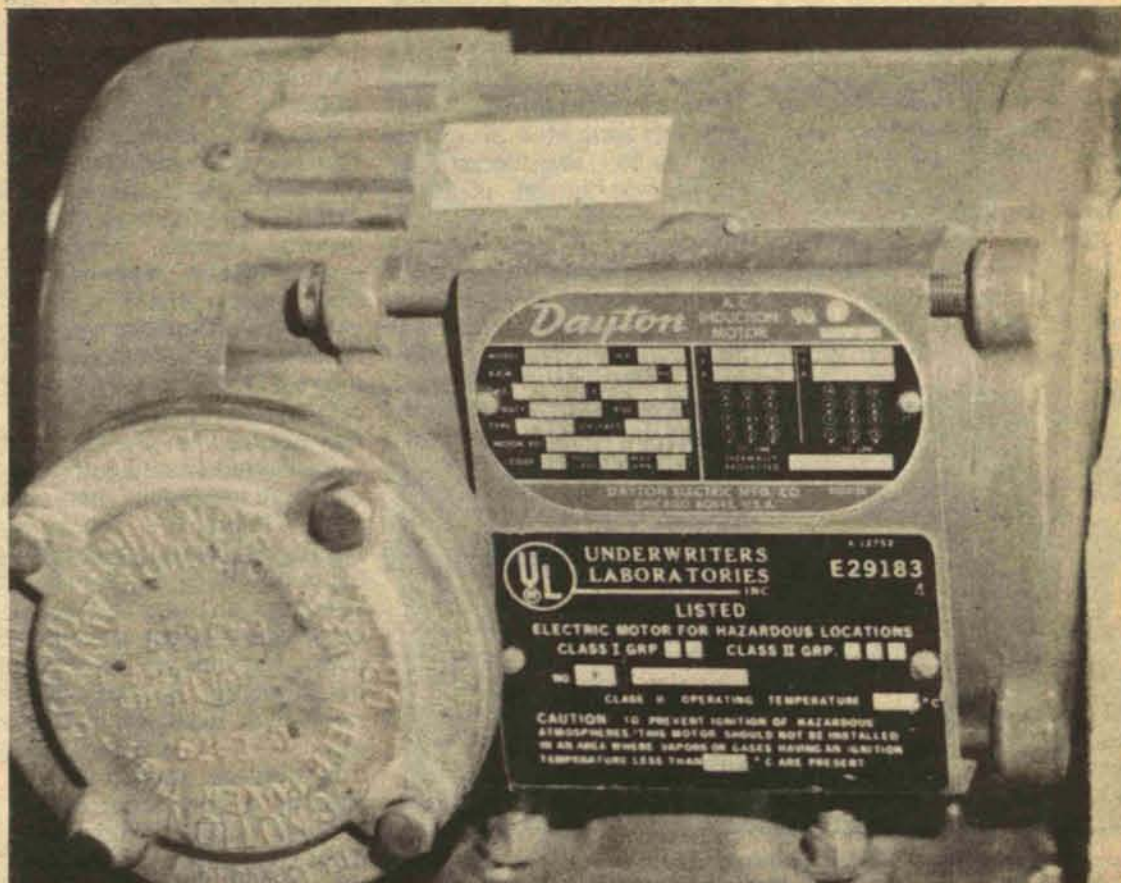
up getting far more than we bargained for."

Frahm said the closing of country elevators would affect consumers as well as farmers. "The consumer would pay more for his food and it would lower the income of the farmer because of the added expense involved in traveling greater distances for the supplies and services that the local elevators now provide," he said.

Art Rowley of Richmond, representing the Federal Land Bank Association on the MAFC council, has had some first-hand experience with the current MI-OSHA problem. His local elevator was cited for several violations and when co-op officials attended a hearing in an attempt to resolve the issue, they were told there was "no recourse."

The expense involved in meeting what Rowley called "unreasonable" standards, resulted in the elevator ending its fiscal year "in the red."

"I'm sure there is proof that many elevators in Michigan ended up in the red last fall due to MI-OSHA regulations," Rowley said. "Everybody is in favor of safety. If they would just use a little common sense with their regulations, MI-OSHA could be a benefit to Michigan agriculture."

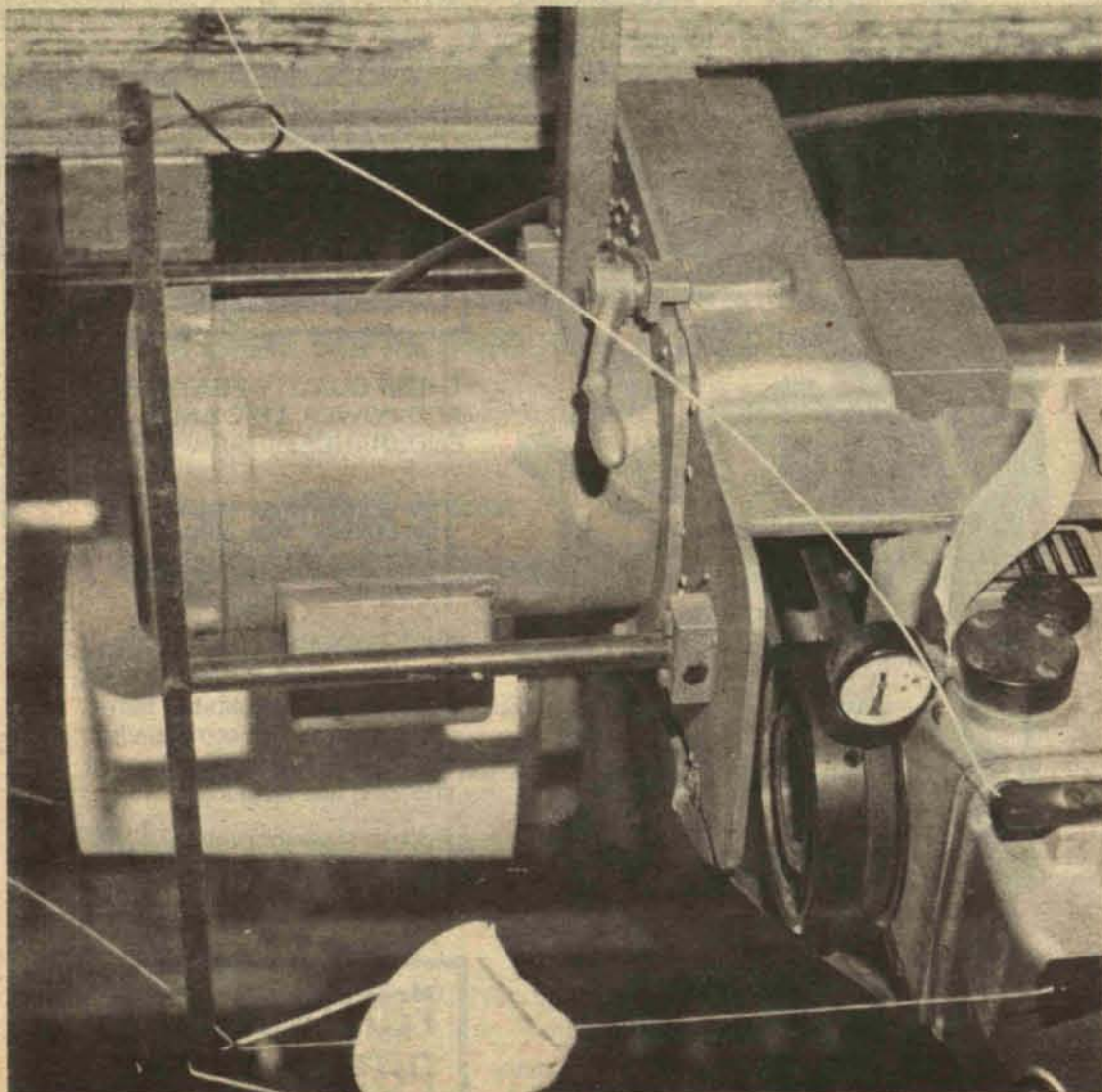


Motors bearing the certification label of a recognized rating laboratory are required by MI-OSHA standards. To replace TEFC (totally-enclosed, fan-cooled) motors and meet other compliance standards could cost the Michigan elevator industry 15-20 million dollars.

Research into elevator safety is being funded by the National Grain and Feed Dealers Association. The Association has raised over \$1.4 million for its Fire and Explosion Research fund. Six main areas of research have

been designated: determining the proper criteria for hazard classification in elevators, explosion suppression systems to stop initial explosions, static electricity, alternate methods of handling and mer-

chandising grain dust, and the impact of elevator design on fires and explosions. The Association has called for research papers from institutes interested in working on these areas.



TEFC motors are accepted by insurance carriers, but MI-OSHA standards severely restrict their use in grain elevators and grain storage facilities.

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## Members View Florida Slaughter, Packing Facility

Following the AFBF convention in Miami Beach, 150 members from the Indiana, Kentucky and Michigan Farm Bureaus enjoyed a five-day bus tour of Florida, which included a trip to Kaplan Industries, Inc., near Bartow. Polk County Farm Bureau members hosted the tour.

Kaplan Industries is Florida's largest slaughter and packing facility, and feeds 20,000 beef cattle with near total by-product

utilization. The integrated food factory is located on 350-acres of former phosphate mines.

Kaplan's operation, which is also one of the largest integrated environmental feed lots and slaughter houses in the world, has become a world-wide model of near "close-loop" recycling. A prime example is the nutrient recovery system it employs. Cattle waste, collected from beneath cement slabs of the six, quarter-mile-long con-

finement pens, is washed and processed to separate fibrous solids and liquids. The processed solids are treated to a point that they can constitute a roughage feed segment.

The nutrient-rich liquids, together with waste from the packing plant, are put through a series of algae-forming lagoons. When the cycled water reaches the final lagoon, the algae are eaten by fish and the water is used for cattle drinking and irrigation (irrigation of feed crops, and the algae-eating fish are harvested).

Processed waste liquids are also used to produce methane gas. Through a methane fermentation facility currently being developed on site, enough methane could be produced to run the entire plant, as well as supplying neighboring Bartow with most of its needs for natural gas.

In addition, enough carbon dioxide, a by-product of the process, would be produced to meet Florida's needs for dry ice.

Kaplan's six barns house

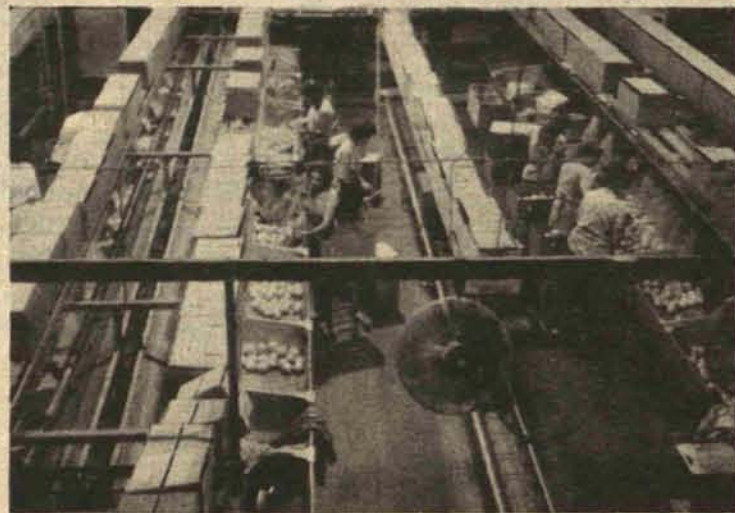
2,160 head on 18-acres in a low-stress environment. Cattle are brought in at roughly 600 pounds live-weight and finished in an average of 100 days with a gain of 2.7 pounds per day. Special grain feed formulations are mixed in an on-site feed mill with production capacity of 225 tons a day. A consultant nutritionist and skilled technicians monitor rations, with specially processed corn being the

principle ingredient. As a result of in-house feeding, cattle do not have to be shipped for slaughter.

A Polk County orange packing cooperative visit was also scheduled. Farm Bureau members observed the washing, coloring and waxing process of oranges. A visit to the Donald Duck Cooperative followed, providing an opportunity to view a visual presentation on citrus fruit canning.



Feeder cattle at Kaplan Industries, Inc., one of the largest integrated environmental feed lots and slaughter houses in the world.



Interior of the Altures Citrus Processing Plant, Polk County, Florida, where Michigan Farm Bureau members visited.

## Farmers Tour Fuel Refinery

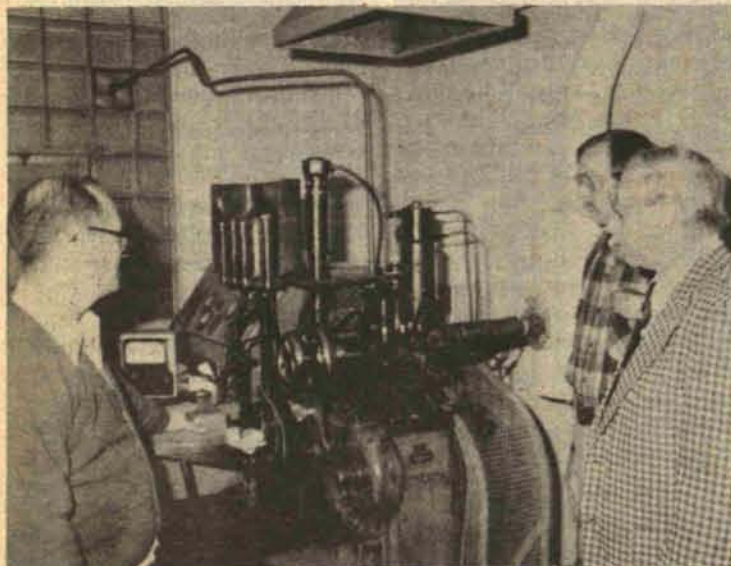
Farmers from Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joe, Berrien and VanBuren counties recently chartered a bus and journeyed to East Chicago, Indiana to tour a huge farmer-owned refinery and to learn more about current energy needs, refinery and distribution system.

Following a tour of the ECI Refinery (Energy Cooperative, Inc.), a refinery with a daily capacity of 130,000 bushels per day, or in one minute the refinery produces enough gasoline for 24,000 miles of conventional transportation or enough diesel fuel to pre-plant, plant, cultivate and harvest more than 200,000 acres of corn, wheat or soybeans, a review was given by refinery of-

ficials of the current crude oil needs by the United States and the worldwide crude oil production outlook. "The energy situation is a serious one, and one that the public has not yet taken as serious," stated one official.

It was pointed out that through the help of Farm Bureau and other farm organizations the "number one" priority for agriculture still is in existence should we ever have a repeat of the 1973 embargo.

Host for the "Energy Learning Tour" was Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., a Michigan Farm Bureau affiliate and one of the nine regional cooperative owners of ECI.



ECI lab technician explains the function of its octane rating engine to Al Prillwitz and Walter Timm, who were participants in the recent tour hosted by Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc.

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Special tread design results in easy, free rolling for longer life.

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## New Drug Residue Test Developed

A new test has been developed to detect drug residues in cull dairy cows before their carcasses leave the slaughterhouse. Begun in February, USDA veterinarians are using a new "swab-test-on-premises" (STOP) program at slaughterhouses to detect antibiotic residues in animal kidneys.

Under the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, administered by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), it is illegal to market animals if

they contain drug residues above established tolerances. Similarly, under the Federal Meat Inspection Act, administered by the USDA's Food Safety and Quality Service (FSQS), meat cannot be sold for human consumption if it contains residues above the tolerances set by the FDA.

This new screening program will detect antibiotic residues in animal kidneys in a matter of hours, before the carcass would normally leave the slaughterhouse.

If the swab test is negative, the carcass will be released. If positive, the carcass will be retained until tissue samples are analyzed in FSQS laboratories. If the muscle tissue contains residue above the FDA tolerance level, the carcass will be condemned.

The National Milk Producers Federation, National Mastitis Council and American Association of Bovine Practitioners, along with the National Dairy Herd Improvement Association and United Dairy Industry Association, have joined forces with the USDA, FDA, state Extension Services and state Departments of Agriculture in a united effort to help dairymen and the rest of the meat industry eliminate the problem of violative antibiotic residues in dairy cattle.

A comprehensive educational program is underway to help dairymen avoid marketing animals with violative residues.

## Donna

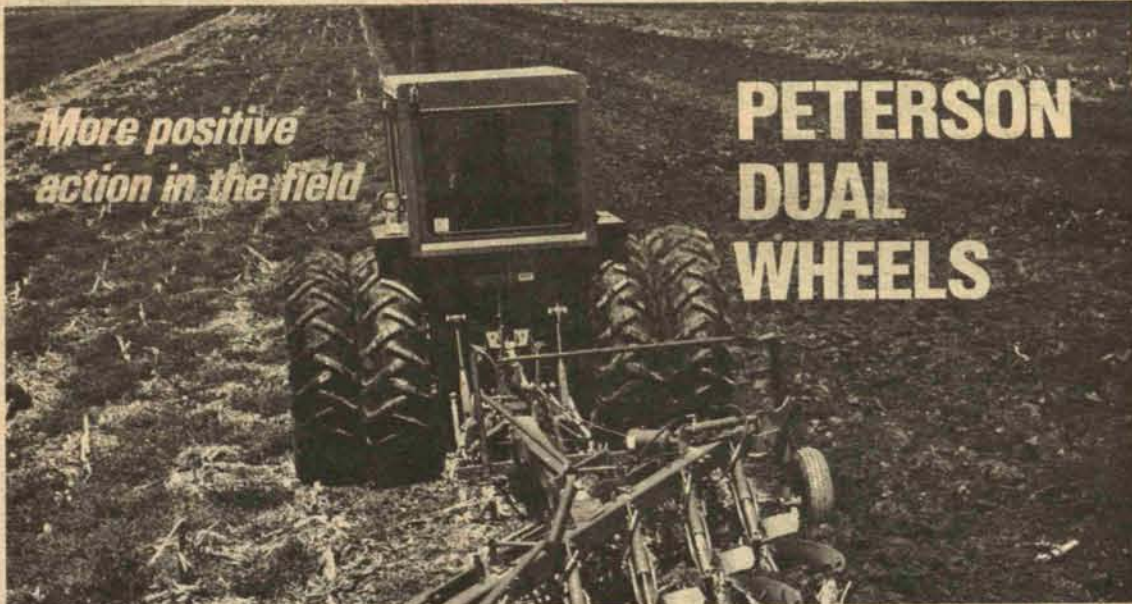
(Continued from Page 2)

dividends of the support and understanding farmers need and must have if your industry is to remain viable and healthy.

It's a mountainous task -- gaining this understanding and support -- and it's natural to ask "What can one farmer do that could possibly make any difference?" What one farmer can do, when he has

faith in his industry, in himself, his organization, and his fellow-farmers, is illustrated in a story in this issue, "What can one farmer do?" Ask Dave Peckens. He did not wring his hands over a political situation and say "Woe is me." He did not say "Let my organization handle it; that's what I pay them for." He did something.

So can you.



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## New AG Chairman Gets "Short Course"

(Continued from page 3)



Rep. Dillingham and Rep. Cushingberry field questions during a press conference held at the Howell Courthouse. The new House Agriculture Committee chairman told reporters that "the fact that I'm openminded, I listen, and I'm in nobody's pocket, qualifies me to handle any chairmanship . . ."

Temporary relief from the sub-zero weather was enjoyed by the group at the next stop where the temperature in the "nursery" of the 1600 head farrowing operation at VernDale Farms was 80 degrees. Here, Livingston County Farm Bureau's "Outstanding Young Farmer," Roy DeGroot, explained the operation from birth to market.

At an informal press conference at the Howell Courthouse, the two legislators explained their hopes to build bridges of understanding between urban Detroit and rural outstate citizens. As a second part of this legislative exchange program, Rep. Cushingberry will host Rep. Dillingham in a Detroit visit so he can learn first-hand about the needs and concerns of the people there.

In response to a reporter's question regarding his qualifications to serve as chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, Cushingberry said he did not believe an agricultural background was necessary. "The fact that I'm openminded, I listen, and I'm in nobody's pocket, qualifies me to handle any chairmanship that I would take on," he said.

Rep. Dillingham said that since agriculture is important to the city and the city is important to the rural community, Cushingberry's appointment could be a positive step toward better communications between the two segments of our economy.

"There's a lot of expertise on the House Agriculture Committee," Dillingham said, "and now, getting to know George, I think we're going to have a good committee and I think we've got a good chairman. I'm sure we're going to have a good working relationship."

The beef cattle and cash

cropped farm of Kenneth and Carl Ott of Howell was the next farm on the agenda, followed by a visit to the Peabody Orchards in Fenton. Hosting Cushingberry for the evening were the Maurice and Gordon Kingsley families of Fowlerville, featuring a view of the family farm and a home-cooked meal by Wilma Kingsley.

Rep. Cushingberry had to get up with the chickens on Saturday morning to visit the 7,500 chickens on the Albert Cook egg production operation in Mason. Next were visits to two businesses which service farmers — Paty's, Inc. in Okemos, specializing in tractors, harvesting equipment, and parts and repair service, and the Jorgensen Farm Elevator in Williamston.

Following a visit at the 5,000-acre Dave Diehl family farm certified seed operation near Dansville, the group returned to Livingston County for a wrap-up of the two-day farm tour at the home of Dave and Kathy Peckens.

Evaluating the efforts of those involved in the educational project, Dave said: "Our goal was to give Rep. Cushingberry an opportunity to meet farmers, see some of our varied types of agriculture, and hopefully open up some lines of communication."

Did they achieve that goal? "It remains to be seen how he functions as chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, but I'm a lot more optimistic than I was before," said Dave. "Getting to know him has laid my fears to rest; I hope it has some other farmers too. I think it convinced us that we can talk with someone out of Detroit and that he will listen and listen objectively. He's a tremendous individual and I'm sure he'll work very hard to come up with the right solutions."

# Farmers Honored Weekly by FBIG, Radio Network

The Farmer of the Week Award, sponsored by the Michigan Farm Radio Network and Farm Bureau Insurance Group, recognizes Michigan farmers for their contributions to the agriculture industry and the community. Recipients are selected for the quality of their farming operation and their community involvement.

The Farmer of the Week Award winners for January were:



**DAVID FOUNTAIN**

Week of January 1 — David Fountain, 31, a beef and cash crop farmer from Marshall. A lifelong farmer, Fountain farms 270 acres. He is a member of the Calhoun County Farm Bureau and served three years as chairman of the county Young Farmers. Fountain held leadership roles in Farm Bureau membership drives, was active in the 4-H Club and the Future Farmers of America, and is an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church. He and his wife, Mary, have three children.



**EDWARD KLUCK**



**GERALD KLUCK**

Week of January 8 — Edward and Gerald Kluck, who operate the Kluck Nursery, Saginaw. Their nursery farm covers 280 acres. Edward, 55, and Gerald, 37, both are members of the Saginaw County Farm Bureau, the National Nurserymen's

Assn., and serve on the board of the Michigan Nursery Assn. Both are also very active in the Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Ed and his wife, Ruth, headed the building program for the new Holy Cross School, while Gerald and his wife, Sally, head the church fund raising bazaar each year.



**WILLIAM CRONENWETT**

Week of January 15 — William Cronenwett, Sr., a grape and asparagus grower from Lawton who farms 195 acres, nearly 100 of that devoted to grapes. The 49-year-old farmer is assisted in the farming operation by his two sons, Bryan and Bill. Cronenwett is a member of the Lawton Fire Dept., the Van Buren County Farm Bureau and he serves on the Antwerp Twp. Zoning Board. He has served both as chief and assistant chief of the Lawton Fire Dept. and he received Lawton's Fireman of the Year Award in 1977. He had been active in scouting for 25 years and has received numerous awards in recognition of his scouting work and for his work in the National Ecology Club. He also served as a committeeman for the National Grape Co-op. He and his wife, Jean, have four children.



**KEITH DODGE**

Week of January 22 — Keith Dodge of Rt. 2, Marcellus, a hog farmer in Cass County. Dodge, 42, a lifelong farmer, farms 440 acres and raises 3,000 hogs. He is a member of the School Board of the Marcellus Community Schools, serves on the area Production Credit Association (PCA) committee, and is an active member of the Cass County Farm Bureau. He and his wife, Carol, have three children.

### NOTICE

Effective with the April issue of the MICHIGAN FARM NEWS, all commercial classified ads will be charged at commercial rates (15¢ per word) regardless of Farm Bureau membership. Non-commercial 25-word classifieds will remain free to FB members.

Week of January 29 — Robert Kelsey, Rt. 1, Martin, who farms 220 acres and manages a herd of 120 dairy animals, including 60 milk cows. Kelsey, 53, is chairman of the board of the Production Credit Assn., Grand Rapids; vice chairman of the Kalamazoo local of the Michigan Milk Producers Assn.; local board member of the Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative; and member of the Martin Methodist Church, the Allegan County Farm Bureau, and the Township Zoning Board of Appeals. He is also past president of the Allegan Farmers Co-op and the local Soil Conservation District. Kelsey and his wife, Beverly, have two children.

## Member Life Benefits Increased

Benefits for Farm Bureau members who renew their Member Life insurance policies will increase 75 percent at no additional cost, effective throughout the upcoming policy year of April 1, 1979 to March 31, 1980.

Benefits to renewing members have increased five times since the low cost Member Life program, available only to Farm Bureau members, was introduced five years ago. The cost of the program is just \$25 a year. "Because of the added benefits, inflation doesn't erode the value of the Member Life policy," said Walter Lander, vice president of the Farm Bureau Life Insurance Co. "The increased benefits are the result of cost control and good claims experience."

Here is an example of what the increase would mean for a 35-year-old Farm Bureau member and spouse: If the coverage is for the member and spouse only, the original policy schedule shows a \$3,793 benefit for the member and a \$1,000 benefit for the spouse. With the 75 percent increase, these benefits jump to \$6,638 on the member and \$1,750 on the spouse.

If only the Farm Bureau member is covered, the amount of life insurance protection on a 35-year-old person would jump from \$4,793 on the original schedule to \$8,388 with the increase.

Members enrolling for the first time will receive benefits as listed in the original policy schedule. They will be eligible for any benefit increases when they renew their policy.

Farm Bureau members who would like to enroll or find out more about the program and its options should contact their Farm Bureau Insurance agent.

## FB Mutual Company Marks 30th Year

The Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, which grew from a few cardboard boxes filled with auto policies into the largest farm insurer in the state, will mark its 30th anniversary March 7.

Started by Farm Bureau leaders in 1949, the company today has total assets exceeding \$100 million and insures more farm property in Michigan than its next five competitors combined.

The 800 employees and agents of Farm Bureau Insurance Group will mark the 30th anniversary with special activities in March and an additional observation planned later in the year in conjunction with Michigan Farm Bureau's 60th anniversary.

The first home for Farm Bureau Mutual was a converted warehouse in Lansing and its first product was auto insurance for Farm Bureau members. In that first year, the company insured 10,000 autos belonging to members.

Strengthened by widespread member support, Farm Bureau Mutual added farm

liability insurance in 1950 and insurance for fire, wind and other hazards in 1954.

Farm Bureau Mutual pioneered the first Farmowners insurance package in the nation in 1960, a single policy covering the insurance needs of the entire farming operation. Today, companies around the nation offer similar policies, most of them based on the Farmowners program developed by Farm Bureau Mutual.

From the very beginning, Farm Bureau Mutual has constantly emphasized service to Farm Bureau members. Among the services designed exclusively for members are Guaranteed Auto Insurance and the Agricultural Workers Compensation Safety Group Program, which returns dividends to policyholders when claim experience is favorable.

It's all part of the success story of Farm Bureau Mutual, a company which produced more than \$63 million in premium income in 1978 and paid nearly \$600,000 in dividends to policyholders last year.

## Inclement Weather Results in Insurance Claims

Heavy snowfalls that battered the state in January produced big headaches for farmers as scores of farm buildings collapsed under the weight of accumulated ice and snow.

The problem was particularly evident in Western Michigan, where the collapse of farm buildings was especially prevalent. Farm Bureau Insurance Group, the state's largest insurer of farm property, reports that one loss, resulting from the collapse of a structure housing a large poultry operation, totaled nearly \$250,000 in damages.

Several other major losses, many of them exceeding \$25,000, were also reported to FBIG as heavy snow and ice caused barns and toolsheds to collapse on farm machinery and equipment housed inside.

In addition to the major losses, FBIG handled a constant stream of smaller

claims, averaging from \$500 to \$2,000.

Under FBIG's Farmowners and Country Estate policies, all farm buildings under 10 years old are covered for collapse from weight of ice, snow and sleet, a coverage the was added at no extra cost in 1975.

Outbuildings 10 years or older, however, are not covered for physical damage to the building in the event of collapse from weight of ice and snow.

Since the outbuilding coverage was broadened in 1975, FBIG has continued to research the possibility of broadening coverage for weight of ice and snow damage to include farm buildings currently not covered for this hazard because of the age limitation. Research in process includes studies on various types of roofs and the amounts of stress they can bear.

## MFB's Affiliate Companies

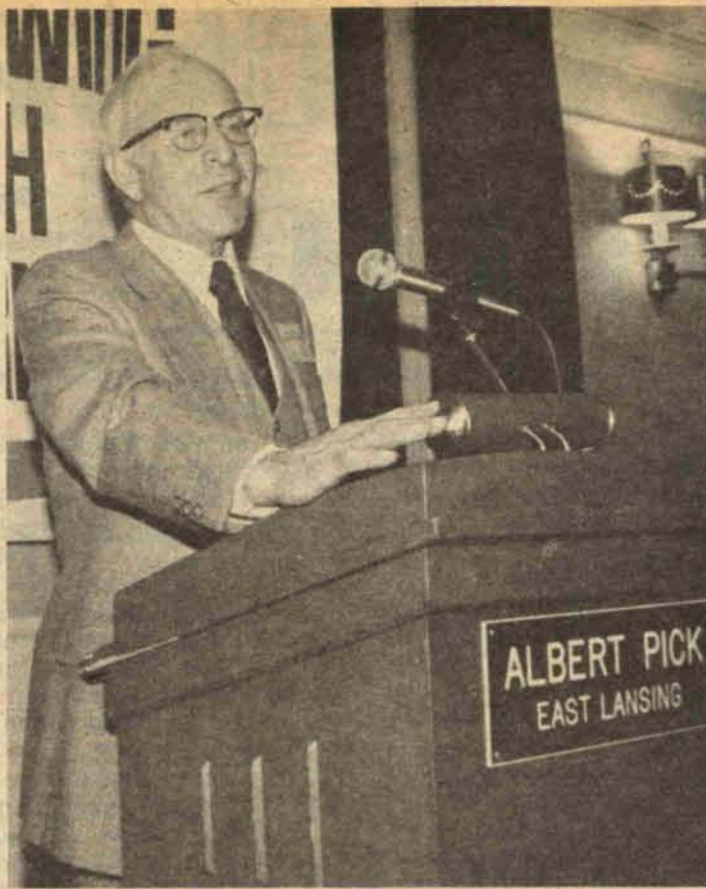
(Continued from Page 16)

operation on September 1, 1976. Group purchasing makes available the best quality product (primarily tires, batteries and steel tillage items) at the lowest possible cost to Farm Bureau members only on a cash basis. The program is county oriented with the dealer selection and support provided through the County Group Purchasing Committee, with the approval of the county Farm Bureau board of directors.

For a more detailed explanation of the affiliated companies and the divisions of Michigan Farm Bureau, copies of the booklet, "Michigan Farm Bureau and Affiliated Companies: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow," may be purchased through the MFB Information and Public Relations Division for 40 cents per copy.



PEOPLE



Dean M. Pridgeon, new director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, spoke at the 1979 Presidents' Conference held in Lansing February 14-15. He told the county Farm Bureau presidents that an evaluation of the MDA's program activities is currently underway. As a result of the review, Pridgeon hopes to make the department more responsive to the needs of Michigan agriculture.



John Datt, director of the American Farm Bureau Federation's Washington office, briefed county Farm Bureau presidents on the status of the soon-to-be-introduced Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining legislation.



According to Datt, the national farm bargaining legislation will be considered by a Congress which is not as conservative as the public has been led to believe by Washington analysts. He urged farmers to contact their congressional representatives in support of the legislative proposal.



Cake-cutting ceremonies at the 1979 Presidents' Conference marked the first observance of Michigan Farm Bureau's 60th anniversary year. MFB President Elton R. Smith performed the honors.



Governor William Milliken presents Senior Legislative Counsel Robert Smith with a signed copy of S 911. This bill cleared up a serious situation for those farmers who have signed PA 116 contracts and whose farms are incorporated.

**GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS  
(28) Explosive Proof Buildings**

Like New, 60 x 22, 12' Ceilings, Steel Frame with Fabricated Sections in Walls Made of Cement. Explosive Proof Fixtures, Lights, Heat Registers, Exhaust Fans, 2 Metal Side Doors, Circulating Heat Fan and 2 Pe. Front Door with Each Building. These Buildings Can Be Altered.  
You Dismantle and Remove ..... \$4,500 Ea.

**We Can Dismantle and Deliver For Extra Charge**

- (1) Bldg. 33 x 70, Metal with Steel Frame Taken Down, Ready For Shipment ..... \$5,500
- (1) Bldg. 33 x 100, Metal with Steel Frame Taken Down, Ready for Shipment ..... \$7,200
- (1) Bldg. 70 x 38, Metal with Steel Frame, (2) 12 x 14 Overhead Doors On Back and Office Space in Front. Complete with Lights & Fixtures. This Bldg. Is Not Dismantled ..... \$5,600

**We Will Sell Separately Or All  
Or Will Trade For Equipment**

(1) Water Storage Tank, 125,000 Gals. On Tower, 130' High, Norton Elevated Tank, Built In 1959.

**EDWARD G. REID IRON & METAL**

Box 51, Rte. 1, U.S. 2, Dafer, MI 49724 906-632-8055

# Department of Natural Resources

The state agency responsible for protecting Michigan's environment, conserving its natural resources and providing outdoor recreational opportunities for its citizens is the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The DNR is large and complex. Its headquarters are in Lansing, but more than three-fourths of its 3,000 plus employees work in its field organization which has offices and installations throughout the state. Every Michigan county is home to at least one DNR worker, and usually several.

One of DNR's present-day components, the Geological Survey, traces back to 1837, the year that Michigan became a state and was admitted to the union. Thus, DNR's roots are as long as those of the state government.

Later, other agencies were created by the Legislature to manage and protect fish, wildlife and forest, administer state lands and enforce hunting and fishing laws. In 1921, those several scattered units were gathered together in the first Michigan Department of Conservation. Today's Department of Natural Resources is that same department with a new name (adopted in 1968, to reflect expanded functions and responsibility assigned by the Legislature.)

For a long time, the DNR was looked upon as mainly a fish and game department, although it has been much more than that since its establishment. From the beginning, its authority as a result of action by the Legislature has extended over forest, parks, minerals of all kinds and virtually all state-owned land. During the 1960's its scope was broadened to include urban recreation.

In 1967 DNR's scope of activities was further expanded by the Legislature to include pollution control and allied water management problems, boating harbors, water access sites, Mackinaw Island State Park Commission and marine safety.

A landmark executive order issued by Governor Milliken in 1973, assigned to the DNR all environmental pollution functions of state government not previously carried on the department. Under that order the DNR assumed state-level responsibility for land resource planning and management, air pollution control, solid waste disposal, watershed protection and municipal wastewater treatment.

Seven commissioners, appointed by the governor, comprise the Department of Natural Resources' board of directors. In this commission rests the responsibility of establishing natural resources and environmental policies which set the guidelines for the department programs. The commission also appoints the director of the department.

Meeting once a month, the commission takes action on a wide range of natural resource management matters.

The commission establishes policies such as those governing the leasing of state lands for oil and gas exploration and production, recommends hunting and fishing regulations for legislative approval, acts upon proposed land exchanges, easements of purchases, passes judgment on planned department programs and projects and considers recommendations brought before it by Farm Bureau, sportsmen's clubs, community organizations and individuals.

## REGIONS

Responsibility for all field operations of the DNR centers in its regional organization. Each regional manager is the boss over all functions within the boundaries of his region whether these functions are in forestry, game, fish, law enforcement, parks or whatever. Budget control, personnel assignments, priority determination — all are in the scope of his authority.

## DISTRICTS

Just as natural resources of the state are widespread, so too are the activities of DNR and the outposts from which they are supervised.

Policies and programs formulated in Lansing, and organized and scheduled in the regional offices, are put to work through these outposts of district offices. The policies and programs,

# DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**  
Manager Member Relations

whether they be in law enforcement, game or fish management, forestry, park administration, or other department functions are with few exceptions, carried out by work forces assigned to the districts.

## AIR POLLUTION

Protection of the air you breathe is by mandate of the Legislature a responsibility of the DNR, which carries out Michigan's comprehensive air pollution control program.

Under this program industrial, commercial and municipal facilities are checked to determine if their emissions measure up to the air quality standards and Air Pollution Control Commission rules for the protection of human health and welfare. Routine and unscheduled inspections and special investigations are conducted in response to citizen complaints or other indications of a possible violation. Agriculture is a voting member of this Air Pollution Control Commission.

## LAND USE

It has been widely recognized that in the past too little attention has been paid to land source decisions and their immediate and long-range impact on both Michigan and its people.

Since land source planning and management functions were assigned to the DNR in 1973 by the governor, it has had the extremely complex task of developing a state land resource plan and planning program which includes the preparation of proposals for implementing land resource recommendations.

In the process of developing the land resource program a broad spectrum of factors which affect land resource decisions were weighed carefully. Among these are policies regarding public interest in highways, utilities, parks and other capital expenditure facilities; the physical capabilities of limitations of our land, water and air resources and the means by which land resource policy is developed and put into use. Molding these diverse elements into balanced policy benefitting both the people and the environment is no small or easy task.

## SOLID WASTE

Each year, Michigan residents and industries generate some 16 million tons of refuse: garbage, rubbish, ashes, incinerator ash and residue, street cleanings and industrial wastes.

To protect the public health and the environment, the DNR is required by the Legislature to provide guidelines and review plans for sound management of this refuse and future waste-handling needs. It also monitors all Michigan solid waste disposal facilities, regulates collection centers and enforces refuse regulations.

The DNR also licenses refuse hauling vehicles

as part of the continuous anti-litter program. Under this program, containers and compaction vehicles must be designed and operated to avoid accidental load discharges.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

Supporting DNR's resource management program is the work done by conservation officers stationed throughout the state.

The ever-expanding duties of these officers also call for them to guard against illegal dredging and filling, which threatens to spoil public waters, to be on the vigil against water pollution and misuse of public lands, to head off or squash vandalism and rowdiness in state parks and to come to grips with a host of other natural resources problems.

The conservation officers are responsible, in their respective areas for recreational safety training of youngsters that collectively covers hunting, motorboating, snowmobiling and general water safety.

## WATER QUALITY

Michigan's fresh water resource is vast and unique, covering almost 40,000 square miles of Great Lakes surface water, over 11,037 lakes and ponds, and 36,000 miles of streams. DNR's primary responsibility in this area as mandated by the Legislature is the protection of these waters through pollution control programs and enforcement of state water quality standards. This responsibility is carried out by the Water Resources Commission of which agriculture is a voting member.

Administering and enforcing both municipal and industrial wastewater control programs is also a responsibility of the DNR. The DNR figuratively keeps its finger on the pulse of public sanitation sewage treatment systems. The staff reviews and approves engineering reports, plans and specifications of proposed new collecting sewers and treatment plants and issues permits for their construction.

## MANY AREAS

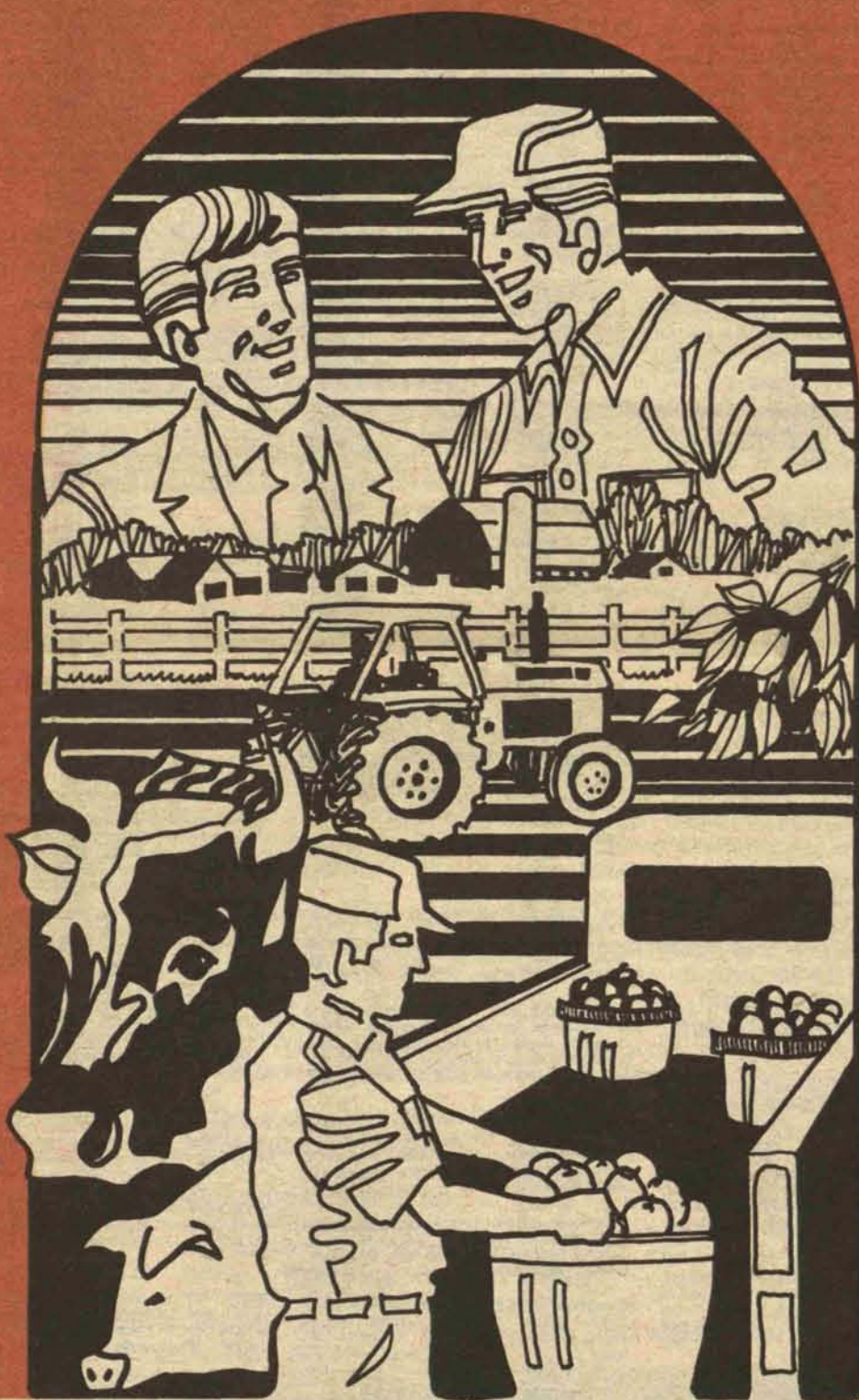
DNR has many more areas of duties and responsibility assigned it by the Legislature than space will permit mentioning in this article. Briefly put, DNR's role is that of trying to insure that everyone gets a fair and equal chance to use and enjoy Michigan's outdoor environment while at the same time making certain that our limited resources are not seriously damaged or destroyed through abuse.


As a regulatory agency which affects all of us, it is not likely that all of the DNR's activities will win a popularity contest. But it must be remembered that the agency is responsible for carrying out state and federal statutes which will do the greatest good for the greatest number for the greatest length of time.





# YOUR FARM IS OUR OFFICE



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**FARMOWNERS**  
**INSURANCE**  
**THAT WORKS...**

You can't work a farm from a rocking chair. We can't insure a farm from a downtown office. Annual insurance reviews, new equipment updates, new building evaluations, workers compensation analysis; agents with the farm insurance knowledge you need are there. At your farm. When you need them. Find out. Call your local Farm Bureau Insurance Agent today.

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FARM BUREAU MUTUAL  
IS MICHIGAN'S LARGEST  
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