

Governor Commends Farm Bureau Women Ag Understanding Day Activities



Shoppers at local supermarkets received a "thanks" flyer from farmers on April 30 as part of Agriculture Understanding Day activities. Above, Ingham County farmer Suzi Voss (right) explains Agriculture Understanding Day to an urban couple. Twenty-five county Farm Bureaus distributed 62,500 of the flyers.

In a proclamation making the day official, Governor William Milliken commended the Farm Bureau Women for their activities to make all citizens aware of the importance of Michigan agriculture to the state's economy. (See Page 4 for more activities.)

MFB Makes Goal!

For the twelfth consecutive year, Michigan Farm Bureau has had a continuous growth in membership. State goal of 63,094 member-families was achieved on April 12. MFB joins 14 other state Farm Bureaus who have surpassed 1979 goal.

Complimenting the volunteer workers who worked on the 1979 membership campaign, Charles Burkett, director of the MFB Field Operations Division, said, "The past twelve consecutive years of membership growth can be attributed to three major factors, good organization, meaningful programs and services for members, and dedicated enthusiastic efforts on the parts of volunteer membership workers, employees and agents. I have every confidence that if these three ingredients can be continued and enhanced, farmers in Michigan will always have a healthy organization

(Continued on Page 7)

*National Ag Bargaining Bill
is Introduced Page 3*

Trade Package Signed Page 9

*FB Members Make Voices Heard
in Washington Pages 8-9*

*"Acres for Charity" Project
Launched Page 4*

From the Desk of the President

Agriculture--Cooperating for Jobs and Energy

of land, supplies or markets are closely tied to the interests and concerns of the urban population — and often they may seem to conflict.

Yet, we cannot afford to look at those areas where farmers and urban people are not in agreement. We must look for issues where we can work together to improve the social, economic and environmental outlook for our state.

Opportunities for greater rural urban cooperation exist right now. Not only in environmental issues such as the development of a wetlands protection bill in the Michigan legislature, which Farm Bureau supports, but also through cooperative efforts to conserve our energy resources in this state.

Our agricultural and manufacturing industries rely heavily upon the availability of adequate energy supplies. Yet our state is 90 percent fuel dependent. Because of this our entire Michigan

economy can be severely impacted by reduction or short supply of energy resources. For without sufficient energy to power the growth of agriculture, business, education and industry, jobs will be lost in all sectors of Michigan's economy.

Therefore, we have joined with leaders in Michigan representing those interests to form the Committee for Jobs and Energy. The Committee was formed last December to find realistic and workable solutions to our energy problems. Through our cooperative efforts we hope to gain greater understanding of the need for energy conservation and for the energy sufficiency which can be achieved through the development of nuclear energy within the borders of our own state.

The Committee has established the following objectives:

1. Strong fuel conservation and energy efficiency mea-

sures that save energy whenever possible and practical.

2. Development of new energy sources which are feasible and practical both environmentally and economically. This includes calling for continued research and development of alternate sources of energy such as solar, biomass, wood, wind, geothermal and nuclear fusion.

3. Reliance upon our most available domestic fuels — coal and uranium — for the generation of most of our electric power and conversion of industry from the indiscriminate use of oil and natural gas, to coal, under safeguards that make environmental and economical good sense. To achieve this goal clearly implies that government must streamline the approval process for new power plant construction.

4. Accelerate exploration and development of domestic oil and natural gas resources, both onshore and offshore.

5. Production of more synthetic oil and gas substitutes from coal and other available resources.

The Committee has already initiated various programs aimed at helping to achieve these objectives. Most recently, agriculture was represented on the Michigan Labor Energy Tour through my participation in a two site tour of nuclear facilities in operation and under construction in this state.

The tour provided 46 other leaders in business, government and labor with a firsthand look at nuclear plant sites at Benton Harbor and near Monroe. The tour was especially relevant in view of the publicity regarding the Three Mile Island incident in Pennsylvania and recent anti-nuclear protests in our own state. Although it is difficult to set aside fears produced by such nuclear plant incidents, we must also realize that nuclear energy is our greatest hope for energy independence in the future.

Production agriculture uses only about 3 percent of the U.S. fuel supplies each year, nevertheless, we must have those resources available when they are needed. Through increasing our energy independence we can protect the availability of oil and natural gas supplies. We recognize that private enter-

(Continued on Page 10)



We, in agriculture, are very proud that our industry is the second largest in the state. In very real terms, agriculture does create jobs and bring dollars into the Michigan economy. Last year the value of Michigan farm products was 2 billion dollars. When we look at the transportation, processing and marketing systems required to support agriculture, we can see that those dollars were multiplied five times in the economy to total 10 billion dollars. Dollars that mean employment security and a more stable economy for Michigan.

Agriculture has this rippling economic effect because of the growing complexity of the industry. Increasingly, factors which affect production, availability

Sophistication

Down the Drain with the Rain

When I moved from a one-room country schoolhouse to the school in town, I was awed by the marble halls. That special squeak of saddle shoes on marble floors was something I'd never experienced and, when the hall monitor wasn't looking, a gentle slide and a vivid imagination put me on ice skates on a super-smooth pond.

That little kid in me surfaces every time I go to Washington, D.C. I'm practically a veteran of the Farm Bureau Women's Washington Legislative Seminar now, but I still stare in awe at the multitude of huge marble buildings in that city. And I still get a nagging urge to sneak in a little slide and wonder . . . what historic figures who walked these halls gave way to that temptation?

You would expect, with the experience of several trips to the nation's capital, to gain a certain degree of poise and sophistication. This year, I vowed to quit gawking like a first-time visitor and tuck in my awe so it wouldn't be noticeable.

On the day when legislative leaders visit their congressmen and heritage tour people visit the many historical sites of the area, Farm Bureau's information staff people make press calls. Many of your daily newspapers, radio and television stations here in Michigan have reporters in

Washington who send stories "back home" and we visit these people to tell them about our group and what our legislative leaders hope to accomplish.

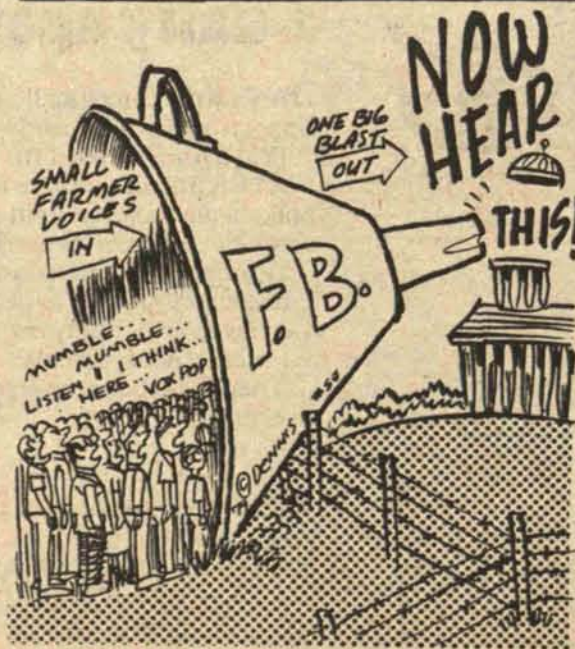
This would be a good day, I decided, to try out my sophistication. I would not be overly-impressed with the vibrancy of the Capitol press rooms; I would not stand and stare at the names of famous newspaper columnists printed on the doors at the National Press Club and wonder if they were really people just like me. I would be cool!

That was not difficult; in fact, I was freezing! The cold rain came down in buckets, aided in its efforts to cause pneumonia by a bone-chilling wind. After the first few miserable blocks, we gave up dodging puddles and concentrated on protecting ourselves from a poke in the eye by the umbrellas carried by everyone — except us.

We weren't aware that a horn blast by a truck approaching from the rear meant "move back" and were further drenched with muddy gutter water. The enterprising street-hawkers



FUNNEL YOUR VOICE TO THE TOP!



who had switched from their usual fruit and flowers to umbrellas were too late.

I wanted to shout up at the heavens: "Mother Nature, I always use butter!" — but we were already a bit of an unusual attraction. One man stared at us and said: "You're the only people I've seen today without an umbrella!" There's nothing strange about a costumed group dancing and chanting on a street corner — but people without umbrellas? — Strictly wierd!

My efforts at sophistication faded as hair flattened against our scalps in dripping strands, mud spattered our clothes, mascara ran, and shoes slogged. Any resemblance between the neat people who left the hotel that morning on their assigned mission and the ones who sheepishly apologized to the news people for dripping on their carpets while handing them a soggy press kit was purely coincidental.

Next year, I'll try once again to be sophisticated — if the sun shines.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

(ISSN 0026-2161)

The Michigan FARM NEWS is published monthly, on the first day, by the Michigan Farm Bureau Information Division, Publication and Editorial offices at 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48909. Post Office Box 30960. Telephone, Lansing (517) 323-5661, Extension 228. Subscription price, 80 cents per year. Publication No. 345040.

Established January 13, 1923. Second-class postage paid at Lansing, MI, and at additional mailing offices.

EDITORIAL: Donna Wilber, Editor; Marcia Ditchie, Connie Lawson, Associate Editors.

OFFICERS: Michigan Farm Bureau; President, Elton R. Smith, Caledonia, R-1; Vice President, Jack Laurie, Cass City; Administrative Director, Robert Braden, Lansing; Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, Max D. Dean; Secretary, William S. Wilkinson.

DIRECTORS: District 1, Arthur Bailey, Schoolcraft; District 2, Lowell Eisenmann, Blissfield, R-1; District 3, Andrew Jackson, Howell, R-1; District 4, Elton R. Smith, Caledonia, R-1; District 5, William Spike, Owosso, R-3; District 6, Jack Laurie, Cass City, R-3; District 7, Robert Rider, Hart, R-1; District 8, Larry DeVuyst, Ithaca, R-4; District 9, Donald Nugent, Frankfort, R-1; District 10, Richard Wieland, Ellsworth, R-1; District 11, Franklin Schwiderson, Dattler.

DIRECTORS AT LARGE: Walter Frahm, Frankenmuth; Michael Pridgeon, Montgomery; Robert Rottler, Newaygo.

WOMEN OF FARM BUREAU: Mrs. Andrew Jackson, Howell, R-4.

FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMERS: David Conklin, Corunna.

POSTMASTER: In using form 3579, mail to: Michigan Farm News, 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

National Ag Bargaining Bill Introduced

Marketing and bargaining legislation sought by Farm Bureau and other farm groups has been introduced in the House by Representative Leon E. Panetta (D-Calif.).

In introducing the National Agricultural Bargaining Act (H.R. 3535), Panetta said it is an effort to provide American farmers with improved bargaining power in the marketplace. The legislation, Panetta explained, would allow farmers to enhance their position in a market

where presently they are at a serious competitive disadvantage.

Panetta pointed out that the market structure of American agriculture is becoming concentrated in the hands of fewer, larger and more specialized agribusiness operations. "Large processors and retailers are consequently able to dictate product supply, the time and conditions for delivery, product quality and appearance, and,

most important, the price that a farmer receives for his product."

To cope with this non-competitive situation, Panetta pointed out that an increasing number of farmers have formed bargaining associations. However, he stressed, there is currently no requirement that processors or handlers engage in good faith bargaining with the associations.

"Indeed, there are examples where some farmers have virtually been penalized in the bargaining process because they belonged to such associations," he said.

H.R. 3535 would allow for the accreditation of cooperative associations by the Department of Agriculture and define the mutual bargaining obligations of both parties with respect to production, sale and marketing of farm products.

ACTION REQUESTED

To show support for national agricultural bargaining legislation, it is necessary that as many co-sponsors of H.R. 3535 as possible be obtained. It is hoped that most of Michigan's 19 U.S. representatives will be among the co-sponsors of this legislation.

Farm Bureau members are urged to write their U.S. representatives in Washington, D.C. and ask them to join as a co-sponsor of H.R. 3535 — the National Agricultural Bargaining Bill of 1979 as introduced by Congressman Leon Panetta.

Ask your congressman to write back and tell you if he will co-sponsor H.R. 3535. Photos of the Michigan congressmen who co-sponsor this legislation will appear in future issues of the MICHIGAN FARM NEWS.

MACMA Manager Cites Need for National Bill

"Farm bargaining legislation is urgently needed by farmer members of bargaining and marketing associations in all areas of the nation," said Noel W. Stuckman, general manager of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA).

"Our experiences with operating under the provisions of Michigan's farm bargaining act (PA 344) for the past five years has shown that such legislation is a feasible approach to giving farmers equity of bargaining power," Stuckman stated. "Farmers have the legal right to form and operate bargaining cooperatives, but membership by producers in an association can only be meaningful if processors are required to bargain in good faith with an accredited association.

"We are fortunate to have a bargaining act in Michigan. Bargaining associations in other states need legislation also. A good aspect of national legislation is that it will apply to those associations which want to use it on the same basis as to other associations in other states.

"The national legislation will greatly benefit processing apple growers in New York and the Appalachian states. Prices received by apple growers in those states, which have no bargaining laws, are lower each year than in Michigan where MACMA negotiates with the processors effectively under our state law.

"What we seek in the enactment of the bill are the protections necessary to enable producers to develop effective cooperatives, run at their own expense by their own elected leadership. In this way, the independent farmer can come nearer to the bargaining effectiveness of his few powerful customers in the marketplace. He can get a reasonable price for what he produces, which is not only for his own benefit, but in the best interests of a sound economy.

"We expect Rep. Foley, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, to hold hearings on the bill in the near future. This will provide the opportunity for farmers to testify on the need for the legislation and to hasten its enactment by Congress," Stuckman concluded.

"Congressional Hotline" for Farmer Cooperatives Open

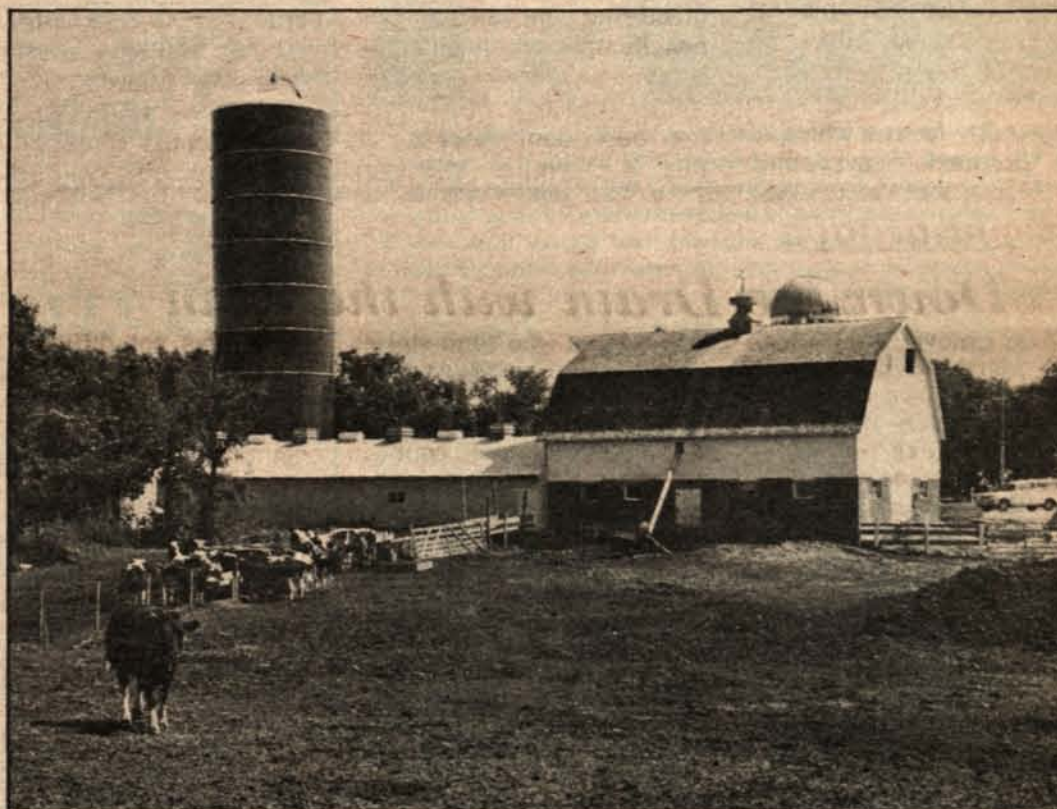
Members of four Michigan cooperatives: Farm Bureau Services, Cherry Central Cooperative, the Michigan Blueberry Growers Association and the Michigan Milk Producers Association, have a new way of communicating quickly and directly with their congressional representatives.

These cooperatives belong to the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and the Council has put a "congressional hotline" in service. When an issue surfaces in Washington which the Council thinks needs farmer reaction, the Council contacts individual co-op public affairs directors. They, in turn, alert the farmer members.

The farmers call a special toll-free Western Union number, dictate their message and designate which congressman the message should reach. Western Union then delivers the message.

"We think this will be a more efficient way of getting farmer input to our representatives," says LA Cheney, executive secretary of the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives. "The hotline is intended to provide Congress with comments from individual farmers as to the effect various proposals will have on their farming operation."

Farmers can get more information on the hotline by contacting their local participating cooperative.



Straight talk about financing a dairy operation

Dairy farms come in all sizes. Each has specific opportunities and needs.

PCA's line-of-credit financing fits dairying to a T. A PCA line-of-credit is planned a year at a time, specifically tailored to fit the job. Once set up, you draw the money you need as you need it.

Our line-of-credit financing is simple interest, charged only for the amount you actually use and the days you actually use it. There's never a charge for money held "on call."

There's no better way to finance a dairy operation.

Michigan Production Credit Associations

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



Farming is everybody's bread & butter.

Ag Understanding Day Activities Underway

WJR's "Acres for Charity" Project Launched

By Mike Rogers

A dozen Michigan Farm Bureau members are working with WJR radio in Detroit on the "Acres for Charity" project that is designed to tell city people about farming and agricultural marketing.

Participating in the project are dry bean producers Clare Harrington of Akron, John Knoer of Sandusky and John Tanton of Deckerville; wheat producers Dave Jacobs of New Lothrop, Nelson Leach of Richmond and Chuck Paas of Belleville; hog producers Werner Clasen of Richmond,

Mike Pridgeon of Montgomery and George Swartzendruber of Bay Port; and apple growers Jim Erwin of Novi, Don and Sandra Hill of Montrose and Rob Peabody of Fenton.

Each of these growers has agreed to symbolically donate to WJR a portion of their commodity. WJR morning personality J.P. McCarthy will put these farmers on the radio throughout the growing season and ask them about planting, tilling, fertilizing, marketing, taxation . . . all the various factors involved in the production of that commodity.

At harvest time McCarthy will, with the advice and assistance of the growers, select a time and method for selling the donated commodity. The selling price will

be met by donations from either the grower or other MFB members. This money will then be donated to the

Detroit Police Athletic League, a charity that is the frequent beneficiary of WJR fund raising efforts.

The Story of Agriculture

Inside and Out--



Over 200 farmers and agribusiness people participated in the 6th annual Clinton County Dairy Tour on April 4, which featured three area farming operations. Roger Lerg described the land pressures their family farm partnership is facing to the visitors. Proposed interstate highway and power line construction across the Lerg property threatens the future of the operation in its present location.



Ingham County farm wife Cathy Lott shows Holt pre-school class how butter is made. Each child made his own butter by shaking cream in a baby food jar.



The farm was brought to the city recently when Washtenaw and Monroe county Farm Bureaus sponsored an agricultural mall display at the Briarwood Mall in Ann Arbor. Several elementary school classes toured the displays and one of the highlights was an incubator where visitors had the opportunity to see baby chicks emerge from their shells.

Saginaw FB, WSGW Radio Sponsor Ag-Awareness

The Saginaw County Farm Bureau, in cooperation with Radio Station WSGS's farm editor, Terry Henne, will kick off an "Ag-Awareness" project on April 30.

Four commodities have been selected for involvement in the consumer-education program — navy beans, soybeans, corn and sugar beets. Local farmers will give information on their commodities to Rick Belcher and Fred Krell of WSGW through weekly telephone interviews. They'll report on the progress of their crop — its growth, costs and needs.

When harvest and marketing have been completed in the fall, profits — if there are any — will be donated to a local charity by the Saginaw County Farm Bureau.

William G. Milliken

Governor of the State of Michigan

presents this

Executive Declaration

in Observance of

April 30, 1979

as

AGRICULTURE UNDERSTANDING DAY IN MICHIGAN

Michigan is one of the nation's top agricultural states. In 1978, Michigan ranked first in the production of dry edible navy beans, red tart cherries, eastern soft white winter wheat, pickling cucumbers and blueberries, in addition to producing 50 varieties of crops. Few states can boast, as Michigan can, that their citizens can enjoy a banquet prepared entirely from food produced within their own borders.

Agriculture is one of the state's largest industries. Last year, more than \$2 billion worth of products were produced by Michigan farmers. With the addition of transportation, processing and marketing, this brought the retail value of Michigan's agricultural industry to approximately \$10 billion. The value of our agricultural exports reached \$400 million. Agriculture long has been a stabilizing factor in Michigan's economy.

Only three out of every 100 persons in Michigan are involved in the production of food, but each farmer produces enough food to feed himself and 55 others. Farm output per person has increased at a rate twice that of manufacturing industries.

Throughout our nation, farmers have selected April 30, 1979, as a special day to seek understanding and support of their industry by their urban neighbors. Michigan Farm Bureau Women are to be commended for their leadership in promoting Agriculture Understanding Day in this state. The Farm Bureau women in each county also should be commended for organizing the activities which will be conducted April 30 to promote an understanding of the contribution of agriculture to Michigan's economy.

Therefore, I, William G. Milliken, Governor of the State of Michigan, do hereby declare April 30, 1979, as Agriculture Understanding Day in Michigan, and urge all citizens to recognize the positive impact farmers have had on the growth of this state and nation.

Given under my hand on this twelfth day of April in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred seventy-nine and of the Commonwealth one hundred forty-third.



William G. Milliken

GOVERNOR

Michigan Farm Radio Network

"Credibility is Key in Farm Broadcasting"



The voice of farm broadcaster Howard Heath is familiar to farmer-listeners throughout the state. His biggest reward, says Howard, is the appreciation of farmers for the services MFRN performs.



MFRN General Manager Bob Driscoll, former Farm Bureau regional representative and director of broadcast services, believes "as long as there are family farmers, there will be a place for farm radio."



Roy Olson, also a former Farm Bureau broadcaster, serves as operations manager for the Michigan Farm Radio Network. The combined farm broadcast experience of the three personalities totals over 60 years.

Farmers who listen to the market reports by Michigan Farm Radio Network's Howard Heath claim they know "from the tone of his voice" whether the news will be good or bad even before he gives them the figures.

The reason for this, Howard believes, is that he's not just reading some abstract figures into the microphone; he really thinks of himself as seated at the kitchen table or riding in the tractor cab with his farmer-listeners — and he genuinely cares whether the news is good or bad.

This caring about farmers and serving their needs was the cornerstone upon which the Michigan Farm Radio Network was built. There's a bit of the evangelist in Howard, who recently began his 34th year as farm broadcaster for WPAG, Ann Arbor. He had a "calling," Howard says, to try to satisfy farmers' hunger for farm news — and the Network was his dream of the vehicle through which he would reach them.

In January of 1971, Howard and local businessman, John Stommen, publisher of the Milan newspaper and owner of a print shop in Ann Arbor, turned the dream into a reality and christened it the Michigan Farm Radio Network. Using the Ann Arbor print shop as their office, they started their programming on the Interstate Regional News Network. When that network went out of business, MFRN facilities moved to the basement of Howard's rural home near Milan, where it remained for several years.

Early programming, on about 20 Michigan radio stations, focused mainly on grain and livestock reports and a Michigan Farm Bureau produced show. In 1974, Bob Driscoll, who had served for three years as a Michigan Farm Bureau regional representative and four years in MFB's Information & Public Relations Division as director of broadcast services and manager of news and press relations, left the organization to become part-owner of the Michigan Farm Radio Network. Later, another Farm Bureau broadcaster, Roy Olson, also joined the Network staff. The combined farm broadcast experience of the MFRN's three "personalities" — Howard, Bob and Roy — totals over 60 years.

The enterprise, formed to serve the information needs of farmers, expanded rapidly, outgrowing Howard's basement, and the initial structure of the Network. Now housed in a large facility on Hurd Street in

Network Offers Farm Programming as Diversified as Michigan's Agriculture....

Milan, is the Great Lakes Radio Network with its four divisions: the Michigan Farm Radio Network, the Sports Michigan Network, the Michigan News Network, and Ag-Communications, the public relations-printing-ad agency arm of the business.

Today, MFRN, boasting programming "as diversified as Michigan agriculture," is a 40-station network. Its programs include grain and livestock market reports, insect and disease reports, weather reports, a potato market report, fruit and vegetable report, poultry and egg report, weekly dairy report and navy bean updates, in addition to agricultural news.

A regular contributor to the latter category is the Michigan Farm Bureau's Broadcast Services Department. "We appreciate the daily input from Farm Bureau," says Howard, "especially those on-scene reports such as the recent Washington Legislative Seminar. When we can capture an important moment, as it's actually happening and communicate it to those who can't be there, our listeners feel they are sharing in the experience."

With communications becoming more important to modern agriculture, home computers and ticker tapes spewing out information right in the farm office are no longer far-in-the-future projections. If every farmer in Michigan had access to sophisticated communications equipment right in their own homes, would it mark the end of the need for farm radio?

The personnel of MFRN are confident it would not. "As long as there are family farms, there will be a place for farm radio," said Bob. "There are many places farmers can call today for market reports, but they still look to us. There's something

about the human input, the personalities that they can identify with — who reflect their lives, that all adds up to credibility."

Credibility is the key in farm broadcasting, Bob believes. "When people trust you and react to the information you give them, that's a big responsibility and it's not one that we take lightly."

MFRN personnel say that expansion of the Network over the years into areas other than farm broadcasting — such as news and sports — did raise some concern among the farming community. But those who worried "Will they forget us?" have been reassured by the constant expansion of farm programming.

"The Michigan Farm Radio Network will always be our primary network," said Bob. "The main focus of our information efforts in the future will be on marketing — not making decisions for the farmer, but providing information to help him make good management decisions."

Another expanded service to farmers — special agricultural weather reports — is scheduled to start this spring.

To Howard, the Network is a dream realized through persistence and hard work. "It's living proof that if you really believe in something and persevere, you can make it happen, no matter what the obstacles."

The veteran farm broadcaster, who admits to never outgrowing the thrill of being recognized by farmers and called by his first name, says the biggest reward of his work is the appreciation of farmers for the services the MFRN performs. "Farm people are about the only people who still take the time to say thank you," said Howard.

What's Happening?

May 1	District 10 Farm Bureau Women's Spring Rally	Atlanta Community Building Atlanta
May 2	District 11 Farm Bureau Women's Council Meeting	Crystal Falls
May 3	District 11 Farm Bureau Women's Council Meeting	Engadine
May 26-27	Muskegon Mall Display	Muskegon
June 18-22	College Week for Women	Michigan State University
June 18-22	Young People's Citizenship Seminar	Albion College, Albion

CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith

Michigan's School Finance System

Michigan Farm Bureau receives many inquiries on how our school system is financed. The following article hopefully will answer many of those questions.

Much of the data is taken from a report authored by Mr. Gene Ceasar, an acknowledged school finance expert. Some additional information has been added as a further effort to clarify Michigan's system of school finance.

MICHIGAN SCHOOL FINANCE 1978-79

K-12 education is BIG BUSINESS. The public K-12 schools will cost an estimated \$4.38 billion in the current 1978-79 fiscal year.

About \$200 million, or 5 percent, will come from federal aid.

About \$2.282 billion will come from property taxes, however, the state will rebate about \$202 million of this amount to individual taxpayers under its "circuit-breaker" program. So the net revenue contributed by property taxes will be \$2.08 billion — 47½ percent of the total.

An estimated \$1.878 billion will come from state aid to school districts and their retirement system. Together with the previously-mentioned \$202 million in school-property-tax rebates, this makes a state contribution of \$2.08 billion — also 47½ percent of the total. In other words, the state and local share of the bulk of the costs are on a 50-50 basis.

SCHOOL PROPERTY TAXES

Michigan public schools will receive about \$2.282 billion in 1978-79 from the levy of local and intermediate district property taxes. Property taxes are levied in "mills" on the State Equalized Valuation (SEV), which is supposed to be 50 percent of the fair market value of the property. (One "mill" tax is \$1 per \$1000 SEV.)

The average homeowner in the state currently pays about 56.7 mills in total taxes, of which some 35.2 mills go to the schools. **Example:** If the property is worth \$50,000 and is assessed at \$25,000, the average total tax bill is \$1417, with \$880 going to the schools.

If this average homeowner has household income of \$20,000 he will be credited, on his state income tax return, with a "circuit-breaker" rebate equal to 60 percent of the amount by which his property taxes exceed 3.5 percent of this income, or \$430.50. So he will really pay net property taxes of \$987.50 with \$613.05 going to the schools. The tax rebate cuts

his property tax over 30 percent. (If this property owner is a senior citizen, 100 percent of his "excess" property taxes will be rebated.) The rebate is limited to a maximum of \$1200. Farm property is eligible for the program. Renters are also eligible. (Farmers have another alternative in addition to the "circuit-breaker." They can take advantage of P.A. 116, the Farmland Preservation Act, under which all property tax over 7 percent of household income is rebated.)

In this manner, some \$202 million of the \$2.282 billion in total school property taxes paid in Michigan are being offset by direct state rebates to individual taxpayers.

STATE SCHOOL REVENUES

The State of Michigan is currently spending about \$2.08 billion from its 1978-79 budget on its public schools — an estimated \$1.451 billion in direct appropriations, some \$425.9 million to cover retirement and Social Security costs for school employees, and about \$202 million in school-property-tax rebates. An estimated \$963.7 million of this amount will come from the constitutionally earmarked State School Aid Fund. This fund is made up of 2.4¢ of the 4¢ Michigan sales tax, 2¢ of the cigarette tax and a 4 percent excise tax on liquor. The remaining \$1.116 billion will come from the state's general fund, which is made up of all unrestricted state taxes — the personal income tax, the Single Business Tax, the remaining portion of sales tax revenue, the lottery proceeds, etc.

THE STATE AID ACT

The annual State School Aid Act is the single largest appropriation of state funds made by the Michigan Legislature — fully \$1451 million in 1978-79. Newspapers are fond of saying that less than 10 or 12 individuals in Michigan really understand the way this act allocates the funds to some 575 local districts and 58 intermediate districts.

The entire School Aid Act is based upon two simple principles:

(1) Suppose you own a home with a given valuation and pay a certain number of dollars in school taxes. Suppose you have a friend who lives in a neighboring school district, owns a home with the same valuation and pays exactly the same amount of school taxes. The State of Michigan will allocate the bulk of its aid, fully \$1.07 billion, in an effort

to guarantee that your children in school will have the same number of dollars available for their education as your friend's children — even though the neighboring district may have much more valuation such as factories, shopping centers, and other tax-base advantages.

(2) Suppose that your school district has a number of special needs or offers some special programs that do not exist in the neighboring district. Suppose that your district has long distances to transport children, a large number of underachieving pupils, a sizable non-English speaking population, and an expensive new Vocational Education Center — while all of the neighboring district's children walk to school, do well on the statewide tests, speak fluent English and receive only academic education. The State of Michigan will spend the remaining \$381.1 million in its efforts to help your school district and other similar districts meet special needs and maintain special programs. This is known as categorical aid to local and intermediate school districts. There are several categorical inclusions including \$102.1 million for added costs to educate handicapped children.

THE STATE AID "FORMULA"

The largest portion of state aid to Michigan public schools has been allocated since 1973-74, on an "equal dollars for equal effort" basis — a guarantee that any school district, no matter how deficient in tax base, will have the same per-pupil amount to spend at any given tax rate as a relatively wealthy school district.

For 1978-79, each school district was guaranteed, in combined state-local revenue, a per-pupil amount equal to \$274 plus \$40 for each mill (up to 30 mills) of operating tax levied. Accordingly, every school district that levied 30 mills of operating tax was guaranteed \$1474 per pupil (\$274, plus \$40 times 30).

If a district had low valuation, for example, only \$15,000 SEV behind each pupil, a levy of 30 mills in this district would bring in only \$450 for each pupil, (\$15,000 times 30). State aid for the district, under the formula guarantee, would be \$1,024 per pupil, (\$1,474 less \$450).

On the other hand, in a district with a high valuation for example, \$35,000 SEV per pupil, a levy of 30 mills would bring in \$1050 for each pupil, (\$35,000 times 30). State aid for this wealthier district,

under the formula guarantee, would be \$242 per pupil, (\$1,474 less \$1,050).

Owners of comparably-valued property in both districts would pay identical amounts in school operating taxes and have identical amounts spent on the education of their children. Fully \$1.07 billion in state membership aid is being allocated in 1978-79 to insure this type of school-finance equity.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN VALUATIONS INCREASE?

Legislators frequently receive letters accusing the state of deliberately increasing property values to save money on school aid. The fact is that state aid increases each year. For example, in 1977-78 a district raising 25 mills of tax was guaranteed \$1,164 per pupil, (\$164 plus \$40 per mill). In 1978-79 that same district is guaranteed \$1,274 per pupil, (\$274 plus \$40 per mill). If the district had \$25,000 SEV behind each pupil in 1977-78 and raised \$625 per pupil, the state aid was \$539, a total of \$1,164. Now if the SEV increased by the average of 9



Lansing

percent in 1978-79 to \$27,250, the local tax raised \$681.25 and the state aid also increased to \$592.75, a total of \$1,274. It would, however, be possible in this example to have a per-pupil decrease in state aid if the SEV increased more than 17.6 percent to more than \$29,400.

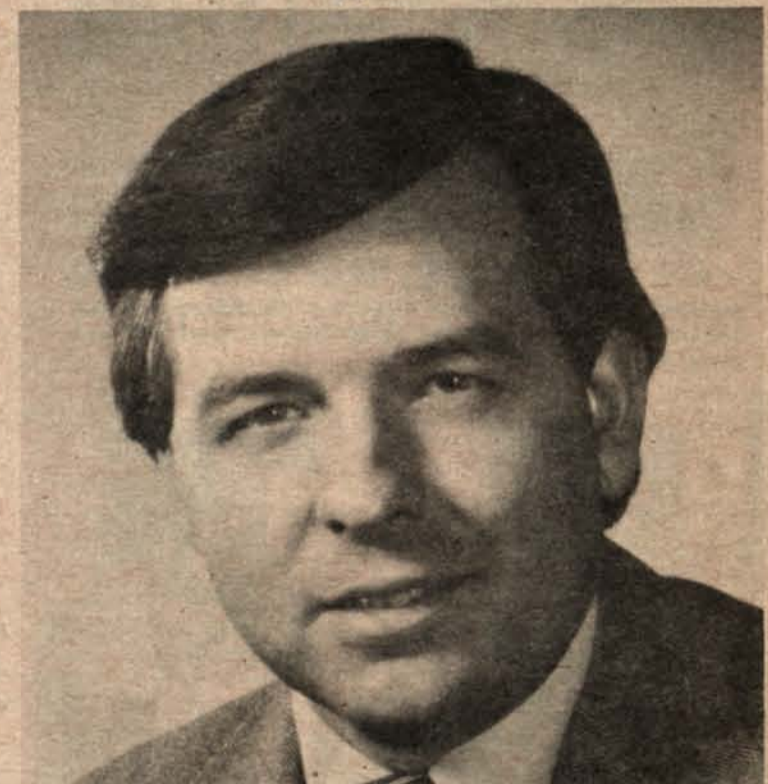
It should be pointed out that districts with exactly \$40,000 SEV per pupil would receive only the \$274 per pupil in the formula because a mill of tax brings in the \$40 per mill guaranteed to all districts. A district with more than \$49,000 SEV would not receive any state aid under the formula. However, it would receive categorical aid mentioned above.

SCHOOL COSTS

Eleven years ago (1967-68) total spending for K-12 schools was about \$1.466 billion (\$716.9 million or 48.9 percent local; \$690 million or 47.1 percent state; \$58.9

(Continued on Page 11)

Hertel Named Chairman of Senate Ag Committee



Senator John C. Hertel (D-Harper Woods), chairman of the Senate Environmental Affairs Committee, now has agriculture as a part of the committee. It will be known as Environmental and Agricultural Affairs; it was transferred from Consumer Affairs. Agriculture was part of Sen. Hertel's committee during the last session.

He is interested in agriculture and especially

draft horses. He was instrumental in organizing the Michigan and Great Lakes International Draft Horse Show and Pull held annually at the Michigan State Fairgrounds, Detroit.

Other committee members are Senators Arthur J. Miller, Jr. (D-Warren); Stephen V. Monsma (D-Grand Rapids); Phil Arthurhultz (R-Whitehall); and William A. Sederburg (R-East Lansing).

Members

County FB Leaders Meet with Local News Media



Monroe County Farm Bureau Information Chairman Jerry Heck talks with Dean Cousino (left) of the Monroe Evening News during an "Agricultural Backgrounder" held recently in Ann Arbor. The Ag Backgrounders, held throughout the state, are designed to develop a working relationship between county Farm Bureau leaders and their local news media.

AFBF President Ranked Top Agricultural Leader



ALLAN GRANT

Allan Grant, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, was ranked number two among his peers of those individuals who will provide leadership in agriculture in the 1980s in a nationwide leadership survey conducted by the U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT. Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland was ranked first; Thomas Foley, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, was third; ex-Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz and Herman Talmadge, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, tied for fourth place. The survey results appeared in the April 16 issue of U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT.

Fraternity Hosts Apple Queen



Michigan Apple Queen Heidi Bintz of Saginaw County was a recent guest of Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR) Tau, the only social-professional agricultural fraternity in the state. Located at Michigan State University, AGR members work to develop leadership for agriculture and provide scholarships to outstanding high school juniors enrolled in FFA. The fraternity is continually looking for new ways to promote Michigan agriculture and welcomes ideas from FARM NEWS readers. Write: AGR, 432 Evergreen Street, East Lansing, Michigan, 48813.

VanderMolen Named Member Services Manager; Scharp is New MASA Manager



JOHN VANDERMOLEN

Charles Burkett, director of the Michigan Farm Bureau Field Operations Division, recently announced the appointment of John VanderMolen as manager of the Division's Member Services Department.

Prior to assuming his new position on April 9, VanderMolen served as regional representative in the Southwest region. He replaces Harold Scharp who was named operations manager for the Michigan Agricultural Services Association on April 2.



HAROLD SCHARP

Mrs. Jackson is Honored



CLAUDINE JACKSON

Mrs. Claudine Jackson of Howell, the Farm Bureau Women's representative on the MFB board of directors, was one of six people recently honored during the 4th Annual Distinguished Lecture Program activities by Michigan State University's College of Human Ecology.

Mrs. Jackson received the Outstanding Alumni Award for her service to her community and the state in numerous leadership roles, including legislative and agricultural involvement.

MFB Makes Goal

(Continued from Page 1)

working in their behalf to insure a climate of freedom and economic opportunity."

A total of 43 Michigan counties and nine regions have attained their 1979 quota. In addition, eight districts have surpassed goal.

Following are the counties and their membership chairmen who have reported goal since March 16:

In the 1-350 member category: Emmett - Jim Sterly and Hiawathaland - Richard Wallace; in the 651-1200 category: Jackson - Howard Haven and Oakland - James Vantine; and in the 1501-over category: Genesee - Tom Atherton, Gratiot - Lee Skinner and Sanilac - Bill Boldt.



District 11 Director Frank Schwiderson models a T-shirt with the assistance of Chuck Burkett, signifying his district's first-place standing in membership at the MFB board's April meeting.

Piepkow is Top Dairyman of the Year

Calhoun County Farm Bureau President Paul Piepkow, Sr. was named 1979 Dairyman of the Year during Farmers' Week at Michigan State University.

Piepkow, his wife and sons, operate a 610-acre farm near Olivet and milk 185 Jersey cows.

The honor recognized Piepkow's ability as a farm manager and as a community leader.



District 1 Director Art Bailey (left) congratulates District 2 Director Lowell Eisenmann prior to transferring the Gutter Trophy, signifying the district's last-place membership standing.

Michigan Farm Bureau Members Mak

Participants in the 19th annual Washington Legislative Seminar, sponsored by Farm Bureau Women, failed to let an airline strike and the resulting changes in flights keep them from their appointed tasks in Washington, D.C. April 2-5. Neither did the 140 Michigan Farm Bureau members let the steady, cold rain that fell during most of their stay dampen their enthusiasm for being a part of the action in the nation's capital.

Arriving in Washington on three different flights at three different times on April 2, the state and county legislative leaders and heritage tour members finally got together as a group Monday evening at their Capitol Hill Quality Inn headquarters. They were given a report on what was currently happening "on the hill" by John Datt and Kirk Miller of the American Farm Bureau Federation. The 65 state and county legislative leaders then participated in a workshop to prepare them for

their responsibilities as spokespersons on key issues of concern to Michigan farmers.

A majority of Michigan's congressional delegation was represented at a breakfast meeting Tuesday morning with legislative leaders. Held at the impressive Caucus Room of the Cannon Building, it was the scene of lively discussions with congressmen and their aides as the Michigan farmers outlined their concerns and Farm Bureau's policies on current issues. Major topics of conversations included a constitutional amendment to require Congress to operate on a balanced budget, the need for national agricultural marketing and bargaining legislation, the multilateral trade negotiations package, repeal of the Delaney Amendment, and repeal of the carryover basis rule of estate tax law.

trading nations signed the trade package. The agreements are now subject to approval by Congress. See other articles in this issue.)

Meet with Bergland

On Tuesday afternoon, at the United States Department of Agriculture, Secretary Bob Bergland opened his remarks by saying he was there to meet personally with the group because of his high respect for the Michigan Farm Bureau members and their president, Elton R. Smith. Secretary Bergland told the farmers that the U.S. will have a balanced budget in 1981, but cautioned that there is "a big controversy swirling as to which portions of the budget should be cut."

"Obviously, when you balance a federal budget, that means cutting spending and some people find it hard to accept the discipline that this requires, but the pressures are on," said Bergland. "I'm satisfied now that Congress and the administration will get this federal deficit matter under control."

Bergland emphasized that control of inflationary spending was a responsibility shared by all sectors of the economy. "To control inflation requires control at all levels — public and private," he said. "State government, county government, school boards and private spending policies must be reviewed."

Secretary Bergland also said there would be no wage

(Continued on Page 9)

Inside View of Trade Talks

Later on Tuesday, the Michigan group was treated to an inside report on the status of the multilateral trade negotiations by Jim Starkey, Office of the Special Trade Representative. Starkey reported that agriculture, overall, would gain \$3 billion in terms of expanded export opportunities, and urged the legislative leaders to encourage approval of the package by their congressmen. (On April 12, representatives of the world's



John Datt of the American Farm Bureau Federation brought the Michigan group up to date on what was currently happening "on the hill" to prepare them for their contacts in Washington, D.C.



Michigan Farm Bureau members received an inside view of the progress of the multilateral trade negotiations by Jim Starkey from the Office of the Special Trade Representative.



Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland told the group that the U.S. will have a balanced budget in 1981. Control of inflation is a responsibility of all sectors of the economy, he said.



Congressman Bob Traxler (center) and Edwin Martus (right) of Lapeer and Her at the congressional breakfast.



Leroy Flessner, Barry County Legis Wolpe (right) about deregulation of



Legislative Leaders Jerry Brown of C discussed issues of concern with Congr

Their Voices Heard in Nation's Capital



constituents, including Legislative Leaders... (left) of Bay had a lively discussion



leader, talked to Congressman Howard... es.



gan (center) and Dan Hemmes of Emmet... Robert Davis (left).

and price controls. He added that voluntary restraint is the only effective way of achieving the administration goals.

Bergland also reported on a recent White House meeting of presidential advisors regarding the current beef price situation. "The best cure for high beef prices is high beef prices," Bergland told the advisors and explained that by allowing the normal market cycle to function, cattlemen and ranchers will be encouraged to increase herd numbers.

Indications are that the government is not planning to take any direct action to break the price of beef, and government officials concede that beef shortages around the world mean there is little that the administration can do to control price rises, Bergland reported.

Concern for Adequate Fuel

Weldon Barton of the USDA's Energy Office was also present to talk with the Michigan Farm Bureau members who expressed their concern for adequate diesel fuel supplies this spring.

Barton told the farmer delegation that there is no federal program to allocate or reassign diesel fuel. However, he pointed out that there is a state set-aside

program in effect and Michigan is participating at a level of 4 percent of the total supplies within the state.

"Under the set-aside authority for those states which are participating, the state energy office has the authority to reassign or reallocate diesel supplies among dealers within the state to meet emergency or spot shortage situations, including farm shortages," said Barton.

He said Michigan farmers needing diesel fuel can contact the Michigan Energy Office or county ASCS offices.

While some legislative leaders joined the heritage tour group for a day of sightseeing on Wednesday, others continued their congressional and federal agency contacts.

MFB President Elton R. Smith praised the legislative leaders who participated in this year's Washington Legislative Seminar for their dedicated efforts in carrying out their responsibilities. "They demonstrated their knowledge and ability to communicate the agricultural viewpoint on national issues," Smith said. "I believe the time they took away from their farm business for a few days to participate in this policy execution program will be a good investment, for themselves and for their industry."

Trade Package Signed

On April 12, representatives of the world's trading nations signed the multilateral trade negotiations package in Geneva. Ambassador Robert S. Strauss, President Carter's special trade representative for the negotiations, called it "the largest and most significant trade package ever negotiated."

It is estimated that agriculture, overall, would gain \$3 billion in terms of expanded export opportunities through the agreement.

Anti-counterfitting and safeguard codes are still under consideration, according to Ambassador Allan Wolfe, deputy special trade representative.

"We'll accept some more cheese into this country, but we'll do it under conditions that will not harm the American dairymen. There will be an agreement not to undercut our domestic prices in selling," Wolfe said.

U.S. and European Community officials have made it clear that their final

signature would depend on greater Japanese concessions in giving freer access to its domestic markets for foreign products.

The American Farm Bureau Federation generally supports the trade package, recognizing there will be some areas of concern to farmers.

Farm Bureau officials will continue to present statements at appropriate congressional committees as hearings are held on the implementing legislation.

The target date for submission of the implementing legislation is mid-May. After it is introduced in Congress, each house has 60 legislative or working days (both houses in session) in which to enact it — 45 days in committee(s) and 15 days on the floor. It is expected that the House will initiate the process, with Senate action following a final vote in the House. The maximum total elapsed period of time is to be no more than 90 legislative days, or about 4-5 months. However, a final vote in both houses could occur sooner.

Farm Bureau "In the News"



MFB President Elton R. Smith is interviewed by Channel 2, Detroit, before boarding the plane to Washington, D.C. on the subject of the proposed nitrite ban.



MFB Vice President John Laurie answers questions from the news media at a press conference held at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport just prior to take-off.



MFB board member Bill Spike answers a question posed by a Mutual Broadcasting reporter during a breakfast press briefing in Washington, D.C.

Future Plans Outlined by MSU's College of Agriculture

Administrators in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources recently outlined their plans for the future to the Michigan State University Board of Trustees.

Dean James Anderson told the MSU governing body that agriculture is facing changing situations in both society and in the political scene that call for changes in the thinking of agricultural and university leaders.

"Federal support of research and Extension activities is declining because a shift in the political power base has reduced the political clout of the rural sector," Anderson said. "This means that the university must, more than ever, reach out to publics other than agriculture for support."

"In a more local sense, we are very encouraged because George Cushingberry (D-Detroit), the new Michigan House of Representatives Agricultural Committee chairman, has shown a desire to bridge the gap between our urban and rural populations and a deep interest in Michigan agriculture."

He also said that the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources will have to spend more time with priorities in the future because there will be fewer

financial resources. "We are approaching the point where we will have to decide what programs we will have to give up in order to take on new ones."

This sort of decision making will have to involve other groups on the campus, Anderson maintained, because the effects will impact on the whole university and not just agriculture.

Appearing before the board with Anderson were assistant deans Sylvan H. Wittwer (Agricultural Experiment Station) and Gordon E. Guyer (Cooperative Extension Service).

Guyer's presentation noted three major thrusts that the Cooperative Extension Service hopes to develop as the university moves into the 1980s.

"First we must continue to develop innovative programs to serve our traditional client groups in Michigan," he said, "recognizing that agriculture represents the most stable industry in the state and that its importance to the economy is still growing."

"Second, we must develop means for our rural and urban populations to interact in mutually beneficial ways."

"And third, we must continue to work toward making the Cooperative

Extension Service an extension of the whole university so that both the total community and all units of the campus are better served," Guyer said. As examples, he cited programs involving the three MSU medical schools, and affirmative action programs.

Wittwer told the board that the future of the Agricultural Experiment Station is, in large part, founded on the past and present. "The roots of this university are based in the agricultural sciences, and without them there could be no viable teaching or Extension programs," he said.

He also pointed out the uniqueness of the Experiment Station in that it is the only unit in the state of Michigan that has responsibility for agricultural research.

"Challenges for the Experiment Station lie in a new generation of research — switching emphasis to use of renewable resources in food production; developing wise management programs for Michigan's water, land and energy resources; genetic engineering; and broader emphasis on interdisciplinary research efforts," he said.

The immediate problems the Experiment Station must

face, Wittwer said, include improving facilities and equipment, keeping top scientists on the faculty, developing better communication with state and

federal legislators, and improving internal management of financial resources to provide the greatest return on the taxpayers' investment.



The Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors and the Michigan Agriculture Commission held a joint meeting recently to discuss some common concerns. Here Commission Chairman Charles Donaldson and MFB Vice President Jack Laurie discuss funding of the state's meat inspection program, one of the many topics covered during the joint session.

Michigan's Future Bright, says Governor Milliken

The future of Michigan agriculture is a bright one, but there are some problems that must be dealt with, Gov. William G. Milliken said at the annual Governor's Breakfast during Farmers' Week at Michigan State University on March 22.

Milliken said the most critical area of all, in terms of state programs which affect Michigan agriculture, is transportation, especially rail freight service and the highway system. He emphasized that programs in these areas depend on a

continuation of the transportation package which the legislature enacted last fall. He warned of a statewide referendum on the package next year.

"Our highway system is too important to be jeopardized or set back as a result of short-sightedness on the part of some. And our rural rail system is too vital to the health of Michigan agriculture to have our support for it cut back off because of those who would ignore the benefits to our economy," he said.

Presidents Column (Continued from Page 2)

prise must be given incentives to produce, therefore, we will support the administration's plan to deregulate oil prices. If the windfall profits tax that has been proposed would destroy the incentive for oil companies to produce more oil, then we must withdraw our support. We cannot support political maneuverings designed to increase federal dollars at the expense of private enterprise, particularly with the national energy situation we are currently facing.

We will continue to monitor research and marketing incentives for the increased use of gasohol. As a fuel alternative, gasohol can contribute to extending the supplies of fossil fuels. In addition, the production of ethanol alcohol will provide a new industrial use for surpluses of agricultural commodities. The primary purpose of our agricultural land should be food production, but if we can also obtain some fuel from it, we should explore those possibilities.

Through the policies which were adopted at the state and national Farm Bureau delegate sessions, our members have indicated their keen awareness of the energy situation facing the United States. Now, at the moment when steps are being taken by government through proposed deregulation of oil prices, we must back our words with actions. By your letters and telegrams, Farm Bureau members can make it clear that we support the incentives of free enterprise for the oil companies and that we oppose the addition of a windfall profits tax as a means to artificially redistribute wealth through the federal coffers.

In addition, we must continue to educate our selves regarding the prudent development of nuclear energy and be willing to share our understanding of its great potential to power this state and this nation.

Elton R. Smith

ATTENTION PORK PRODUCERS

"VALUABLE COUPON"

This coupon is worth one—50-lb. bag of Farm Bureau Pork Pre-Starter (#301) for every one ton of Pork Breeder Supplement (#371) purchased.



Offer expires June 30, 1979.

Producer

Address

Signature

Farm Bureau location

Address

Manager's signature

Number of tons sold

Attention Farm Bureau Dealer: For every ton of FBS Pork Breeder Supplement that a producer buys—give them one—50-lb. bag of FBS Pork Pre-Starter (#301) at no charge from your stock. At the conclusion of the program, send in this coupon with attached copy of sales invoice to Farm Bureau Services in Lansing, Attn: Animal Foods Department. All coupons must be received by the Lansing office no later than July 30, 1979.

Where Your Farm Comes First
Farm Bureau
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.

Capitol Report--Michigan's School Finance System

(Continued from Page 6)
million or 4 percent federal). In 1978-79 the estimated total is \$4.38 billion (\$2.08 billion or 47.5 percent local; \$2.08 billion or 47.5 percent state; \$220 million or 5 percent federal).

Total revenue for Michigan's public schools has increased by 199 percent in the eleven year period while the Consumers Price Index has increased 94.1 percent. The average teacher's salary has increased 122 percent from \$8,238 to an estimated \$18,250.

There are many other reasons for increased school costs. For example, in the last decade special education for the handicapped, mentally retarded, etc., has been made a public school obligation, first by court decisions then by state and federal law. Vocational education has also grown, with the encouragement of state funding, and so have special state and federal programs for underachieving pupils. Bilingual education for non-English-speaking pupils is a legal requirement today. Counseling services, once offered almost exclusively to college-bound high school students, are extended into junior high and elementary grades. Numerous other special services and programs have

become commonplace, almost invariably in response to strong urging from some concerned groups of citizens.

In 1967-68, Michigan's local school districts employed one full-time or full-time equated person for every 14.8 pupils. Today the ratio is probably one employee for every 11 pupils. These and other changes have occurred throughout a period of steady inflation and rising salary costs. The result has been a comparable increase in all school revenue sources — state and federal aid as well as local property taxes.

TAX LIMITATION (Headlee Amendment)

Last November, the voters passed the tax limitation amendment designed to limit state and local spending. The intent is simple, but the implementation will be complicated. There are seven major provisions in the amendment, one of which requires that local property taxing units (county, township, school, etc.) must reduce their millage levy when the State Equalized Value (SEV), excluding new construction and improvements, increases faster than the Consumer Price Index.

This millage rollback issue and how to implement it is presently before the Legislature. The major issue

is whether the millage rollback will be on the authorized tax rate or on the actual tax rate of the previous year. This is very important to school districts many of which are not levying all of the millage that the voters have authorized. However, it is certain that some school districts will have to roll back their property tax levy. This situation can lead to a loss of state aid. The loss would be the difference between the \$40 per mill per pupil guaranteed by the state and the actual amount raised. For example, if the property tax yields \$25 per mill the state aid would drop \$15, (\$40-\$25).

Another major provision of the amendment is the requirement that if the state

mandates new programs on schools, and other local units, the state must pay the full costs. Such mandatory programs have been very costly in the past.

WORKER'S COMPENSATION

Numerous bills have been introduced to change the law in a peaceable fashion. One bill, S.B. 198 (Welborn, R-Kalamazoo) is a comprehensive effort to rewrite the present statute. However, it is likely that legislation will be developed through the summer by an ad hoc committee.

Governor Milliken's special message to the Legislature has outlined many specific recommendations, and his goals on 10 issues including

tightening of eligibility requirements and boosting the benefits for injured workers.

Sen. Plawewski, chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, says he hopes that discussions can be completed in four to six months with legislation considered some time in the fall.

Worker's Compensation reform has been a national issue for five years or more, with little, if anything, being accomplished except a constant escalation of premium rates. Farm Bureau is involved with a coalition of other types of groups coordinating an effort to present a united front to help in gaining changes through reform.

Missaukee Young Farmers Hold "Careers Day"

Over sixty high school students from Missaukee County recently learned about job opportunities in agriculture at an Agriculture Careers Day held in Lake City. The meeting was sponsored by the Missaukee County Young Farmer Committee.

"This is the second time we've held this event," said Bob Naerebout, chairman of the committee planning the event. He added, "These young people need to know that even if they don't want to go into production

agriculture, their farm background can be helpful in choosing a career."

Speakers included representatives of Michigan Farm Bureau, Farm Bureau Services, Michigan Milk Producers Association, Michigan State University and a retired ASCS county manager.

"We're pleased with the reaction to this program and plan to hold one again next year," said Doug Bunning, chairman of the county Young Farmer Committee.

Committee Named to Study International Trade Programs

The first meeting of a newly appointed advisory committee, which will review international trade programs and responsibilities of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, was held April 19.

Dean Pridgeon, MDA director, said committee members were asked to devise methods of changing and improving the department program "so that we may better serve the community and the industry."

Named to the 10-member committee were W. H.

Braman, Belding Fruit Company; Peter Holbein, Michigan Frozen Food Packers Association; William Byrum, Michigan Cattle Feeders; Dr. Vernon Sorenson, Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University; John Minnema, Cherry Central Cooperative Inc.; Edward R. Powell, Michigan Elevator Exchange; Donald Slachta, Blount Corporation; Donald Kunz, Farm Bureau Services, James Brian, Smeltzer Orchards, and John McClelland, Wickes Agricultural Corporation.

8 BUSHELS BETTER



That's the N-Serve difference.

N-Serve* stabilizes nitrogen. And field trials throughout the Corn Belt prove that stabilized nitrogen increases corn yields an average of 8 bushels per acre over regular nitrogen.

8 bushels more per acre. That's the N-Serve difference.

Because N-Serve stabilizes nitrogen, you can begin application earlier. So you can cover more acres in the fall.

Come in and ask us about N-Serve, the nitrogen stabilizer. It's 8 bushels better. And that's the difference.

N-SERVE

The Nitrogen Stabilizer

DOW

*Trademark Dow Chemical Company © 1978

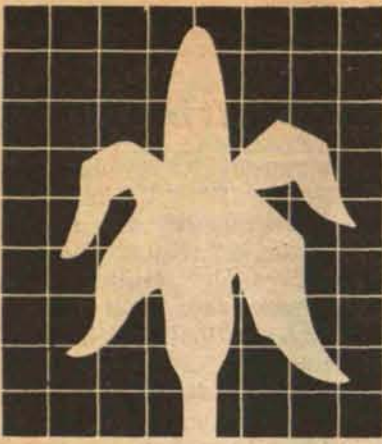
Available at the following Farm Bureau Dealers:

Buchanan Co-op, Inc.	Smith Brothers
B & W Co-op	Lake Odessa
Breckenridge	Lapeer County Co-op, Inc.
Branch County Grain Company	Leslie Co-op, Inc.
Coldwater	Falmouth-McBain Co-op, Co.
Coopersville Co-op Elevator	McBain
Elkton Co-op Farm Produce Co.	Biniecki Brothers
Falmouth Co-op Company	Maybee
Falmouth	FBS - Mt. Pleasant
Kinde Farmers Co-op	FBS - St. Clair County
	Yale

Where Your Farm Comes First

Farm Bureau

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.



Marketing Outlook



Michigan Young Farmers to Participate in Marketing Education Project

Cash crop producers stand to increase their marketing skills through a pilot marketing education project sponsored by the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the American Farm Bureau Federation. The two-stage project is scheduled to start on July 17-18 with a seminar at the Exchange headquarters.

The Chicago seminar topics will cover pooling with cooperatives, use of futures markets and forward contracting in cash markets. The participants will also look at the use and impact of new electronic marketing techniques.

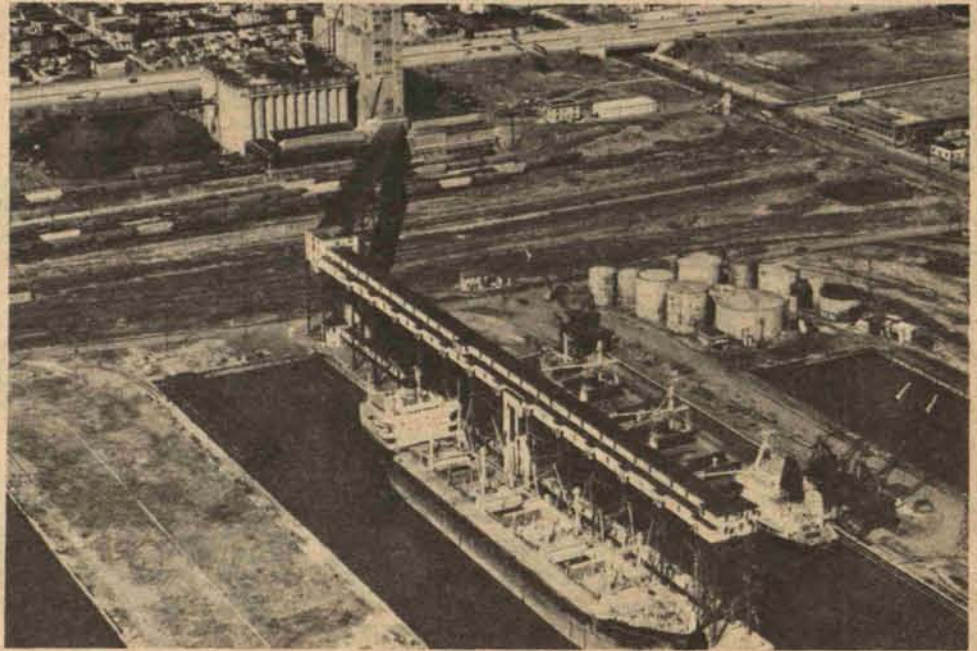
Seminar invitations have been extended to young farmer and rancher representatives in ten state Farm Bureaus. From Michigan, Steve Gazdag (Kalamazoo County) and Roy

Shankel (Gratiot County) have been selected by the state young farmer committee to attend the seminar sessions. Both men are cash crop producers.

Gazdag and Shankel will be instrumental in organizing the second stage of the continuing education project. Following the Chicago seminar, the men will work with state Farm Bureau staff to plan three "local market forums" in Michigan. Their responsibilities in planning will include selection of dates and locations for the forums and soliciting participation from Michigan producers. A minimum of 40 persons will be required to conduct each local market forum.

The forums, which are tentatively set for August and September, will be conducted by staff of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

Farmers Export Company Opens East Coast Facility



Farmers Export Company's east coast facility at Philadelphia, newly opened in February, recently completed the loading of its first vessel, the *Captain Demosthenes*, with 1,184,084 bushels of three yellow corn for export. James A. Layton, president and chief executive officer of the international grain exporting firm, stated that the Philadelphia facility is an integral part of Farmers Export Company's ever-expanding operations. Layton said an extensive upgrading of the facility is in progress, and by July the facility will be running at projected capacities, providing a viable east coast outlet for its member cooperatives. Farm Bureau Services of Lansing, Michigan; the Ohio Farmers Grain Corporation of Fostoria, Ohio; and Landmark, Inc. of Columbus, Ohio, will provide the initial grain origination for the Philadelphia facility.

PROFIT-- The American Way:

Part II

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

Profit is often a rather nebulous concept that means different things to different people. The basic profit formula, Price - Costs = Profit, is on the surface, very straightforward. One difficulty, however, is the comparison of profits among various businesses or enterprises. What costs are included or excluded? How are certain items valued? How was the percentage of profits calculated? A closer look into these questions will point out some of the inherent difficulties in understanding and measuring or comparing profits.

To get a true picture of the profitability of a business or enterprise, all legitimate costs must be computed and deducted from revenues. But what constitutes a legitimate cost? Certainly all variable costs must be taken into consideration. A variable cost is one which varies directly in proportion to the amount of output. In agriculture they might include seed, fertilizer, fuel, repairs and upkeep, etc.

In addition, fixed costs or overhead items, must be included as a legitimate cost. Property taxes, interest on borrowed money, salaries for full time employees, rent for land, or buildings are examples of fixed costs. They are items which must be paid for whether anything is produced or not.

Another cost concept often ignored in calculating profits is the opportunity cost of owner labor, management or invested capital. Opportunity cost refers to the value of a scarce resource or service in its next highest alternative use. For instance, a farm owner might also be qualified for a plant manager's job that would pay \$20,000 a year. Thus, his opportunity cost for his management ability is at least this amount. To get a true profit picture these costs must also be included when calculating profits.

Despite the concept of opportunity cost, it is not always a cut and dried, black or white matter when trying to decide what a particular resource or service is worth. Land is an excellent example. To calculate profit in agriculture a farmer must know his cost of production.

Part of his cost of production will include the land costs. If he simply rents his land, obviously the cost would be the agreed upon rental amount. On land that he owns, however, what cost figure does he use? Does he use the acquisition cost, current value based on comparable farm sales, or the opportunity cost if it's a potential development site? Obviously no two farmers are going to have exactly the same costs nor are any two states or regions going to have exactly the same cost for that matter. The point then is this, profit is not a straightforward simple concept that is easily compared among businesses, industries or sectors of our society. Varying charges for land, labor, capital and management play an important role in determining profit.

Similarly, the method used to compute or report profits can also make a great deal of difference in the end result. Profits in some businesses are measured as a percentage of sales, while in others they are computed as a percentage of gross revenue. In other words, the number of ways that profit can be expressed is in itself often misleading and creates further difficulties for those anxious to make sound comparisons. Similarly, measurement of changes in the rate of growth or decline in profits or losses is an interesting art. How misleading is it when profits from one quarter are compared to the same quarter a year earlier? What is the base period really like? Is it higher, lower or just average compared to some longer historical trend. Likewise, what is the actual annual rate of growth or decline in profits? Accountants and shrewd managers also have a hayday shifting funds, making year end purchases, etc. which alter the profit picture for a given business.

The point is simply this: Profit is not a concept that can be taken for granted. We should always clarify what we are referring to when discussing profit and especially when attempting to make comparisons of profits. It is obvious that different accounting procedures, varying tax laws and definition of costs all must be thoroughly analyzed when talking about profit.

Farmers Honored Weekly by FBIG, Michigan Farm 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. In addition to recognition from the local news media, recipients are awarded a personalized wall plaque and a custom designed Farmer of the Week buckle and leather belt from the two sponsors.

The Farmer of the Week Award recipients for March 1979 were:



RICHARD WOODHAMS

Week of March 5 — Richard Woodhams, 48, a beef and spearmint farmer from St. Johns. He currently farms 900 acres, raises 600 head of beef and grows about 200 acres of spearmint in partnership with his son, Jack. Woodhams is a director and past president of the St. Johns Co-op Elevator; member of the First Baptist Church in St. Johns; a director of the Clinton National Bank & Trust; member of the Clinton County Farm Bureau and the local community group and his family is active in 4-H leadership. He and his wife, Marie, who is a member of the MFB Speakers' Bureau, have three children.



DAVID VLIETSTRA

Week of March 12 — David Vlietstra, 38, a dairy farmer from Kalamazoo who farms 300 acres and milks 110 cows. Known for his modern farming operation, Vlietstra raises all his own feed for a total herd of over 200 head of cattle. He is active in the Second Christian Church and is a

member of the Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau. He is actively involved in Farm Bureau programs and policies on the grass roots level. Vlietstra and his wife, Ruth, have four children. He is known throughout the area for his "good neighbor" spirit, a policy he holds to despite the urbanization and housing developments springing up around his farm.



ELWIN VANHOUSEAR

Week of March 19 — Elwin VanHoosear, 47, a cash crop farmer from Quincy in Branch County. VanHoosear currently farms 550 acres and raises corn, wheat and soybeans. He is an active member of the East Algonsee Baptist Church; serves the church as a Sunday School teacher; member of the Branch County Farm Bureau and active in Farm Bureau programs. He and his wife, Evelyn, have four children.



CLARENCE GAERTNER

Week of March 26 — Clarence Gaertner, of Saginaw, a cash crop and beef farmer who has been farming all his life. Gaertner, 56, who farms 168 acres, is a member of the board of James Township; active in the Saginaw County Farm Bureau; president of the Saginaw County Farm Bureau Credit Union for the past six years; served on the Credit Union board of directors for 15 years; active member of St. Peter and Paul Church in Saginaw, the Michigan Milk Producers Assn. and the Michigan Livestock Assn. He and his wife, Catherine, have four children.

Sault Ste. Marie Youth is Winner of FBIG's "America and Me" Contest

Mike Drysdale, a 14-year-old eighth grade student from Sault Jr. High in Sault Ste. Marie, has been selected top statewide winner in Farm Bureau Insurance Group's 1978-79 America & Me essay contest.

Mike, whose essay was chosen best out of several thousand entries from 333 Michigan schools, will receive a \$500 savings bond and a plaque from FBIG.

His essay survived five levels of judging to make it to the number one spot. The final selection was by a panel of VIP judges that included Gov. Milliken, Detroit Free Press columnist Bob Talbert, Michigan State University president Edgar Harden, and Grand Rapids TV personality Buck Matthews.

In total, 12 statewide winners were selected to share more than \$2000 in

savings bonds, in addition to individual plaques for each winner.

The second place winner in the state is Lisa Gokey of Wayland, a student at Caledonia Jr. High, who has earned \$300 in savings bonds. Third, fourth and fifth place winners, who each receive \$200 bonds, are Marie Baxter, Trinity Lutheran School, Jackson; David Youtsey, Legg Jr. High, Coldwater; and Lisa Hoyt, Jefferson Intermediate School, Midland.

The sixth through tenth place essayists, winners of \$100 bonds each, are Gary Sinclair, Lederle Middle School, Southfield; Steve DeMars, St. Michael's School, Fremont; Mary Ann Przybylski, St. Francis Xavier School, Petoskey; Lynell DeWind, Zeeland Middle School, Zeeland; and

Terrance Rhadigan, St. Patrick School, Brighton.

Rounding out the list of winners are Kara Walcher, Bedford Jr. High, Temperance, and Kelli Moore, North Christian School, Kalamazoo, the 11th and 12th place essayists who will each receive \$75 bonds.

The America & Me essay contest, open to any eighth grade student in Michigan, was started by Farm Bureau Insurance Group in 1968 and has been an annual event in Michigan schools ever since. The contest encourages Michigan young people to seriously consider their roles in America's future through "America and Me" essays.

As sponsor of the contest, Farm Bureau Insurance Group has received nine national awards from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

"America and Me"

BY MIKE DRYSDALE



MIKE DRYSDALE

America is without doubt one of the most varied countries on this earth. She is varied in people, problems, opportunities and climates. Endless views of how man should think, feel, and conduct himself survive within her. Her physical boundaries are like the edges of a gigantic puzzle. She is a complex puzzle of interlocking pieces.

I, being a typical thirteen year old paperboy in an average American town, can touch only a small fraction of these pieces, though my life includes the influence of many. Only through the many magazines and books that I read can I begin to grasp them all.

I enjoy the outdoors very much and listen to or read every source of information about hunting and fishing I can find. Even as I write this essay, a part of me is hunting for grouse or rabbit or fishing for pike or perch. How wonderful this piece of America is.

I recognize that few citizens of other countries have the privilege or even the possibility of enjoying such recreation. It makes me stop wishing for a Browning 20 gauge over and under, or a new Shakespeare fishing pole and look at what I have. Such wishing is human nature.

priority, defined in the First Amendment as an unalienable right — freedom of the press. This free enterprise provides employment for Americans with wants, produces demands, creates jobs — and back to the beginning. It is the foundation of the American way of life. Subtract any piece, and the puzzle is incomplete.

This is America, the puzzle. This is me, one piece; and some of the pieces I touch. This is how we fit together.

FBIG Report Available

Copies of Farm Bureau Insurance Group's 1978 annual report are available to any Farm Bureau member requesting one.

To request your copy, write Marketing Communications, Farm Bureau Insurance Group, 7373 W. Saginaw, Lansing, Mich. 48909.

The report reviews the financial highlights of Farm Bureau Insurance Group's three major insurance companies and also emphasizes how Farm Bureau members benefited from FBIG's insurance programs during the past year.



DALE A. DEAN'S
Auctions Unlimited (R)
Selling Holstein Dairy Cattle
Farm Machinery and Farm Real Estate
For Top Dollar at Auction
Anywhere in Michigan
Phone 517-279-9748
Coldwater, Michigan
For 32 years Dale has proven
he knows the way to do it better!!
Phone or write for free appraisal
or
List your farm with Dean's P.C. Dale A. Dean, President

Foreign Investment in U.S. Farmland

During the last few years, considerable concern has been expressed by farmers and others about intensified foreign investments in U.S. farmland. No one is certain about the magnitude of these investments or their impact on the farm economy.

Some contend that foreign investors are buying up to one-half of all American farmland put on the market and that these foreign investors are willing to pay more for the land than domestic investors, thus pricing the small farmer out of the market.

However, not everyone agrees that foreign ownership of U.S. land is a significant problem. Some feel that the extent of foreign ownership is comparatively minor and sales will continue to be a small proportion of the total U.S. farmland base which is placed on the market in any given year.

The view has been expressed that the recent intensified foreign investment in American farmland is simply a response to, not a cause of, the great increase in the value of farmland which has occurred in recent years. According to this view, the rise in price of farmland is largely a consequence of action by U.S. farmers and other domestic investors. This action has driven up the price of farmland so quickly and steeply that foreign investors have naturally been attracted to the American land market. For the same reasons, these investors are interested in American banks, hotels, resorts, shopping centers, etc.

Nearly everyone who has studied the situation has concluded that inadequate information exists at the present time to make an accurate, nationwide assessment of the magnitude of foreign investments in U.S. land.

At present, private individuals and corporations own about 60 percent of the U.S. land. The federal, state, and local governments own the remaining 40 percent. The amount of foreign ownership in the 60 percent owned by the private sector is not known. It has been estimated that nationwide in 1978 only 54 out of every 1,000 acres of U.S. farmland sold went to foreign investors.

The Cooperative Extension Service, MSU, estimated last August that only 4,617 acres of Michigan farmland were owned by foreign investors. The majority of the foreign owned farmland was concentrated in Jackson, Calhoun, Ingham, Shiawassee and Hillsdale counties.

There is one problem which is clearly identified with the accumulation of specific information in regards to land transfers in Michigan. This is the fact that there is no requirement under Michigan law which provides for the identification of nationality in land transfers. Since this is the case, there is no way in which a state agency can develop specific information which could clearly identify specific transfers as they relate to international investments.

In a number of instances where transfers of land to foreign investors have occurred in Michigan, the money that has been brought in has provided an opportunity under low interest loans to maintain the land in commercial agriculture for an extended period of time. The increased cash flow allows the operators under certain instances to have greater flexibility. In some cases farmers have reinvested the added resources in commercial agriculture and have been able to maintain a much more productive agricultural enterprise.

In 1978 Farm Bureau supported and Congress passed the Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978. This Act requires foreign investors in the U.S. mainland to report agricultural holdings to the USDA. However, Gene Wunderlich of USDA, reports that a resident alien — a person who has taken residence even if he is not a citizen — may not report agricultural holdings.

The intent of the foreign investment disclosure was to eliminate the real names of landowners

DISCUSSION TOPIC

by KEN WILES
Manager Member Relations

from remaining secret through the use of dummy corporations. Requiring persons to file a report should disclose their interest in agricultural land and the legal nature of that interest. In this manner the actual owners should be named even if there are several layers of dummy corporations.

The General Accounting Office (GAO) recently conducted a study of ownership of farmland by non-resident aliens. GAO determined that as of May, 1978, 25 states had laws placing some restrictions on alien ownership of U.S. farmland. Nine of these 25 states had general prohibitions or major restrictions on such ownership. GAO concluded: "In the aggregate, state laws do not significantly inhibit foreign ownership of land."

GAO also found that few states had data on foreign ownership of farmland, and only two (Iowa and Minnesota) required non-resident aliens to file annual reports of their holdings. The report cited Iowa data showing 23 non-resident aliens own 7,000 acres of farmland in that state, about 0.02 percent of the state total. Approximately 28,000 acres of Minnesota's 30 million acres were owned or leased directly or indirectly by non-resident aliens. This amounted to less than 1/10th of 1 percent of Minnesota's farmland. GAO concluded that the data it found was not adequate for determining the situation in the nation as a whole.

Based on the data it acquired or developed, GAO could not determine whether prices paid by foreign investors "were considerably higher or lower than prevailing market prices for comparable property" in the locations examined.

As public concern has increased, demands have been made for federal legislation to restrict investment in agricultural land. Two recent studies examined some legal questions such legislation might raise.

Citing the federal power of naturalization of aliens, regulation of inter-state and foreign commerce, and provision for national defense, one study concluded that there was a sufficient legal basis for federal restriction on foreign

investments. One of the studies concluded that it would appear that if the federal government legislatively deprived foreign persons of the power to own or purchase agricultural land, the extent of preemption would depend in part upon the nature of the federal law. If the federal law expressly intended to preempt the field, even more strict state laws would be invalidated. If it did not attempt to preempt the field, only less strict state laws would be invalidated.

U.S. international treaties pose another possible problem. One study noted that it would appear that new federal legislation restricting the rights of aliens to own property in the United States might conflict with present treaties but would not be invalidated because of such conflicts. State laws restricting the rights of aliens to own, devise, or inherit property, however, might not only conflict with existing federal treaties but also be invalidated because of such conflict.

The delegates to the 1979 AFBF annual meeting adopted the following policy regarding foreign investments:

Foreign investment in U.S. assets is a growing concern. We will:

- (1) oppose preferential tax treatment to foreign investments in agricultural land under federal tax law or treaty provision;
- (2) support legislation which would subject foreigners to pay capital gain tax on the sale of U.S. farmland;
- (3) urge USDA to implement the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 by promulgating regulations which would permit an act of determination of the extent of foreign investment in U.S. farmland and its effects on American agriculture;
- (4) consider the desirability of legislation restricting or regulating foreign ownership if such investment creates a competitive disadvantage to U.S. farmers and ranchers; and
- (5) study the effect of foreign investment in banking, insurance and business institutes in the United States.

In Shiawassee County

Farm Implement Dealers Join Operation Identification

In a continuing effort to prevent agri-crime in Shiawassee County, a new service is being offered by farm implement dealers in the county in conjunction with the Michigan State Police Operation Identification program.

The marking program was explained to representatives of the implement dealers at a meeting held recently in Owosso. The Operation Identification program primarily consists of marking farm machinery with an indelible ink, using the owner's driver's license number preceded by the letters "MI."

"Dealers can help in the Operation Identification program by offering to mark equipment for farmers when they purchase new equipment, which will further influence them to mark the equipment on their farms,"



Trooper Jim Hostutler from the Owosso Post of the Michigan State Police (left) explains the procedure for marking farm implements under the Operation Identification Program to Don Miller (right) of Lloyd Miller & Sons, Inc., Corunna.

Trooper Jim Hostutler of the Michigan State Police Owosso Post Crime Prevention Unit told the implement representatives.

The marking program by the dealers is being offered in

cooperation with the Shiawassee County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee, the Michigan State Police and the Shiawassee County Sheriff's Department.

FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS: One free non-commercial 25 word ad per month per membership, additional words, 10 cents each. Figures such as 12 or 12.50 count as one word. **NON-MEMBER and ALL COMMERCIAL advertisers:** 15 cents per word one edition, two or more editions, 10 cents per word. Copy

deadline: 13th of month. Mail classified ads to Michigan Farm News, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909. Publisher reserves right to reject any advertising copy submitted.

FARM EQUIPMENT

FOR SALE: 1000 gallon Anhydrous Ammonia Supply Tank. Also, 1000 crates of corn. George Davidson, Alma, Michigan. Phone 517-481-5073. (5-11-19f)

FOR SALE: 800 gallon bulk milk tank, 5 hp Copeland Compressor, automatic washer. Phone 313-482-1892. (5-61-15f)

1968 FORD 4000, all purpose, gas. Low hours, \$3600.00. Oliver 101 3 wire baler, Wisconsin V-4 engine, \$1200.00. Phone Freeland, 517-695-9085.

WANTED: Good used cutting box or silo filler. Also, a good used corn binder, ground or PTO driven. Phone 616-347-6733. (5-11-20f)

FOR SALE: "M" International gas tractor with duals. "Silo Matic" silo unloader, 12 ft. new. Metal 18 hole feeder rack on rubber tired wagon, new. Also, complete silo equipment. Albert Wiefelich, 9651 N. Pingree Road, Route 3, Alma, MI 48801. Phone 517-463-4575. (5-11-25f)

FOR SALE: Nearly new John Deere No. 14 direct cut chopper, 300 gal. Mueller bulk milk tank, Milton Conine, 4030 Clyde, Howell. Phone 517-546-0155. (5-11-24f)

FOR SALE: Gleaner E, with 10' grain head and two row corn head, straw chopper and spreader, good throughout. \$3200.00. Phone 616-754-4735. (5-11-22f)

FOR SALE: New Ford Tractor Motor, 5000 series, generator and starter included, ready to run, make offer. Phone 313-229-2277. (5-11-19f)

FOR SALE: J.D. 45 Combine, 10 ft. grain head, \$3000. Int. No. 15 side delivery rake, \$600. Both excellent condition. Phone 517-428-4287. (5-11-22f)

NEW ALL WIRE RABBIT CAGES and equipment now available. We can build cages to meet your needs. Deftmers Bunny Patch, Carson City, MI 48811. 517-584-3765. (5-11-25b)

FOR SALE: John Deere 336 baler with hay thrower, 4 18' throw bale wagons (all one year old). New Holland haybine, 3 years old. Eric Hibbard, Howell. 517-546-1904 - 546-4790. (5-11-25f)

FOR SALE: Case Baler. Good Condition. Phone 313-587-3452. (5-11-8f)

Now!! Selling Direct

FACTORY TO YOU
Compare at \$500
Made in U.S.A.

Our 12th Year

Big Powerful 8 H.P.

All New 1979 Model

Mustang RIDING MOWER

Now Only \$329.

Grass Bag \$29.50
Snow Plow \$35.00

Complete with Big Deck and Cutter
8 H.P. Briggs & Stratton Engine
Tax & Freight Paid to your door
send for free catalog on all lawn & garden equipment
to own one, send check or money order to:
LAWN PRODUCTS OF AMERICA
1128 S. Edgewood Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32205
or order by phone Bank cards accepted
CALL TOLL-FREE (WE PAY FOR CALL) 1-800-874-9169
In Florida Call (904) 387-1512 (4-31-p)

FORD TRACTOR MODEL 8N, excellent condition, new hydraulic pump, power takeoff, 5.5 front tires, head lights, \$1500. 6-stanchions \$25.00, chicken feeders. Tractor loader \$95.00. Call 517-592-2704. (4-21-25f)

PAX AND IDEAL, specializing in farrowing crates, livestock feeders, gates and waterers, parts and service from Kevin Jacobs, Gregory, MI (517) 851-7434 or (517) 851-8927. (4-11-23b)

ROUND BALE FEEDERS for 1500 lb. round bales. Heavy duty 1" square tubing. Only \$99.95. Rectangular feeders also available. Free literature. Dealerships available. STARR NATIONAL, 219 Main, Colchester, IL 62326. (5-11-29p)

WANTED: Corn Binders, Grain Binders, Silo Fillers, Salvage Tractors. Top prices paid. David Steiner, G-10096 S. Saginaw, Route 2, Holly, MI 48442. Phone 313-694-5314. (4-61-24f)

WANTED: New Idea single row cornpicker. Phone 517-523-2803 evenings. Pittsford, Michigan. (1-11-11f)

FOR SALE: Stormor grain bins, Farm Fans dryers, G.T. Tox-o-wik dryers, Stormor Ezee-dry systems. Hamilton Distributing Company, Hamilton, MI 49419, phone (616) 751-5161. (4-11-25b)

IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT: Lockwood Center Pivots; Rainbow & Boss Traveler; Pumping Units; Gasoline, Diesel, Electric - Puct Aluminum Pipe - Plummer Supply, Bradley & 131 Exit, Bradley 49311. (616) 792-2215. (4-11-25b)

FARROWING STALLS - Complete \$104.75 1" tubular steel construction. Dealerships available. Free literature. STARR NATIONAL, 219 Main, Colchester, IL 62326. (5-11-19p)

LIVESTOCK

REGISTERED QUARTER HORSES: Working and show quality from weanlings to ten years old. Also breeding stock. Barrs Farm, 4676 Hartland Road, Fenton, MI 48430. 313-632-7308. (5-11-25f)

FOR SALE: Registered Holstein Bulls, Commander from 24035M, 14 months. Also Chief, Apollo King, Elevation, tested. George Robb, Fowlerville, Michigan. Phone 517-223-9462. (5-11-22f)

FOR SALE: Yearling 1/2 and 3/4 Simmental and Hereford bulls. Two polled. Performance tested. William Garvey, Route 3, Chariotte, MI 48813. Phone 517-543-2938. (5-11-23f)

STAMP'S DUROCS - Big, lean, aggressive boars that are bred, developed and evaluated for practical hog production. PRV free. Groups available. Guaranteed. Tom Stamp, Decatur. 616-423-7508. (5-11-25f)

FOR SALE: One team 4 year old oxen. Broke for hauling and parades. Barney Nettleton, Pickford, Michigan 49774. Phone 906-647-9026. (5-11-20f)

REGISTERED SHROPSHIRE SHEEP SINCE 1890. Breeding stock for sale at all times. Hewens Farm, 7400 Bemis Road, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197. Phone 313-482-2658. (5-11-22f)

TWO OUTSTANDING 4-H PROSPECTS. Flashy two year old purebred Arabian gelding. Chestnut, with two white socks. Classy, Raffles-type, rose grey yearling Arabian colt. Lannens, Fife Lake. 616-369-2271. (5-11-25f)

FOR SALE: YORKSHIRE & SPOTTED serviceage boars and open gilts top bloodlines tested at MSU test station. All registered stock. Richard Cook, 1/2 mile east Mulliken, M-43. Phone (517) 649-8988. (11-11-25f)

DUROC & LANDRACE BOARS & GILTS. Also crossbred gilts. John Swearingin, 652 Prattville Road, Pittsford, MI 49271. Phone (517) 567-8975. (3-11-19f)

QUARTER HORSES - Disposition for 4-H, ability for cattle, conformation for show. Reasonable prices. Customer satisfaction a priority. Visitors welcome. Walton Farms, Rosebush. Phone 517-433-2925. (3-11-24f)

FEEDER PIGS - Produced and sold by members of the MACMA Feeder Pig Division. Available biweekly in large uniform lots, weighing 40-60 lbs. Contact Bill Haas, 517-323-7000, Ext. 707. (4-11-28b)

FOR SALE: Landrace Boars and gilts, also Duroc Boars and Gilts. George Carpenter family, 6545 Cogswell Rd., Romulus, MI 48174. Phone evenings (313) 721-0240. (9-11-23f)

PUREBRED YORKSHIRE BOARS and gilts for sale. Big useful pigs. Raymond Graham & Sons, 5240 Jones Road, North Branch, MI 48461. Phone (313) 688-2165. (11-121-23f)

LICENSED, DEPENDABLE, LIVESTOCK HAULING, to Marlette, Cass City, and Sandusky. Call Orvy Jelneck, (313) 395-7296, Capac, Michigan. (5-11-17f)

REGISTERED HAMPSHIRE BOARS & GILTS for sale. Validated here. Dale Terry, Palmyra, Michigan. Phone (517) 263-5854. (10-11-15f)

PUREBRED YORKSHIRE BOARS AND GILTS for sale. Boars tested in on farm test station. Robert Harper, R No. 1, Vicksburg, MI 49097. Phone (616) 649-2803. (2-121-22f)

CORRIEDALE SHEEP - Purebred Breeding stock for sale. Paper optional. Waldo F. Dieterle, 7285 Textile Rd., Saline, Mich. 48176. Phone (313) 429-7874. (1-11-19f)

PUREBRED YORKSHIRE BOAR AND GILTS. Top quality breeding stock. Reasonable farm prices. Wallace Hylarides, Shady Lane Farms, Hudsonville. Phone 616-669-5448. (4-101-20p)

MILKING SHORTHORNS - Young bulls, yearlings and calves for sale. Write or visit Stanley M. Powell and Family, Ingleside Farm, R.R. 2, Box 238, Ionia, Mich. 48846. (6-11-25f)

REGISTERED ANGUS - Yearling Bulls & Heifers, club calves. Write or call Neona Farm, Neal Felkema, Evert, Michigan 49631. Phone (616) 734-2479. (2-11-19f)

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN

WHAT? ME MAKE SAUSAGE WHY NOT?

GREAT SAUSAGE RECIPES AND MEAT CURING an illustrated 227 page book written by a sausage maker for home use, over 100 recipes. **FREE** supply catalog has book price, equipment, cures, casings etc. Write R. Kutus Co. Dept 63, 1067 Grant, Buffalo, NY 14207 (2-41-p)

VACUUM CLEANERS, WHOLESALE: "New" Kirby with attachments, \$239.95. Rainbow, \$239.95. Filter Queen, \$239.95. Details, ABC Vacuum Warehouse, 7021 Burnet-FBAM, Austin, TX 78757. (3-31-22p)

SAUSAGEMAKERS, GREAT! GERMAN RECIPES. No nitrates! Frankfurters, Summer, Bologna, Headcheese, Venison & Pork sausage! \$1.00 Hamilton's, Box 652-131, New Ulm, Minn. 56073. (5-11-20p)

SEWING SUPPLIES, PEARL SNAP FASTENERS - 142 Colors and Styles. Free Catalog. Bee Lee Company, Box 20558-MF, Dallas, Texas 75220. (1-121-19p)

COLDWATER DILLPICKLES! Can in minutes! No hot brine. Delicious. Crisp. Factory Secrets! Recipe \$1.00. Hamilton's, Box 652-131, New Ulm, MN 56073. (5-11-20p)

MISCELLANEOUS

WATKINS PRODUCTS & 2 party supply catalogs and information on free delivery. Write to Stonington Merchandise Outlet, Route 2, Box 840, Rapid River, MI 49878. Phone 906-474-6252. (4-21-27bp)

FISH FOR POND STOCKING - Hybrid Sun Fish, Catfish, also Rainbow Trout. Spring Valley Trout Farm, Dexter, Michigan. Phone (313) 426-4772. (4-11-19b)

AVOID THE MIDDLEMAN and save. Farm post and rustic rail fencing. Ivan R. Malnar, Wholesale Cedar Post Yard, Route 3, Rapid River, Michigan, 49878. Phone (906) 474-9172. (5-11-25b)

WANTED: 1/25 scale models farm tractors and auto, 1960 and older. Also, Nazi war relics. Bernal Tolan, Route 1, Hillsdale, MI 49242. (4-41-22f)

FREE - BUY TWO, GET THIRD ONE FREE. Lifetime Pet Identification copper tag with collar hook; fully engraved; pet's name, owner's name, address, telephone. Provides permanent security. Only \$1.00 postpaid; three for \$2.00; guaranteed. Salvatore Voccia, 1122 E. Santa Fe, Fullerton, CA 92631. (4-31-40p)

1000 GUNS IN STOCK. Buy, sell, trade. Long guns, pistols, black powder, bows. 500 GUNS, Duane Buckner, 11155 Sherman Blvd., Ravenna, MI 49451. Phone: 616-853-2527. (4-11-24b)

WANTED: Used muslin feed sacks. 616-674-8265 or write R2, Box 361, Lawrence 49064. (4-21-13p)

THE CRAFT CORNER unique magazine for the busy craftsman. \$1.50 for three months. R2FB, Box 361, Lawrence, MI 49064. (4-21-19p)

LAND CLEARING and Bulldozing - By the hour or by the job. Tom Tank, Eagle, Michigan 48822. Phone 517-626-6677. (4-11-18b)

FARM SALES. HOUSEHOLD SALES. Gerald W. Hecht "Auctioneer," Frankenmuth, Michigan. 517-652-2242. Graduate of Retsch World Wide College of Auctioneering. (4-11-19b)

TRAVEL WITH AGRIGROUPS to enchanting farming, fruit and fun. Alpine setting of Italy, Austria, Switzerland. A truly country tour. July 7 to 19, 1979. \$1,494.00 from Detroit, including travel, accommodations, most meals. Request information from Gordon Schluett, Route 3, Coldwater, Michigan 49036. (4-21-42b)

OLD POSTCARDS (pre 1920) - Wanted. We are fair and will give you a good price for whatever you've got. Write Hoffman - 100 Pascal Avenue, Rockport, Maine 04856. (5-21-27p)

WILL PAY \$1.00 for each different trade token sent me of Stores, Pool and Billiard Halls, etc. Good for 5 cents, 10 cents or more in Trade or Merchandise. Tokens are of brass or aluminum (no plastic or wood tokens). Send to Wm. Clapper, P.O. Box 1573, Sioux Falls, SD 57101. (4-41-50p)

CUSTOM CUTTING & WRAPPING: Choice Beef & Pork. Drummond's Meat Processing Co., 1 mile south of Apple Avenue, M-46, 1830 Sioucm Road, Ravenna. Phone (616) 853-6200. (4-11-25b)

WANTED: Black and Decker cordless reel type lawn mower. Phone 616-894-4119. (5-11-11f)

SEED OATS MARINER 95 percent germination 1.95 bu. Also, straw, \$1.05 large bales. Mid West 3 bottom harrow, lift up, \$75.00. Phone Frankenmuth, 517-652-6612. (5-11-23f)

SELLING DEPRESSION GLASS, country kitchen range, kitchen cupboard, spinning wheel, churns, children's all wood wagons and sleds and more. Phone 313-629-4327, Fenton. (5-11-22f)

WOOD CRATES: Over 1000 new wood crates, will hold 12 qt. size berry baskets. \$500. FOB Perronville, Michigan. Call evenings 906-789-9900. (5-11-25f)

USED OIL TANKS - up to 20,000 gallons. Some stainless. Phone 616-780-2292. (5-11-11b)

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: Cedar fence posts and cedar lumber sawed to your specifications. Also, Wanted to Buy: field stone-picker. Phone evenings, 616-627-7209. (5-11-28b)

EARN EXTRA INCOME - \$200 - \$1000 per month and help others at the same time as a wholesaler for high quality Shaklee products. No investment required. For more information send name, address and phone to P.O. Box 5355, N. Muskegon, MI 49445. (5-11-40b)

FOR SALE: 100 or less heavy steel casings. 46 by 34 - for lights 21 3/4 by 16. \$7.50 each, a steal. Call 313-664-3465 - 2691 Five Lakes Road, Metamora. (5-11-25f)

NURSERY STOCK

ASPARAGUS: Beautiful four year Mary Washington state inspected plants. \$10.00 for fifty, \$18.00 per hundred. All postpaid, guaranteed. Fred Zaika, Route 2, Bear Lake, MI 49614. (4-31-25f)

STRAWBERRY PLANTS, grown on fumigated soil. Earlglow, Darrow, Delite, Red Coat, Paymaster, Midway, Asparagus - Rhubarb Crowns. Spring Dug, Tower Lane Farms, Conklin, MI 49403. 616-853-2934. (4-11-25b)

"SWEET POTATO PLANTS"!! Portricans, Almonds, "Bunch," Centennials, "Redyams": 100 plants, \$7.98; 500-\$15.95; 1000-\$24.90. Postpaid. Fred's Plant Farm, Dresden, Tennessee 38225. Phone; 901-364-3754. (3-31-23b)

SEEDLINGS - 3 yr. old - Scotch Pine, Austrian Pine, Spruce and Douglas Fir fall or spring planting. Stan Stempky Nursery, Rt. 1, Cheboygan, Michigan. Phone (616) 627-9061. (4-21-25p)

STRAWBERRY PLANTS (Virus-Free): Midway, Sparkle, Robinson. 25 - \$3.75, 50 - \$6.25, 100 - \$10.50. OUROWN (Everbearer) 25 - \$5.25, 100 - \$18.50. Red Raspberries, 5 - \$2.50, 25 - \$8.75, \$1 shipping to \$10 - over \$10, 15 percent. IJ Wolvertun Nursery, 6197 E. Lake Road, Millington, 48746. 517-871-2325. (5-21-41p)

"WHICH EVERGREENS, SHRUBS, TREES ARE BEST FOR YOUR HOME." Carefully written book for homeowners. 66 full-color photos. \$2.50 postpaid. Guaranteed. Maple Leaf, DeWitt, Michigan 48820. (5-11-26b)

MICHIGAN CERTIFIED STRAWBERRY PLANTS FOR THE HOME GARDENER OR COMMERCIAL GROWER. Delite, Guardian, Red Chief, Midway, Raritan, Fairfax, Scarlet. Our Own Everbearing variety. Plants now ready in 25, 50, 75, and 100 quantities. Also sold by the thousands. Bill Krohn - RTE 6, Box MFN-6, Dowagiac, MI 49047. Phone 616-424-3450 or 616-424-5423. (5-11-49b)

BIG SPRING CLEARANCE SALE ON PEA AND BEAN SEED. Many varieties. DEAN FOSTER NURSERIES - RTE 2, Box MFN-6, Hartford, MI 49057. 616-621-2419. (5-11-20b)

ASPARAGUS ROOTS - 2 Year Old Mary Washington, Large or Small Quantities. DEAN FOSTER NURSERIES - RTE 2, Box MFN-6, Hartford, MI 49057. 616-621-2419. (5-11-20b)

RHUBARB: 50,000 Number 1 Divisions of Canada Red Rhubarb. DEAN FOSTER NURSERIES, RTE 2, Box MFN-6, Hartford, MI 49057. 616-621-2419. (5-11-28b)

FRESH DUG STRAWBERRY PLANTS now ready for immediate pick-up. Robinson, Dunlap, Guardian, Midway, Jerseybelle, Vesper, and many other Junebearing varieties. Everbearing varieties in Ozark Beauty, Chief Bemidji, For Laramie, and Gem. DEAN FOSTER NURSERIES - RTE 2, Box MFN-6 - Hartford, MI 49057. 616-621-2419. (5-11-41b)

NURSERY STOCK

GARDENERS AND COMMERCIAL GROWERS now is the time to plant the following: Everbearing and Junebearing Strawberry Plants; Black Raspberry Tips, Red Raspberry Suckers, Gold Raspberry Suckers, and Purple Raspberry Suckers; Gooseberry Bushes; Currants; Dewberry Vines; Loganberries; Youngberries; Thornless Boysenberries; Grape Plants. All fresh dug and ready for pick-up or shipment. Also Asparagus Roots; Rhubarb Sections; Shallot Bulbs; Comfrey Roots; Horseradish Cuttings; Ginseng and Garlic Bulbs. Midwest's largest supplier of Garden Plants and Vegetable Roots. Thousands of Fruit Trees in Dwarf and Standard size of Peaches, Apples, Plums, Pears, Nectarines, Apricots, Cherries. All at low prices. Guaranteed to grow. DEAN FOSTER NURSERIES - RTE 2, Box MFN-6, Hartford, MI 49057. 616-621-2419. (5-11-108b)

REAL ESTATE

10 ACRES FOR SALE: Highground, many pine trees, black top road, 1/4 mile from Ausable River, 10 minutes from Roscommon. Excellent investment-recreational property. Land contract terms available. 313-363-8840. (5-11-25f)

FOR SALE: Two bedroom home in Clare County at Eight Point Lake with full lake privileges. Terms. For appointment call 517-544-2375. If no answer, call 517-683-2373. (5-11-25f)

EQUIPPED HOBBY FARMETTE - Bumper crop of berries, fruit, produces income from small acreage. Tractor, other machinery - tools included. Two bedroom mobile home, fireplace, breezeway, garage, deep well, machine shed, poultry house. Thumb area. Only \$35,300. Terms. PROPERTIES WANTED - PHONE 517-673-6888. . . Large and small farms, acreage, country homes, lake-river property, recreational lands in Tuscola, Sanilac, Huron, Lapeer counties. FREE!! SEASONAL REAL ESTATE CATALOG describes 2600 properties in 43 states. Write or call United Farm Agency, 1764 M-24, Caro MI 48723. Phone 517-673-6888 or Detroit office, 313-569-6002, 7 days a week, 8 to 8. (5-11-80p13b)

404 ACRE DAIRY FARM, east of Owosso, complete with 125 Holstein cows, machinery. This prime farmland could be used for cash crop operation. Ardelean Realty, Phone 517-725-5477. (5-21-27p)

FOR SALE: 40 acres, 1 1/2 mile east, 60 rods south on Gawlik Road, Turner, Michigan. No buildings. Near good hunting, fishing, 15 clear, 25 woods. Land contract. BY OWNER. Phone 517-753-9535. (5-11-25f5p)

FOR SALE: 2 bedroom winterized home, furnished. On chain of 13 lakes. One acre, organic garden, fruit. See to appreciate after June 1. 1420 N. Black River Road, Cheboygan, 49721. 616-625-2630. (5-11-25f)

SAGINAW COUNTY, BIRCH RUN "FARM" 98.6 acres, Tiled 4 rods 1 1/2 sty 4 bedroom comfortable Home, Better Hurry, Spring planting is close. For Details Call HARVE GOSEN REALTY. 517-770-4700. (5-11-29p)

FOR SALE: 80 acre fruit farm. 15 acres grape with Welch contract, 14 acres asparagus, Cherries new and bearing, 18 acres pond and woods. 1 1/2 bath, 3 bedroom house. By owner. \$130,000.00 - \$50,000 down. Balance 8 1/2 percent interest. 616-621-4251. (5-21-25f136)

YOUR SEARCH FOR FARMS & RANCHES should begin in the "LAND RUSH EXPRESS." 24 pages of land, cattle & equipment bargains, nationwide. FREE SAMPLE COPY. Call TOLL FREE 1-800-654-4554 or write Box 26504, Dept. MFN, Oklahoma City, OK 73126. (5-21-39p)

99 ACRE FARM, north of Lexington, Sanilac County. 15 acres woods, approx. 75 acres tillable. Remodeled 4 bedroom house, large barn, 2 car garage (new), chicken coop. Good buildings. Asking \$80,000. Land contract terms. Archie Thomas Real Estate. 313-622-9931. (4-21-39b)

FOR SALE: 237 acre farm, 160 tillable, 40 timber, 3 bedroom remodeled house, 20x24 attached garage, large tool shed, good 40' x 60' dairy barn, 10x35 silo. Ideal set up for dairy or beef farming. Oceana Co., Hesperia area. Terms. Call (616) 854-7752 after March 15th. Rudy Messner, Broker. (4-21-43b)

PEACH FARM - 35 acres in Watervliet Township. First class site, north slope. Write: Solid M. Spread, Hartford 49057, or phone Solid-M-Chateau (616) 424-3752. \$152,000.00 firm. (4-11-25f)

HAY LISTING

FOR SALE: 15,000 bales of first and second cuttings of alfalfa hay. Call after 6 p.m. Phone: 616-874-6191. (3-31-18f)

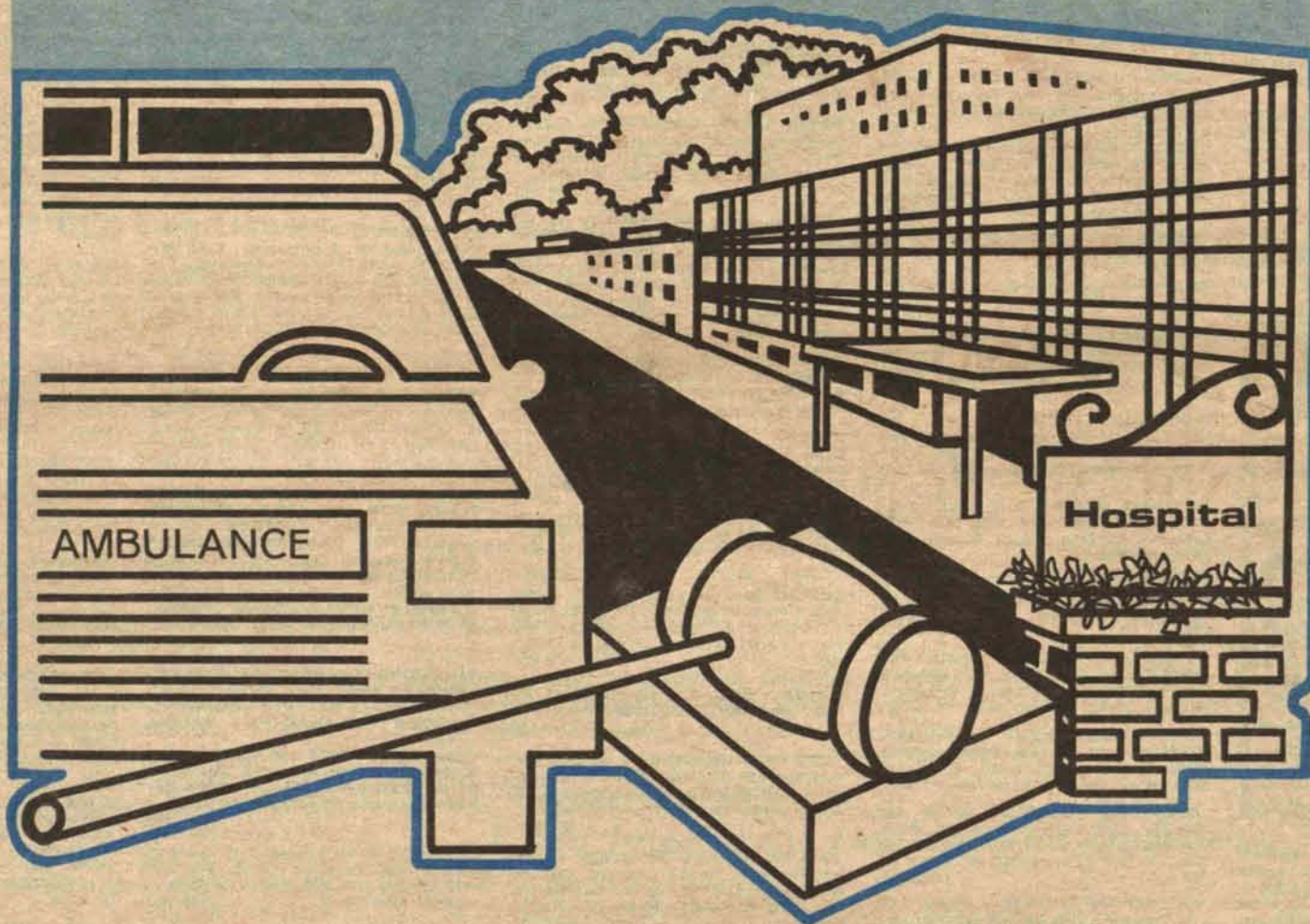
HAY FOR SALE: 1000 bales first cutting, 500 bales second cutting. Mixed Alfalfa, Timothy & Clover. Roy Moore, Route 1, Box 36, Lawrence, MI. Phone 616-674-8578. (5-11-25f)

FOR SALE: Straw and hay. Write Albert Wiefelich, 9651 N. Pingree Road, Route 3, Alma, MI 48801. Phone 517-463-4575. (5-11-19f)

HAY FOR SALE: 8000 bales alfalfa and mixed. First cutting, no rain, conditioned. Richard Kus, Augres. Phone 517-876-8891 or 517-876-8614. (5-11-20f)

uninsured farm workers?

FINANCIAL FARM DISASTER COULD RESULT



Agricultural employers must provide the same worker's disability compensation coverage for their employees as do non-agricultural employers. It's the law.

Farm Bureau Mutual can help. Our agricultural worker's disability compensation insurance programs are proven to work right for all types of Michigan farms. In fact, a special program is

designed just for Farm Bureau Members. "Safety Group" Worker's Disability Compensation offers possible dividends ranging from 5% to 45% of annual premium.

If you employ any agricultural labor, remember the law. Your Farm Bureau Insurance agent can help.

**WORKER'S DISABILITY
COMPENSATION INSURANCE
ANOTHER INSURANCE PROGRAM
THAT WORKS . . . FROM
FARM BUREAU MUTUAL.**

**FARM BUREAU
INSURANCE
GROUP** 

FARM BUREAU MUTUAL • FARM BUREAU LIFE • COMMUNITY SERVICE INSURANCE