

FARMERS' WEEK SPECIAL: Pages 9-12



FB Supports Anti-Inflation Proposals

President Carter's proposals to control inflation, if followed through by Congress, will break the back of the inflation psychology, according to John Datt, secretary and administrator of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Datt said that Carter's intention to reduce the nation's 1980 budget deficit and to balance the budget in 1981 amounts to recognition that inflation is a serious problem and calls to the attention of Congress and all citizens that inflation is at a critical stage. "If the average citizen gets the message that government is willing to get its house in order and live within its means, then citizens will have a greater incentive to improve their fiscal responsibility," Datt said.

"Even though the administration intends to impose some credit restraints," the AFBF official said, "the president indicated that the special needs of agriculture to produce the necessary food and fiber will be taken into consideration." Datt said Farm Bureau applauds the president's decision not to impose wage and price controls.

"President Carter's revised anti-inflation program, calling for a balanced budget, increased worker productivity and increased savings for investments, should send a signal to Congress and to all citizens that fiscal responsibility at all levels is the only way to avoid an economic disaster," he concluded.

Farm Bureau policy, adopted by voting delegates in January, calls for constitutional amendments, both to require Congress to operate on a balanced budget each year and to restrict the spending authority of the federal government to a realistic percentage of the gross national product.

Michigan Farmers on Annual Mission to Washington

As this issue of the *Michigan Farm News* goes to press, 125 Michigan Farm Bureau members are in Washington, D.C. to discuss issues of concern with their congressmen.

The group departed March 24 to participate in the 20th annual Washington Legislative Seminar and will return on March 27.

Sixty-one of the Michigan

farmers were designated "legislative leaders" by county and state Farm Bureaus and charged with explaining their organization's position on key issues to legislators and govern-

ment officials in Washington. Issues given top priority included the embargo on grain exports to the USSR, rewrite of farm program legislation, the National Agricultural Bargain-

ing Act, the federal Grain Inspection Service, Farm Credit Act amendments and government spending.

News briefings were held at departure points.

From the Desk of the President

More on Preserving Farmland



In last month's President's Column, entitled "It's Your Land They're Talking About," I addressed four specific concerns regarding H.B. 5323 and H.B. 5324, the agricultural districting bills, and encouraged support of P.A. 116.

This month, let's look at other voluntary efforts that farmers themselves, can initiate within existing state laws to further the goal of preservation of farmland, in addition to P.A. 116.

Farmers have available two very important tools to protect the local farmland base. These tools are the local zoning ordinance and local subdivision regulations.

As farmers are often the largest landholders in the community, farmer participation in local planning and zoning programs can be a very important means for insuring the agricultural land base is protected from unnecessary and incompatible development. Well constructed and locally administered zoning ordinances that effectively protect farmland would eliminate the impetus for the legislative, state-directed attempts to control land use. More importantly, farmer

livelihood would be protected not only for our generation, but future generations as well.

Michigan's zoning enabling acts authorize, but do not require, communities to:

"... provide by zoning ordinance for the regulation of land development and the establishment of districts in the portions of the township outside the limits of cities and villages which regulate the use of land and structures; **to meet the needs of the state's citizens for food, fiber, energy and other natural resources**, places of residence, recreation, industry, trade, service and other uses of land; to insure that use of the land shall be situated in appropriate locations and relationships;... and to promote public health, safety and welfare." (Section 1 of the Township Rural Zoning Enabling Act, P.A. 184 of 1943, as amended.)

This authority is widely used in Michigan communities to create agricultural zones. **These districts can be locally established as restrictive as local units of government feel is necessary to achieve protection of the agricultural land base.**

In some communities, so-called agricultural zones are nothing more than catchalls where agricultural uses are listed as permitted and encouraged land uses, but many other incompatible land uses are also allowed.

In other communities, where farmland preservation has been identified as the major land use issue, the exclusive agricultural zoning is the preferred alternative. Exclusive agricultural districts protect farmland by permitting only farm, and farm-related uses of land within the

agricultural zone.

Local subdivision regulations can also help insure that when farmland is divided, it is not divided into uneconomical sizes and shapes. For example, a simple minimum lot width-to-depth ratio of 1 to 3 eliminates creating those long, narrow lots, often extending to the half section line, thereby preserving a viable agricultural unit in the land behind the new lot.

In 1976, Michigan Farm Bureau, in cooperation with the Division of Land Resource Programs, Department of Natural Resources, the Cooperative Extension Service, and the Center for Rural Manpower and Public Affairs at Michigan State University, prepared a guidebook to assist local communities with agricultural zoning.

Entitled "*The Use of Zoning to Retain Essential Agricultural Lands*," this report explains how local zoning can be used to protect farmland. **As a local control which a farmer has direct local input into, it represents a powerful tool for insuring farmland preservation and protecting your landowner interests.**

This report is available to you at no charge through Michigan Farm Bureau's Public Affairs Division. Study it carefully and share it with other concerned citizens of your community.

It seems that although farmers have the greatest stake in preserving farmland, there are few willing to be **involved** in the process of protecting it. If we are to achieve our goal of preservation of farmland, this reticence must be overcome. If local planning and zoning programs are going on in your community, be a part of them — a knowledgeable, strong, vital part.

Elton R. Smith

Bits and Pieces

Remember TINSTAFL? That's the lesson in economics that Earl Butz preached while he was U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. TINSTAFL stands for "There is no such thing as a free lunch" and simply, that's the ultimate economic truth, a truth so many people today refuse to accept.

Dr. Butz is still spreading that same message. The fiery spokesman for American agri-

culture, strong proponent of the work ethic and equally strong opponent of government intervention in private business, was back in Lansing recently as guest speaker at the PCA annual meeting. His message is still the same, even his jokes are the same, and Michigan farmers still love him. Their standing ovation told him he remains their hero and that they believe in the message he

continues to share.

He was a favorite with news people as well. We called him a "quotable notable" because he never failed to come out swinging... and that makes for good copy.

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Speaking of news people, we were in Cass County recently to honor Harold Sparks, long-time farm director for WLKM, Three Rivers, for being selected as one of Michigan Farm Bureau's "Agricultural Communicators of the Year" for 1979. "Sparky," as he's known to many farmers throughout the state, has been seriously ill and we've been waiting until he felt well enough to accept his award.

His entire family and several friends from the county Farm Bureaus in that area were on hand to help honor Sparky. There were 57 of us and, although he's still physically weak, Sparky stood up and introduced all 57! What an amaz-

ing feat! Have you ever started to introduce a close friend, someone whose name you know as well as your own, and completely "blacked out"? No way would I ever attempt to introduce a room full of people — but I sure do admire someone who can.

Remembering people's names is just one quality that has endeared Sparky to the agricultural community. He's most respected by his fellow farmers for his dedication to telling the factual story of agriculture. If you'd like to add your congratulations to Sparky, his address is Route 4, Cassopolis, MI 49031.

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And, speaking of admiring... I've got a couple bouquets to pass out. One goes to Bill Kissane, husband of our Outstanding Young Farm Woman, who gallantly came to the rescue when Judy came down with the flu and couldn't write her regular column. Be



sure to read it and take his advice. So often we take people for granted and neglect to say thanks. Thanks for reminding us, Bill, and thanks, too for pitch-hitting so eloquently for Judy.

Also deserving of bouquets are all the young farm women, like Judy and so many others I've seen lately, who aren't waiting "until the kids get older" to get actively involved in Farm Bureau. I used that excuse for a number of years and, consequently, postponed my own personal growth. Their

(Continued on page 17)

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Spring Commodity Advisory Conference

Farmers Look to Challenges of the '80s

From "corn-power" to local roads to world trade, Farm Bureau members participating in the organization's annual Commodity Advisory Conference took a forward look at the challenges facing farmers in the 80s. Held in Lansing's Harley House on March 12-13, the conference agenda focused on what Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton R. Smith, in his welcome, called "challenges and opportunities during a new era for agriculture and for Farm Bureau."

Dr. Stanley Thompson, assistant professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Michigan State University, told conference participants that agriculture is transportation's biggest customer. By the year 2000, Dr. Thompson said, there will be a 50 percent increase in the amount of Michigan grain needing transportation. Therefore, rural roads and bridges will be a problem farmers must address in the current decade, Thompson said, and face a choice of "smaller farms or better roads."

Since smaller farms is not a likely alternative in modern agriculture, Thompson predicted that Michigan farmers will be faced with some tough decisions regarding the financing of an adequate transportation system. In 20 years, he warned, 50,000 miles of Michigan roads will be considered inadequate and 75 percent of those miles will be in the county roads system. Three-quarters of Michigan's inadequate bridges are also within the rural roads system, he said.

While modern agriculture's needs for good roads and bridges have increased, there has been a decrease in expenditures for capital and maintenance of the rural road

system, Thompson explained. Alternative solutions to the problem, he said, might include abandoning some roads, reducing minimum standards, or returning some rural roads to the state and / or federal system.

CORN POWER: AN AMERICAN ANSWER

Conference participants showed keen interest in the topic of "Alcohol Fuels—Industry and State Perspectives," discussed by Andrew McHaffie, regional manager of alcohol sales for Archer Daniels Midland Corn Sweeteners, and State Senator Richard Allen of Ithaca.

McHaffie called the production of gasohol, "Corn Power—an American Answer" to dependence on foreign oil. Archer Daniels Midland is the largest producer of fuel-grain alcohol, McHaffie said, and reported that demand is continually growing with very positive consumer response.

In response to questions regarding the economic feasibility of on-farm stills, McHaffie strongly advised: "Look before you leap" and get expert assistance before making large investments.

Senator Allen reported that this will be one of the areas researched during experimental production at Michigan State University. It is hoped that a small-scale production system, such as would be used on farms, will be completed by this summer. Other areas of research, Allen reported, will include fermentation and distillation processes, use of by-products, and use efficiency at less than 200 proof.

The senator urged farmers to write to their legislators asking their support of the gasohol tax exemption bill which would take 5¢ off the gas tax for gasohol (see Capitol Report).

IMPACT OF SOVIET GRAIN EMBARGO

The impact of the grain embargo on the Soviet Union probably will not be as severe as the administration had hoped, according to two speakers at the conference. Dr. Ron Cotterill, assistant professor of agricultural economics at Michigan State University, stated that the long run effects of the embargo will have a more severe impact on U.S. farmers than the Soviet Union because they will buy the grain they need from other countries.

AFBF Assistant Director of National Affairs Glenn Tussey expressed the same opinion. "It is hard to appraise the impact of the embargo. A lot depends on what kind of reserves the Russians are sitting on and what kind of crop they will have next year. The impact is not going to be as severe on the Soviets as some people would like. I think the first thing they'll do is cut back on poultry production and then they may cut back on pork production and then finally, if they have to, they'll cut back more on their livestock numbers. It is yet to be seen as to how much of an effect the embargo will have on the Soviet Union. It will probably have a much greater effect on us from our marketing standpoint," said Tussey.

AGRICULTURAL TRADE ACT OF 1978

Addressing the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978, Tussey



GLENN TUSSEY

reviewed some of the main provisions of the act and the administration's response to them.

The act called for the establishment of between 6 and 25 U.S. trade offices around the world. Six offices have been established and the trade office in Korea has now become a billion-dollar market for American agricultural products. Tussey said that the Foreign Trade Service will be opening an additional office in Poland in May of this year.

Another provision of the act specified the upgrading of the agricultural attache service and changing the title to agricultural

counselors in certain countries. This has been done in 11 countries, Tussey reported.

Tussey also discussed CCC credit saying that, even according to USDA Secretary Bergland, it makes money for the government; it is good business for Americans, American farmers and foreign buyers. "We would like to see some emphasis in that area. It's a good way to stimulate exports and we would hope that as we go down the road that the administration will find ways to more fully implement the CCC provisions of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978," stated Tussey.

Petition to Restrict Pesticide Application

Isn't It Strange?

One of the major challenges farmers will face in the new decade, according to Al Almy, director of public affairs for Michigan Farm Bureau, will be the increasing emphasis that regulatory and legislative proposals affecting commodities receive.

Almy gave one example of that emphasis to participants of the MFB Spring Commodity Conference. The Environmental Protection Agency recently published a proposal for public comment at the request of 73 persons signing a petition under the auspices of "Friends of the Earth" to restrict applications of pesticides on agricultural crops.

The proposal, Almy explained, would require mandatory approval of adjoining landowners, as well as occupants of non-farmland adjacent to the spray treated area, before pesticides could be applied. Using a 40-acre field as an example, if just one adjacent property owner refused to approve the

application of pesticides to the field, the farmer would be required to maintain a 250-foot "buffer strip" inside the perimeter of the field, if using a ground sprayer, or a 1000-foot buffer strip if using aerial application or fine droplet misting.

This would simply mean, Almy said, that 7.6 acres of the 40-acre field could not be sprayed by ground or 30.3 acres could not be sprayed by air.

"The issues involved with this ridiculous, but real, proposal are: **Isn't it strange** that the federal government goes to the expense of printing such a proposal on the basis of only 73 persons signing a petition?" he asked.

"At a time when there is growing concern about the loss of farmland, **isn't it strange** that proposals are being advanced to remove more land from protection?"

"**Isn't it strange** that the EPA, which successfully insisted on legislation requiring applicators

of restricted pesticides to be certified, now completely ignores the public protection provided by the certification program?"

"**Isn't it strange** that a person's ability to use pesticides should be contingent upon his relationship with his neighbors?"

"And, finally, **isn't it strange** that agriculture is being singled out while non-agricultural applicators, who utilize 45 percent of total pesticides, are not included?" Almy asked.

"The bottom line of this example is that your involvement in politics and the clout of your Farm Bureau organization in dealing with political issues is going to be a major factor in how such issues are decided in the coming months," Almy told the conference participants. Because of the role "political muscle" will play in regulatory and legislative issues, Almy urged support and involvement in Farm Bureau's AgriPac program.



Members of each of MFB's eight commodity advisory committees met during a morning session at the Spring Commodity Conference to discuss issues and problems relating to each of specific agriculture commodities.

Enthusiasm Abounds at Young Farmer Conference

Nearly 200 young farmers from throughout the state attended the Young Farmer Leader's Conference in Midland March 5-7. Sponsored by the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee, the conference was designed to acquaint the young leaders with Farm Bureau, its goals and objectives and give impetus to their becoming involved, participating members of the organization.

Seven different leadership classes were held during the three-day conference and included For Women Only, Time Management, Your Legal Obligations and Rights, Tax Breaks and Practical First Aid.

Ken Cheatham, director of local governmental affairs for the American Farm Bureau Federation, conducted three classes on "You Can Surpass Yourself," stressing that once unrealistic fears, such as fear of failure and criticism, are overcome, there is no limit to what can be accomplished.

The most controversial speaker at the conference was Esther Shapiro, consumer affairs specialist for the city of

Detroit. Shapiro told the young farmers that it is the responsibility of farmers to produce food and to get the most they can for their products and, at the same time, it is the responsibility, obligation and right of consumers to buy food for the cheapest price they can. It is because of these two factors, according to her, that there is a built-in conflict between producers and consumers.

Shapiro also said that farmers and consumers cannot be antagonistic toward each other and that farmers, themselves, must get out and tell their story, as consumers cannot do it for them.

The success of the conference and the enthusiasm generated from it was expressed by L. C. Scramlin, chairman of the state Young Farmer Committee. "The enthusiasm and interest in every workshop was tremendous, especially from such a young group; the average age of the participants was 23.5 years. A lot of concerns were expressed and the impression I received from the participants was what



Donna Bode of Missaukee County, representing District 9 on the state Young Farmer Committee, participated in the "For Women Only" class at the leadership conference. Young farm women discussed the challenges and opportunities for women in their farming operations and in their Farm Bureau organization.

part they can play in Farm Bureau; what they can do and how."



Following the legislative breakfast at the Young Farmer Conference, Senator Richard Allen (left) discussed some legislative issues with Greg and Kim Perkins of Montcalm County.

Committee Appointed to Review County Relationship Agreement

A 12-member County Relationship Agreement Review Committee has been appointed by Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton R. Smith for the purpose of reviewing and recommending any changes deemed necessary in the County Farm Bureau Relationship Agreement.

The agreement lays out some fundamental procedures which county Farm Bureaus have agreed among themselves to follow and defines, in a broad way, some of the roles that Michigan Farm Bureau will play in conjunction with the county Farm Bureaus.

Mutually agreed items contained in the agreement include membership, finances, organizational procedure of the county Farm Bureau, the Community Farm Bureau program, the establishment, maintenance and support of other activities such as Information, Marketing, Women and Young Farmers that is both practical and feasible in each county, and an educational, legislative and business program conducted by Michigan Farm Bureau that is agreeable to the general membership of Michigan Farm Bureau.

"The County Relationship Agreement calls for the periodic review by representatives of county Farm Bureaus to assure that the document is kept up-to-date and that it meets current needs of county



A 12-member County Relationship Agreement Review Committee has been appointed for the purpose of reviewing and recommending any changes deemed necessary in the County Farm Bureau Relationship Agreement. Shown above at their first meeting in early March are John Laurie, left, MFB Board of Directors representative, and committee Chairman Wayne Wood.

Farm Bureaus and the state organization," stated President Smith in addressing the committee members at their first meeting on March 10 at Farm Bureau Center in Lansing.

Smith further added, "It has been some time since this was last done; the most recent changes were made in 1975, and it is evident that a complete review must now be conducted."

Committee members are District 1, Leslie Dowd; District 2, Robert Bush; District 3, Luther Schaible; District 4, Leonard Troost; District 5, Albert Cook; District 6, Wayne Wood; District 7, Gary Carmichael; District 8, Kenneth Davis; District 9, Gary Lathwell; District 10, Dean

Veliquette; and District 11, Harry Meintz. Jack Laurie will represent the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors on the committee and Wayne Wood will serve as committee chairman.

In addition to its March 10 meeting, the committee will meet for another two-day session before taking their recommendations to the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors' April meeting.

Sometime after the board's April meeting and consideration of the committee's recommendations, committee members will be discussing the revised agreement with each county's leadership in their districts for concurrence.

Between You and Me

By Judy Kissane

1980 Michigan Farm Bureau Outstanding Young Farm Woman



The Grass Isn't Always Greener...

(Guest Column by Bill Kissane)

"What are you kids doing with the bread in the living room again?" "Please stop your running and quiet down a bit. Don't you know your mother is sick?"

Yes . . . things have been turned around in our household this past week. Judy, the author of this column, has been in bed with the flu. As the deadline for this article draws near, she can hardly hold her head up, let alone hold a pen and do any writing. So, I'm trying, as any good husband should, to fill in for her.

It has been quite an experience. We fellows out here on the farm don't really appreciate how much our wives do for us until they are laid up for awhile.

We've gone through a lot of peanut butter and jelly this past week. Of course, the kids are always a big help . . . like when I was fixing school lunches and our oldest daughter kept saying, "Mommy does it this way!"

Clothes . . . where did they all go? Judy mentioned some time ago that the washing machine seems to eat socks; well, I didn't have that problem because I didn't even try to do the laundry. Right now, I'm lucky to find any socks — clean, dirty or otherwise — that fit anyone. Trying to figure out which set of clothes are for which youngster is quite a challenge. I thought I paid more attention to my youngsters, but just as I would start to put a shirt on John, Leilani would say, "That's

Ryan's shirt, Daddy."

One job I did manage to keep up with was washing the dishes. It seems the dishwasher also picked this week to break down. Not wanting to risk giving the flu to the repair man meant washing the dishes by hand. If they were not done regularly, after about two days, with our family of nine, the silverware drawer would be empty.

This was also the week the sows started farrowing. Trying to keep one eye on the farrowing house, one on the kids, and making an effort to keep Judy comfortable and making sure she had her medicine on time, really made me realize how much it takes to keep a household running.

It looks now like we will all make it. None of the kids have missed the school bus yet. I think they all had their lunches. Sometimes I might not recognize one of them with somebody else's clothes on. So far, I haven't lost any of the youngsters, although I haven't made the final bed-check yet tonight.

We often talk about how a wife contributes to the operation of the farm, but we overlook all the work that goes into running the house. Next time supper isn't ready right on time, give her a break. It's not as easy as it seems. I know from the experiences of this past week. So, let's take the time to say thanks to our wives for all they do for us.

As the saying goes, "The Good Lord willing and the creek don't rise," Judy will be back with you next month.

Get America Back to Work, Says Butz

"... farmers haven't quit working. They still believe in an honest dollar."



EARL BUTZ

Dr. Earl Butz, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, gave his packed-house audience at the Production Credit Association annual meeting in Lansing, March 11, a lesson in economics: "There is no such thing as a free lunch." The payment Butz asked for the PCA lunch was for the farmers and agri-business leaders to share the story of a productive agriculture, demand "something besides political rhetoric on inflation," get involved in politics, and spread the message that America must get back to work.

Taking verbal swipes at the administration, bureaucracies, labor unions, and a former USDA colleague along the way, Butz's ultimate plea was for greater productivity in America.

Butz expressed concern of the growth of the public sector of our society and the decrease in the private sector. "I don't like that trend because it erodes that area of society where you find innovation, change, the desire to make a little profit, where you find the desire to break out of the rut and try something new. That's the thing that's undergirded a strong, powerful America," he said.

"Four summers ago, candidate Jimmy Carter said he was going to streamline the bureaucracy; he just failed to

consult the bureaucracy. In the three years and two months he has been president, he has added over 100,000 new bodies to the civilian payroll. They're gaining on us," Butz warned. "When you put a body in place, it finds something to do and that something to do is to mess around in your affairs... tell you what herbicide you can use or can't use, make you get a dozen permits to build a new milking parlor, make it so difficult to build a new feedlot that you give up."

At the very time when agriculture is challenged to increase food production, bureaucracy is making it more difficult to do so, the former secretary said. Calling former USDA colleague Carol Foreman a "cheap food activist who is spreading the word that our food is not safe," Butz said agriculture will have to use more—not less—science, technology, chemistry, antibiotics and growth regulators, to get the job done.

Zeroing in on the demands of labor unions, Butz said, "A disease that is prevailing in America today is how much less can you work for more wages. Until last year, when you measure productivity of non-farm labor in the United States, we were at the bottom of all industrial nations — because we haven't been working; we've been sitting on our fannies.

"One of the reasons we can

feed ourselves with 17 percent of our take-home pay is because farmers haven't quit working. They still believe there's nothing wrong with an honest day's work for an honest dollar; they believe there's nothing wrong with calloused hands. I wish we hadn't gotten away from this work ethic in America, where we try to curtail our production while demanding a greater chunk of the pie," Butz said.

Recalling 1940 presidential candidate Wendell Wilkie's statement, "Only the strong can be free, and only the productive can be strong," Butz said America needs to get back to work. "America needs that message today as we face that totalitarian threat from Godless communism, bent still on world domination. The only language they understand is power and, in our case, that means total productive power," he concluded.

In his message to PCA stockholders, president William D. Henquinet said the association expects interest rates to be high in the coming year, but stressed, "we are a dependable source of credit. We are 'agriculture's banker' in the true sense of the word, and we will provide the best possible service that we can at the lowest possible cost to you, our members."

In other action, Carl Bahs of Nashville, was re-elected to the board of directors.

AFBF Recommends Changes In Farm Credit Act of 1971

The American Farm Bureau Federation recently recommended changes in the Farm Credit Act of 1971 aimed at improving the capability of the farm credit system to provide a stable supply of credit to farmers, ranchers and their cooperatives.

In speaking for the federation before a House agriculture subcommittee, C.R. Johnston, president of the Missouri Farm Bureau, urged members of the subcommittee to revise a series of proposed amendments to the Farm Credit Act of 1971.

The proposed revisions would explicitly exclude authority for the incorporation of a farm credit system insurance company and exclude authority for banks for cooperatives to serve as monetary exchange agents, to invest in foreign financial institutions or servicing operations and to directly finance noncooperative equity investors.

Other recommended changes in the proposed amendments would eliminate proposed authority for loss

sharing agreements and restrict insurance sales authority to credit life insurance.

Johnston said the changes recommended by AFBF would "eliminate the possibility of borrower intimidation, unnecessary duplication of private insurance services and improper utilization of farm credit personnel."

Johnston's testimony was delivered before the Subcommittee on Conservation and Credit of the House Committee on Agriculture.

AFBF Plans to Strengthen Meat Board and Export Programs

The American Farm Bureau Federation plans to expand its efforts to strengthen the National Live Stock and Meat Board and U.S. Meat Export Federation programs.

Cattle producers recently voted against a national beef research and information program which, if passed, would have assessed producers on the value of cattle sold to support the program. Results of the nationwide referendum indicate that cattle producers

voted 65 percent against the program. **In Michigan, the vote was tied, 920 Yes; 920 No.**

Noting the defeat of the "beef referendum," American Farm Bureau Federation President Robert Delano said, "Beef producers have voiced their opinion with respect to collection of research and promotion funds for the industry through the type of program voted upon in February. This increases the need for the cattle

industry to support the research and domestic promotion programs carried out by the National Live Stock and Meat Board and the export promotion program carried out by the U.S. Meat Export Federation."

Farm Bureau officials will call a meeting of beef industry organizations to consider methods of working together to strengthen existing research and promotion programs, he said.

Inflation: A 20-Year Perspective

(Farm Cash Receipts and Personal Consumption Expenditures in Billions of Dollars)*

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Labor Statistics

	Farm	Food	Housing	Transportation	Medical
Share of GNP* 1958	833.5	876.4	842.0	89.3	816.5
Share of GNP* 1968	844.2	8118.3	879.9	817.4	837.8
Share of GNP* 1978	8110.2	8269.2	8207.2	852.7	8131.0
% of Change 1958-1978	329%	352%	493%	567%	794%

* GNP: Gross National Product

Agriculture Day is a time for some serious awareness



Compare the rise in farmers cash receipts with consumer expenditures for food, medical care, housing and transportation over 20 years and two facts become obvious:

- 1) Agricultural productivity is high.
- 2) Food is a better buy than items in other key areas.

So what?

Food, like freedom, is easy to take for granted. Right now we've plenty of food to eat, plenty to sell abroad to bolster our balance of trade.

We once had plenty of oil, too.

As productive farmland is turned into development property, as public policy unfair or unfavorable to agriculture is enacted, as a "cheap food" policy discourages agricultural investment and production, the hope for our future is diminished.

America's long-term public interest requires a strong and productive farm sector. Agriculture Day, March 20, is a time for serious awareness of that fact.

Production Credit Associations of Michigan

CAPITOL REPORT

By
Robert E. Smith

Future Transportation Needs Addressed

John Woodford, director of the Michigan Department of Transportation, spoke at a meeting of the Highway Users Association of which Farm Bureau is a member, on highway needs in the near future. He pointed out the following:

- Michigan's traffic death rate is far below the U.S. average. Deaths per 100 million miles in Michigan is 2.6; the U.S. average is 3.2. Much of this safety record can be attributed to Michigan's outstanding highway system.

- Problems of the highways are the same as they were 25 years ago or one year ago. Adequate funding is needed in light of rapidly increasing construction and repair costs and the effect of inflation.

- Energy problems are changing people's lives more than anything has since the First World War. For the first time in Michigan, there is no increase in the use of energy. In order to save energy in the future, many workers may be on a four day week and car pooling, vans and rapid transit will be used by more and more people.

- Transportation needs from now until 1990 will depend on federal funding. There are 23 different categories of such funding.

- State gas and weight taxes, even though they were recently increased, will not meet the needs. Revenue was \$760 million in 1979 and is expected to rise to \$785.2 million in 1980 and then decrease to \$780 million in 1981. This is a growth of only 3% compared to 4-5% in previous years, and because of inflation, even the additional dollars do not meet the increased costs caused by inflation.

- Michigan is fortunate in having its interstate system nearly completed. The only parts left to be completed are I-69 and a part of I-696.

- 170 million gallons less gas was used the first four months of 1980 than in a similar period the previous year. This means a loss of 18 million dollars in gas taxes for highways.

- Driving by motorists has decreased 10% in the U.P., 6½% in the Upper Lower Peninsula, 9% in Southwest Michigan and 2.2% in Central

Michigan. However, driving in the Detroit metropolitan area has increased 1%.

- Contrary to what the public believes, the Department of Transportation is running a tighter budget than ever before. For example, 10 years ago there were 5,200 employees and now there are 4,600 employees, even though the work load has increased due to federal requirements, additional paperwork, and more responsibilities being given to the department.

- County Road Commissions face even greater financial cuts due to inflation, regulations, and other problems. As time goes on, highways will become even more important with increasing travel.

- Many highways and bridges are in poor condition and maintenance must be continued or else face complete deterioration.

- Other states, however, are in a worse situation than Michigan. Pennsylvania, for example, has stopped all construction and Wisconsin has cut construction and maintenance of roads by 75%. If Michigan is going to have industry, which means employment and a viable agriculture, there must be adequate transportation as Michigan depends on roads to a greater degree than most states.

- The boat ferries crossing the lake costs \$225 to make the trip and the income averages \$47. The rest is subsidy.

- \$30 billion will be needed between now and 1990 in order to maintain Michigan's road systems and build those roads that are still needed.

- In spite of the recent gasoline and registration tax increase, the revenue has not kept up with inflation and the decreasing driving by the public. Even the increased registration fees will not bring in as much revenue as anticipated because people are driving lighter cars which get better gas mileage.

- At the federal level, the problems are very similar and states depend, to a great degree, on federal monies. For example, 90% of the money for building the interstate system came from federal sources. Federal money is also used to some extent for state and local roads.

Land Resource Inventory Bill Signed Into Law by Governor



With representatives of the legislature, MFB and the DNR present, Governor Milliken directly signed into law the Land Resource Inventory Bill. The bill creates a 20-member advisory committee and technical assistance from the DNR to completely inventory the land resources of the state, including agriculture, silviculture, metallic and non-metallic mineral deposits and hydrological features and wildlife areas.

Legislative Up-Date

Farm Bureau has supported H.B. 5443 which amends the Commercial Forest Tax Act to return additional revenue to local units of government. The Commercial Forest Act was first passed in 1925 to encourage expansion of the forest industry by providing a property tax break.

H.B. 5443 has passed the House and is now in a Senate committee. It increases the per acre specific tax from 15¢ to 30¢ and increases the payment from the Department of Natural Resources to the local government from 25¢ per acre to 70¢. In addition, it provides for a regular ten year adjustment of those taxes based on equalized evaluation increases.

At the time of cutting, the forest owner is required to pay 10% of the stumpage value of the timber to the local township in which the land is located. Under present law this money goes to the state.

If the forest owner withdraws the property from the program, a penalty is charged to require payment to the township of the property tax times the number of years the land has been listed, up to a maximum of seven years, plus a fee equal to 10% of the stumpage value. If the property is in the program for more than 20 years, a withdrawal penalty is only the 10% stumpage fee.

If H.B. 5443 is finally passed, it will mean considerable increase in revenue to local governments in those counties where commercial forests exist.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Pseudorabies.

The House Agricultural Committee has approved H.B. 4968 that provides for the controlling of pseudorabies that is becoming a serious disease in swine in some areas in Michigan. The disease is very unusual in that it may cause death within a swine herd, but

if transferred to other animals such as cats, dogs, dairy, etc., it means certain death.

It is not fully understood, however, a major meeting was recently held in Des Moines, Iowa with pork producers and from that came the decision that an all-out campaign must be launched to control the spread of the disease.

H.B. 4968 will require, among other things, identifying by ear tag or tattoo swine including feeder pigs which were sold or moved within the state. Swine six months of age that are sold within the state will be required to have a test which proves that they have come from a qualified negative herd or a test which indicates that they have been tested for pseudorabies within thirty days of movement. Swine exhibited at fairs or other shows must be accompanied by similar proof. Swine moved from a public stockyard, auction sale yard, livestock yard or slaughterhouse must be only for immediate slaughter.

The bill further provides that swine imported into the state must originate from a pseudorabies qualified herd or vaccinated herd as defined by rules of the U.S.D.A. or from a herd which has negative results from an approved test within 30 days before entry into the state.

Michigan's problem has resulted from diseased animals coming from other states where the disease is more prevalent. The Pork Producers Association along with others have supported the legislation wholeheartedly.

UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE

S.B. 782 has passed the Senate and now is in a House committee. This is a Farm Bureau written and supported bill and will solve a serious problem for farmers borrowing money for crop production,

land owners renting to farmers and lenders.

It amends the law to eliminate the present requirement that an application for a loan contain a legal description of each property where a crop is to be grown and also eliminates the present requirement that the lender (bank, PCA, etc.) must file the loan "on the property record." This has added a great deal of red tape and unnecessary additional fees and costs and have resulted in concerns on the part of land owners that their property record or abstract has had a lean placed against it which is not the case.

Passage of S.B. 782, introduced by Senator Young, will allow lenders and farmers to return to the system used before the Uniform Commercial Code became effective. The bill has been supported by all those affected.

GASOHOL TAXES

A Senate committee has favorably reported S.B. 480 which will cut the gasoline tax for gasohol from 11¢ down to 6¢; but, more importantly, it will define ethanol and methanol and require a purity of "greater than 99%." Farm Bureau strongly supports the legislation.

It is a means to encourage development of the production of ethanol from agricultural products to extend the gasoline supply in the form of gasohol and also to assure the public that gasohol will meet a specific standard. If a poor quality alcohol is used, it would harm the excellent image and support that the public presently has with gasohol. The use of this product is increasing as more stations are added throughout the state.

Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, a Farm Bureau affiliate, introduced gasohol to Michigan over a year ago.

AFBF President Delano

How Much Are We Willing To Take?

Farmers and ranchers understand pain.

Agriculture brings its painful moments — from a farmer's aching back caused by a springtime flurry of fencing to the mental anguish of attempts to stretch deflated income to cover inflated costs.

The physical pain can usually be eased. The mental pain tends to linger.

The prospect of higher taxes and much higher fuel bills to be paid with only slightly higher income is painful. But fertilizer must be bought and machinery repaired (or replaced) even as fuel prices double and triple.

The greatest hurt of all comes with the knowledge that at the prospect of twenty percent inflation, the value of every dollar one has, or hopes to gain, will be cut almost in half EVERY TWO YEARS.

There is a very real question about how much distortion the market-price economy of a country, even as flexible as the United States, can sustain without collapse. Bankruptcy is a very real prospect.

Inflation has made a mockery out of thrift as a virtue.

As I write, average savings have dipped to the lowest rate since 1949 — to 3.4 percent — in the last quarter of the year. People are borrowing against their homes, their silver — and most of all — against their futures.

Inflation has reduced everyone's standard of living.

Town or country, real income (gains in income versus losses from inflation), has eroded by six percent in the past year alone.

How much more can we stand? How much of this economic destruction are we willing to take?

Inflation is not a mysterious malady. Its cause is known (deficit federal spending and the creation of new money to pay for it) — the cure is available (sharply reduced spending, control of the money supply and of credit, and a balanced budget).

Up until now, politicians have had little evidence that constituents are sufficiently motivated to resist inflation's pleasant side: the good feeling of more dollars to spend — relatively high employment — a brisk sale of property at "good" prices and the apparent gains made from operating on borrowed money.

The question remains: are all citizens "hurting" enough to be willing to join farmers and ranchers in facing what must be done?

Can we stand together for severe cuts in favored federal programs, face the prospect of no tax cuts and of continued high interest rates in the short run?

Economists at the Harris Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago, the first major bank to boost the prime interest rate to 18 percent, says the time has come for shock treatment.

Such treatment has been outlined by the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors at a recent meeting in Washington, D.C., where we called on the president, the leaders of both political parties and all citizens to put politics aside in an immediate affirmative anti-inflation action program.

Basic to it is a review and revision of the legislation creating the fast-growing "entitlement" programs which control such things as Social Security, unemployment compensation and veteran's benefits. These benefits are indexed to the cost of living and keyed to escalate with inflation. Entitlement programs are now said to account for around 70 percent of the entire federal budget.

Besides drastic cuts in federal spending, we support tax reforms to encourage savings and investment to improve productivity; large-scale paring of government regulations and a realistic national energy policy to expand domestic production.

How much financial pain are we willing to take? Can we stop inflation now, or must we wait until the Susan B. Anthony dollar has shrunk to the size of a nickel?

I believe that most other citizens will join the nation's farmers and ranchers in calling a halt NOW to the debasement of our country through debasement of our currency.

Disappoints Farm Bureau

Bergland Announces No Paid Land Diversion Program

Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland has announced the Department of Agriculture will not institute a paid land diversion program for 1980 crops of wheat, corn and other feed grains.

The decision was based on prospects for continued growth in world consumption. "Our grain exports will be at record levels this year and will continue to grow in the future," Bergland said.

"While U.S. producers enjoyed record large production in 1979-80, world production of grain actually declined. This has boosted demand for U.S. crops," Bergland said. "According to our estimates, we are expecting U.S. feed grain exports to reach a record 68 million tons in this marketing year and U.S. wheat exports to total 36 million tons—also a record amount."

"Obviously, we cannot make any precise estimates of what 1980 world feed grain production will be, but we know world grain demand will continue to

grow. As long as we have adequate supplies, we can expect our exports to continue to increase. World grain stocks are declining this year and prices are higher than a year ago," Bergland said.

"The actions the administration took in January to suspend shipments of agricultural products to the Soviet Union above the 8 million tons allowed under the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Grains Supply Agreement, have not fundamentally altered the long-range supply-demand picture for U.S. agriculture," he said.

"We made the commitment and have taken steps to offset the impacts on farm prices associated with the suspension. U.S. producers still have strong domestic and world markets for their farm output and prices are near levels expected before the suspension," stated Bergland.

However, American Farm Bureau leaders have expressed "keen disappointment" at Bergland's decision. AFBF President Robert Delano said

that the decision will cost grain farmers almost \$1 billion in lost income and further weaken the market-price system.

The three-million member-family organization had urged that sufficient cropland be removed from production equivalent to the 17 million metric tons of grain withheld from sale to the Soviets.

Delano said that grain planting will soon begin in parts of the country and without a paid diversion, new crop grain will add to an already huge carryover of corn and wheat. "This will send grain prices into a downward spiral in the latter part of the year, and force more grain into government hands," said Delano.

"We are keenly disappointed that the administration has so far failed to keep faith with farmers, after assuring us that net farm income would not be allowed to suffer because of an embargo called for national security purposes," Delano concluded.



Farm Bureau on the NATIONAL SCENE

Senate Ag Committee Okays Land Diversion Proposal: The Senate Agriculture Committee has approved Farm Bureau-sought legislation to establish a paid land diversion program. The committee-approved legislation would provide a \$500 million cap on program expenditures instead of tonnage figures and a 1,000-acre diversion limit per crop per farmer. The measure would also provide \$1.25 per bushel for corn and \$1.50 per bushel for wheat as a minimum payment on land taken out of production.

The AFBF had told the administration and Congress that sufficient cropland should be removed from production equivalent to the embargoed 17 million metric tons of grain.

The Senate committee's action followed passage of a similar bill in the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock and Grains.

Mechanization Research: Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland has announced the formation of a special task force to advise the USDA on current and future mechanization research. The task force is to recommend criteria and procedures for objective evaluation of the economic, social, environmental and labor displacement impacts of current and future federally-funded agricultural mechanization research projects.

The task force is to place special emphasis on mechanization research that may result in large-scale displacement of labor. Results of the group's evaluation will be made available to directors of agricultural experiment stations to consider as they manage their research programs.

AFBF Testifies on Special Use Valuation of Farmland: Farm Bureau gave its support to legislation allowing the use of crop share or in-kind rentals in the special use valuation formula of the Internal Revenue Service Code. A section of the estate and gift tax reforms in the Tax Reform Act of 1976 provided special use valuation of agricultural land for estate tax purposes. But regulations proposed by IRS limit the application of a previously proposed method of valuing farm real estate.

Before the proposed regulations, the definition of gross cash rentals permitted crop share rentals to be treated as cash rentals, if no actual cash rentals existed. In some areas of the country where farming is conducted under crop share arrangements, this option to substitute crop share figures for cash rent figures in the valuation formula is essential. The proposed regulations no longer offer this option.

Target Price Increases: The House and Senate have agreed to the conference report on H.R. 3398 which would raise 1980 target prices for wheat and feed grains by seven percent above the levels in effect for the 1978 and 1979 crops and would permit further increases for 1981, clearing the measure for the President.

The bill sets the 1980 target price for wheat at \$4.63 a bushel compared with the \$3.40 rate used during the past two years. For corn, the 1980 target would be raised to \$2.35 a bushel compared with last year's \$2.20.

Emergency Agricultural Credit: The House has passed H.R. 6291, amending the Emergency Agricultural Credit Adjustment Act of 1978 and the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act, extending an economic emergency credit program for farmers and liberalizing a program which provides credit for building crop storage facilities on farms.

Rep. Thomas Foley, D-Wash., chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, said the bill "is urgently needed to help assure adequate credit for many farmers who are being squeezed by rising production costs, and to bring the ceiling on farm storage facility loans into line with today's increased building costs."

The bill would extend an economic emergency loan program, which had been scheduled to expire May 15, 1980, until Sept. 30, 1981, with \$2 billion in authority for government-insured and guaranteed loans. For farm storage facility loans, the bill authorizes raising the ceiling on individual loans from the present \$50,000 to \$100,000, an eight percent ceiling on interest rates in the program, and repeal of an existing provision which limits loans to the amount needed to finance storage for two years' production on any farm.

Perfectionism and Efficiency

This Farmer's Formula For Success

By Shelley Sorkin

Perfectionism is a trait most often associated with such fields as medicine and architecture. But it also has a place in farming. Walt Stafford of Richland, Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau member, is a walking tribute to farmland perfection — his fields are virtually weed-free, his yields are better than average, and his cattle operation is top notch.

Stafford has to be efficient because he farms some 1200 acres of corn and wheat while simultaneously managing a totally-confined cattle operation that markets some 1000-head of crossbred cattle yearly. "Efficiency is knowing your priorities, that's the key," explains Stafford, who has the help of his wife, two full-time employees, a part-time secretary, his retired father, and his young son, in keeping the farm running properly. In addition to working with what he terms "the best of help," his two large operations have forced him to implement a management program that complements his marketing practices.

Concerned about quality control in both his livestock and cropping operations, Stafford's management system is comprised of two components that interact with one another to balance his time and that of his workers. The first is assigning each member of his work team a specific task. Second is focusing his energies on his cropping operation — the most stable of his two enterprises — and marketing his cattle according to profit margin calculations.

Under this system, one employee, brother-in-law Jim Thompson, is primarily concerned with machinery maintenance and shares responsibility for the crops with Stafford. The other hired man, Russ Waters, is in charge of the livestock, and helps out in the field only in the spring and when his job as herd manager is completely finished. Ever the perfectionist, Stafford sees himself as the man who does those jobs that require the most patience and perseverance — planting,

herbicide and fertilizer application, harvesting, and buying and selling corn and cattle. He has also termed himself a "flyer," available to do any job that requires two men such as working the cattle, veterinary work and even pushing silage at the feedlot.

In the fall, he tries to have the stalk shredder and chisel plow follow the combine as closely as possible. This allows maximum time for the residue to decompose. With this fall tillage system, erosion problems are reduced significantly. All fertilizer is applied in the spring except the lime, which they hire someone to custom-spread between the combine and the chisel plow. "We need to do this because the field is too rough for spreading after plowing, and it's too late in the spring," he explains.

Before attempting any spring work, Stafford will sit down with his soil agronomist and study the results of soil tests. He feels it is best to have a professional agronomist check his fields yearly because "he is in the process of trying to achieve nutrient balance in his fields. "As a perfectionist, I feel more

along with nitrogen applied with a cold flow-equipped field cultivator. He'll follow up with the planter and starter fertilizer, while simultaneously applying Lasso plus atrazine for broad spectrum weed control, and Furadan for control of root worm and corn borers. A sequential application of Banvel is made to control velvetleaf.

Modified Minimum Tillage

It's easy to see that Walt Stafford is a man on the lookout for better ways to get the job done more efficiently. One of the discoveries he's made during this search is that a modified minimum tillage system not only saves him fuel and labor, but also leaves time for his cattle operation. "Since we chisel plow in the fall and then field cultivate and plant in the spring, we are only going over the fields three times. With the price of fuel and labor — and loss of plant populations from cultivation — minimum tillage has really helped get our work done quickly, efficiently and correctly," he notes. "And now that we spray and plant in the same operation, I don't have to worry about having weeds emerging to compete with my

"A programmed approach to farming has really increased my efficiency."

comfortable knowing my fields are in the hands of a professional. When I can hire someone to do a job correctly, I will. It's much easier to have someone haul cattle to market, or come check my cattle feed than it is to hire someone to harvest when I need it or plant with the precision I demand."

With a cold confinement cattle barn equipped with a pit that holds 320,000 gallons of liquid manure, part of Stafford's fertilization program includes injecting liquid manure into some 200 acres of cropland during the summer months. The following spring he bulk-spreads fertilizer in accordance with soil test recommendations

crop before the herbicide is applied.

To increase efficiency even more, Walt designed and built his own water wagon for hauling into the field when planting. The 1500 gallon wagon hooks behind a tandem axle truck with a portabox for fertilizer. This provides water for mixing the herbicide as well as the luxury of having everything they need right out in the field. "With the supplies we've got on the planter truck and wagon we could plant 85 acres," he boasts.

"Efficiency is the key to both my operations," Stafford concludes, "and while the cattle operation is important, everything relates back to the cropping program. The better the management, the better the yields. And, the better the yields, the more beef we can produce per acre. That's what farming is all about, producing."

"Whether or not to irrigate was a very hard decision," he recalls. "But after reviewing my records more times than I can remember, I found that during the ten years prior to 1977, anytime I had a good corn crop — not spectacular, but average — I made money. I realized that even when disregarding



Stafford's cold confinement cattle barn comes equipped with a pit that holds 320,000 gallons of liquid manure. Part of his fertilization program includes injecting this manure into some 200 acres of cropland during the summer months.

the cattle operation, an average corn yield made money. By analyzing my return on investment per cost per unit, I proved that I had to guarantee an average corn crop to come out ahead. Irrigation guaranteed that yield. And while it is hard to justify irrigation when rainfall is plentiful, the bad years more than make up for the good."

And because he has guaranteed his corn productivity, he knows he will have silage for his cattle and flexibility in the marketplace. "I have the option to contract sell some corn before it is even planted, gamble on the price of the grain I didn't sell, and even increase or decrease the size of my cattle operation according to the price of grain," Stafford explains.

No Soybeans

Of Walt Stafford's 1200 acres, 900 are planted in corn, 200 in wheat, and 100 in alfalfa. "Most people ask me why I don't have any acres planted in soybeans," he says, "I just tell them that I'm a firm believer in not getting into too many enterprises. When you spread yourself too thin, you begin to forgo proper management."

Thanks to a corn-wheat rotation, the Stafford farm has eliminated the problems associated with harvesting two crops at once. "It's much more efficient to harvest wheat during irrigation season and have one man irrigate and another run the combine, than to try to juggle soybean and corn harvesting at the same time," he says. He prefers to shell high moisture corn for cattle feed in September, and dry corn for cash in October.

Because Stafford places a great deal of importance on his cropping system, he spends long hours in his office putting together work schedules and projection plans. "A programmed approach to farming has really helped increase my efficiency," he states, noting that he utilizes the Telefarm compu-

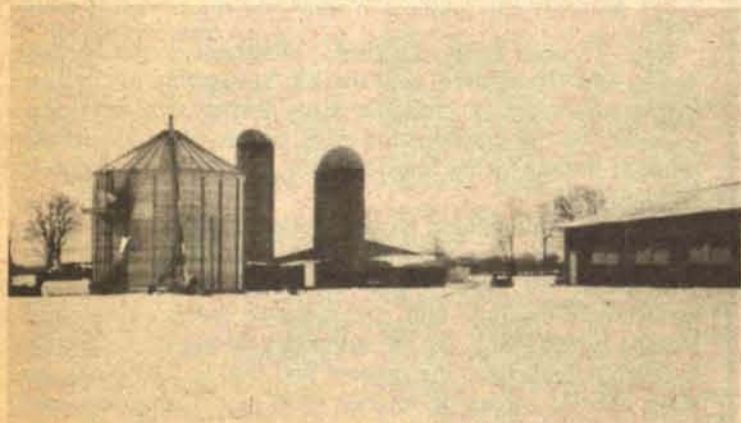
ters at Michigan State to help keep his books in tip-top shape while simultaneously analyzing the cost efficiency of his two vast enterprises.

And while it may appear that Stafford has taken the bulk of the work load upon himself, this is not necessarily the case. "As my operation has grown, I have delegated more and more work to the hired help. Since they are directly responsible for a large part of my success, they have direct input into the way things get done around the farm," claims Stafford who, although considered a top notch farmer by his Kalamazoo County neighbors, is not a born and bred farm boy.

4-H PROJECT

In fact, a quick glimpse into Walt Stafford's past reveals a city boy with a small 40-acre hobby farm and 15 dairy cows acquired during a 4-H project. But even with such humble beginnings, he knew he wanted to be a farmer. So, he set his goals in accordance with a philosophy that is not only relevant today, but is the cornerstone of his success: look ahead and make smart purchases whether they be land, equipment, livestock or chemicals. "Too many people see things short-term," laments Stafford. "More times than not you have to spend \$2 an acre in the spring to net \$10 in the fall."

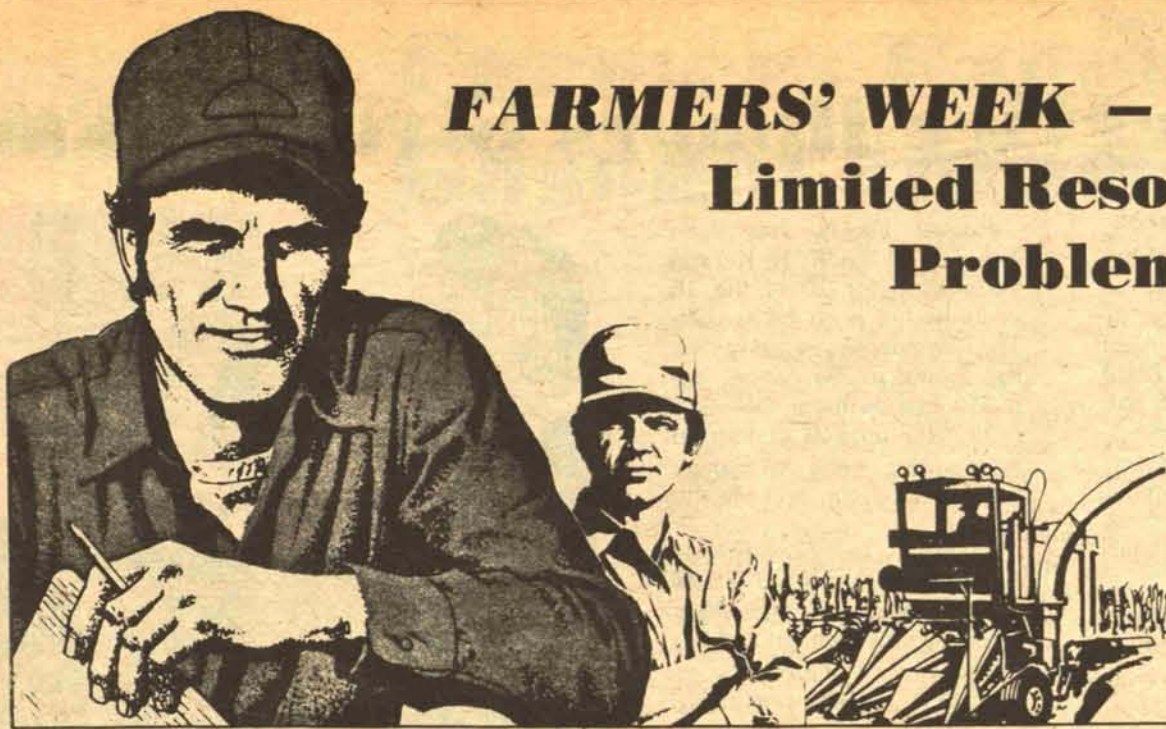
In keeping with this belief, he makes more than his share of long-term investments. He buys more cattle when he feels the market will be hot, gambles on the prices of grain, attends marketing and hedging courses at Michigan State University, regularly recruits the help of a soil agronomist and feed analyst, puts out test plots, and most recently, installed two center pivot irrigation systems that cover more than 610 acres. "While I'm a strong believer in putting my ideas into action, I don't jump into anything too hastily," he cautions, citing the precautions he took before installing his center pivot irrigation system.



Walt Stafford began as a city boy with a small 40-acre hobby farm and 15 dairy cows. Today, he plants 1200 acres and manages a totally-confined cattle operation that markets some 1000 head of crossbred cattle yearly.

FARMERS' WEEK - MARCH 17-21

Limited Resources in Michigan - Problems and Opportunities For The 80s



**"It is in tough economic times such as we face today that we especially appreciate the role agriculture plays in Michigan's economy."
- Governor William Milliken**

MMPA Members View Challenges of the 80s

In his address to Michigan Milk Producers Association members at the organization's 64th annual meeting on March 15 in East Lansing, President Glenn Lake listed the federal government's efforts to dictate American's diets as one of the challenges facing farmers during the new decade.

Lake said that while farmers do not disagree with all of the suggestions outlined by government, "Our real problem is that the dietary goals which are being so totally advocated are in the process of being mandated by 'Big Brother' in his effort to increasingly tell us how to live.

"One important issue which can be clearly understood by everyone here," Lake said, "is that USDA regulations now say that 'if a school offers fresh, whole fluid milk to students, it must offer lowfat and skim milk to students.' But worse than the regulation is that USDA no longer requires that milk in any form be a part of the school lunch.

"It is my serious suggestion that we in MMPA exert every possible effort, particularly in this campaign year, to get commitments from those who are candidates for the U.S. Congress that they will work to reverse the ridiculous regulations that have been established by administrative ruling, based on a mere handful of opinions."

Lake asked members to support MMPA's Political Action Committee (MMPAC) activities as one way to further their economic well-being.

"Farming agriculture is a major stabilizing effort in Michigan's economy," he said. "Dairy farming is the largest farm enterprise we have and yet we farmers are not nearly as aggressive in working with the legislative and regulatory bodies of our state as we should be. Let us resolve, therefore, that we will no longer accept second-class positions."

In reviewing the McDonald Dairy Company acquisition, Lake said its near-collapse could have been the result of members either asking too much or too little of their cooperative.

"Members may have asked too little. It may be too few questions were asked about where the organization was headed and why," Lake said. "It is easy to allow the development of a condition where members fail to challenge the hired management when too much authority is taken from the 'policymaker member-owners,' or when members do not demand and demonstrate clear separation of board and management. Members also ask too little when they don't demand, and then carefully study, a detailed balance sheet and operating statement.

"Members can ask too much, too, when they expect to get by without riding herd on operations and neglect providing the necessary equity capital needed to sustain economic life and strength and yet expect the cooperative to carry out the necessary marketing programs."

Members must ACTIVELY watch over the cooperative, Lake said, and added: "Whatever this March 15, 1980 and all other MMPA annual meetings that follow may bring - let it be known to all that we will never adjourn without making sure we are on sound financial footing."

A proposal to assure that sound financial footing was later debated by the MMPA delegate body. A change was made from the organization's traditional method of member financing - the flat rate per hundredweight investment - to a percentage of the gross value of milk sold by each member. Delegates approved the MMPA board's recommendation setting the rate for operating dues at .75 per-

cent and for capital retain at .6 percent of the gross value of milk marketed by each member for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1980.

MMPA General Manager Jack Barnes, in his report to members, warned that efforts prevalent in the 70s to weaken or destroy farm organizations and their programs would continue during the new decade.

"The cooperative and its right to function as granted by the Capper-Volstead Act, the federal order program and its provisions for orderliness in the marketplace, the price support program and the role it occupies in underpinning the entire industry and giving the necessary long-term assurances to dairy farmers - those and other programs vital to dairy farmers have been and will continue under attack," said Barnes.

"The attacks have a common element: the mistaken belief that somehow, if dairy farmer programs and organizations can be weakened or destroyed, consumers will be able, not only to buy their milk and dairy products cheaper, but also will be able to continue to find those products in abundance. The attacks will continue," he warned. "As we go into the eighties, we must remain dedicated to working together and working with other organizations to fend them off and retain our position."

Barnes also listed inflation and energy as two major challenges of the 80s - "too much of one and not enough of the other."

"The energy crunch continues to escalate transportation costs, presenting a major mar-

keting problem," he explained. "Higher hauling costs are affecting all dairy farmers. Transportation differentials and hauling rates built into they system are not adequate. They do not provide the money necessary to move milk to fluid milk processing plants. We will continue to struggle with those problems until necessary changes are made in the federal order system to recognize and make realistic provisions for milk movement. These may well bring about needed reorganization of milk hauling routes in the years ahead."

In other action, MMPA delegates adopted a slate of policies, including support of PA 116 and opposition to agricultural districting, support of adequate financing for the MDA, and continued strong support for the federal milk marketing order system.



Tom and Kathy Middleton (right), Ortonville, Oakland County Farm Bureau members, were named MMPA's Outstanding Young Dairy Couple for 1980. Ron and Neva Wood (left), Scottville, Mason County Farm Bureau members, were runners-up in the annual contest. The Middletons will represent MMPA at numerous activities including the national Young Cooperators' meeting held with the National Milk Producers Federation annual meeting later this year. The Woods also will represent the association at various dairy and cooperative functions.

Central Michigan Ag Leaders Selected

Distinguished Service Honors Given at Farmers' Week

Two Michigan Farm Bureau members and the Kellogg Foundation president received 1980 Distinguished Service Awards from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources during Farmers' Week, March 17-22, at Michigan State University.

The annual awards were given to David D. Diehl, a crop farmer from Dansville, and Ingham County Farm Bureau member; Paul Piepkow, a dairy farmer from Olivet, and Calhoun County member; and Russell Mawby, president of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. College of ANR Dean James H. Anderson presented the honors at the President's Luncheon Thursday, March 20 in the Big Ten Room of MSU's Kellogg Center for Continuing Education.

Diehl raises corn, soybeans, wheat and navy beans on a 5,400-acre farm operated in partnership with his two sons and two son-in-laws. Diehl Fields, as the farm is called, is a progressive operation recognized for developing new management practices and equipment innovations. Current on-farm studies are exploring the economic value of irrigation and gasohol systems.

Diehl Fields has its own grain drying operation, tilling equipment, a bulk fertilizer installation and a network of nine radios to oversee field operations of 11 tractors. Located about 15 miles from the MSU campus, the farm has been used for field trials and other cooperative projects by MSU Extension specialists and researchers.

Diehl has been a member of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture since 1970, serving

as president in 1973 and 1979. He has been a member of the Lansing Community College Board of Trustees since its founding in 1965 and was chairman from 1967-69. Diehl is a former member of the Dansville Schools Board of Education and of the Ingham County Intermediate School District. He is a member of Farm Bureau, the Kiwanis Club and other civic groups.

Paul Piepkow, partner in the 610-acre, 185-cow Lake-Piepkow Jersey Farm near Olivet, is one of Michigan's outstanding dairy producers, a leader in dairy industry activities and a contributor to community affairs. His three sons assist with the farm operation, which has produced a nationally recognized dairy herd.

Piepkow was selected as the 1979 MSU Dairy Farmer of the Year. His other awards include a J.C. Outstanding Young Farmer Award, a Recognition of Agricultural Achievements award from the MSU Short Course Alumni Association, and the Michigan Milk Producers Association Outstanding Young Farm Couple award.

He is a member, delegate or officer of the Michigan Dairy Herd Improvement Association board, Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative State Board, the MSU Jersey Sire Committee of Select Sires, and the Michigan Jersey Cattle Club.

Piepkow has served his community as a member of the school board, director of Olivet State Bank, as a 4-H leader and a member of the Rotary Club.

Russell Mawby has been president of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation for 10 of the 15 years he has been on its staff. The foundation, among the five largest in the nation, annually awards more than \$45 million for projects conducted around the world in agriculture, education and health fields.

Mawby is recognized throughout the United States as an advocate of agriculture and rural development and has participated in national and international conferences concerned with food production. He was an MSU faculty member in agricultural economics from 1952 to 1961, serving as Cooperative Extension Service assistant director responsible for 4-H youth programs from 1956 until joining the foundation in 1965.



Paul Piepkow, David Diehl and Russell Mawby were presented Distinguished Service Awards during Farmers' Week ceremonies.

Milliken Gives Agriculture High Priority

While economists may not be in agreement that the nation is in a recession, Governor Milliken says Michigan very clearly is, and that the immediate future does not look bright. Addressing a near-record crowd at the Farmers' Week "Governor's Breakfast," Milliken said unemployment and inflation both are expected to be at double-digit levels in Michigan this year, with real personal income expected to drop by more than four percent, the largest drop since the 1930s.

"The budget I have proposed to the Legislature for

The governor said that if President Carter and the Congress carry through on efforts to curb inflation and end federal revenue sharing payments to the states, and if the pressures on social services continue to increase, "I will have to propose even further cuts in the already severely constrained budget." Ending the federal revenue sharing payments would mean a loss of \$100 million to Michigan, he explained.

"It is in tough economic times such as we face today that we can especially appreciate

\$12 billion component of Michigan's economy."

One of his chief concerns, the governor said, was the need to preserve irreplaceable agricultural lands. "While agriculture has grown more productive, our total farm acreage and the number of farms has grown smaller. Over the past 30 years, the total farm acreage in Michigan has fallen from nearly 18 million acres to 10 million acres.

"There is a growing awareness of this problem, however, that offers hope for the future. One of our most successful efforts has been the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act (P.A. 116) which is designed to protect farmland from the pressures created by urban sprawl. More than one million acres of farmland — roughly 10 percent of our total farmland is now enrolled in this program," he said.

Although Michigan farmers face a number of problems in the final part of the 20th century, Milliken said, they also face a number of opportunities. "Few areas have a brighter outlook than our agricultural exports," he said. "Michigan is the nation's second leading export state and Michigan agriculture is an important component of that export picture. In the past ten years, our agricultural exports have grown 500 percent to more than \$500 million annually.

"Nationally, agricultural exports pay for more than 50 percent of the oil that the U.S. imports. In 1979, the U.S. imported \$



fiscal 1981 is the most constrained I have ever had to submit," said the governor. "It called for an overall increase in spending of less than five percent, and proposed the elimination and/or reduction of nearly \$200 million in existing state programs."

ate the role agriculture plays in Michigan's economy," Milliken said. "Michigan farmers received more than \$2.4 billion in cash receipts for their crops in 1979. When the value of processing, transportation and marketing these goods is computed, agri-business becomes a

Growing With Agriculture



Farming is in their future and Farm Bureau will be there, too. An exhibit at Farmers' Week attracted many full-time and future farmers interested in learning more about Farm Bureau's 64,000 member general farm organization.

s' Week

Farmers Eager for More Gasohol Information



d Service Awards during special

Marks

billion worth of oil and exported \$32 billion worth of agricultural products while maintaining our markets here at home," the governor said.

The most recent success story in our state, he reported, was the negotiated sale of Michigan beans to Mexico, which will bring Michigan bean farmers some \$85 million and increase bean production in the state by 170,000 acres.

Another increasingly important role for agriculture, Milliken said, was in the field of energy production. Pointing to the high interest evidenced by overflow crowds at Farmers' Week gasohol sessions, the governor said he never thought he would see the day when farmers would be told how to build stills on their farms.

"The Michigan Department of Agriculture is attempting to provide adequate information to allow farmers to become knowledgeable consumers of gasohol technology. The research project here on campus involves developing the optimum technology for on-farm alcohol production. It also is looking at ways to feed the byproducts of alcohol production, which still retain their important protein value," said Milliken. "I find these developments extremely encouraging both from an energy conservation viewpoint and from the viewpoint of the economic benefits which Michigan farmers will derive from them."

The attention grabber, again, was alcohol and whether it can be produced economically in farm-size stills.

About 100 people, most of them farmers, gathered March 18 at Michigan State University for a Farmers' Week presentation on "Rural Energy Survival." But more than half stayed only long enough to hear the talk entitled, "Gasohol: Does It Make Sense?"

It was one more sign among many in the past several months that Michigan farmers are eager for information about on-farm production of alternative fuels, particularly alcohol. But speakers at the presentation told the group that alcohol and other liquid fuel substitutes for petroleum products remain shrouded in questions and controversy.

Guest speaker Robert Herendeen, a physicist and member of the Energy

Research Group at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, told farmers and other participants that gasohol is interesting but requires more research. Herendeen and other researchers at the University of Illinois have been studying the potential production and use of gasohol, a fuel mix combining 90 percent gasoline and 10 percent ethanol. Their work has demonstrated that gasohol may be a practical alternative for farms, but only if it is produced and used under specific conditions.

Critics of gasohol claim that production of the fuel consumes more energy than it produces. Herendeen, however, said that gasohol definitely emerges as a "net fuel producer," yielding more energy than it takes to make.

Herendeen warned that neither farmers nor the nation should think that gasohol is a panacea for U.S. energy ills.

"Gasohol isn't going to do it for the nation," he said. It may reduce farmers' dependence on petroleum, but it cannot provide enough energy for the whole country.

Even for agriculture, he said, "true energy self-sufficiency is a pretty elusive concept," because farmers rely heavily on petroleum-based products such as fertilizers. Acres of crops might be used for fuel production instead of food, but farmers still will need petroleum products to grow them.

"Everybody wants to import liquid fuels from someone else," he noted. Somewhere, some people are going to have to cut back.

His comments echoed the words of state Rep. Perry Bullard, D-Ann Arbor, who told the assembly that Americans are "oil addicts" who have to break the habit of ever-increasing demands for more oil.

"Unfortunately, as a nation," he said, "we haven't learned much since the oil embargo. The U.S. is painting itself into a corner."

Bullard said Americans would have to look for ways to bolster mass transit and decentralize control of energy resources. They would have to depend more on alternative sources of energy, such as solar, wind, water and wood. Michigan's rural residents, he added, have to consider the importance of conservation immediately and look for new ways to satisfy old energy demands. He encouraged tax incentives and subsidized loans to prompt creative solutions and energy savings. He urged farmers to examine the opportunities offered by solar heating, crop drying and greenhouse systems, as well as alcohol, wood fuel for heat and small wind energy systems.

Cooperation Key to Growth

"Agriculture down the road" looks good to the director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, with the industry becoming increasingly important to the nation. "There are going to be more people to feed, here and abroad, and American farmers are going to do the job," MDA Director Dean Pridgeon told the crowd attending the Farmers' Week farm management banquet.

"Agriculture is a vital, growing business in this state, which is too often forgotten because all the attention is directed to the automobile industry," said Pridgeon, "and I think we can guarantee that agriculture will continue to grow in the future."

A vital part of that growth, Pridgeon stressed, would be continued and increased cooperation between Michigan State University and the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

"The whole program of market expansion, both here and abroad, brings into focus the interdependency of the department and the university," said Pridgeon. "The Mexican bean sale announced recently is a good example. . . . This sale wouldn't have been possible without the help of this university through the Bean and Beet Research Facility near Saginaw."

Pridgeon listed the development of alternative energy

sources as another cooperative effort. "Agriculture will be called upon to provide part of the energy needs in the future. We have on our department staff now an energy coordinator whose responsibility this year is to promote the production of alcohol in this state, both the large commercial installations and on-farm systems.

"The Michigan Department of Agriculture has full responsibility for the wholesomeness of the food supply in our state," Pridgeon explained. "We say we do this to protect consumers, and we do, but put another way, we are the quality control arm for Michigan agriculture. You don't have markets unless consumers have confidence in the quality and goodness of the products."

MSU's Food Science Department provides assistance to the department in its regulatory work, Pridgeon said, and looked forward to "continued and increased cooperation in the future."

Pridgeon announced that a seminar will be held in April to help the Michigan Department of Agriculture design programs to meet agricultural needs. Participants will be farmers, food processors, food retailers, members of the horse industry and other people from the total agricultural and food-related industries.

MSU President Extends Welcome to Farmers' Week Participants



Michigan State University President Cecil Mackey made his first welcome to a near-record crowd attending the Farmers' Week "Governor's Breakfast," sponsored annually by the Farmers for Better Government Committee.

From Single Holstein to All-American . . .

Greens Named Dairy Farmers of the Year

The owners and operators of a 1412-cow dairy herd located in Elsie were recently named the 1980 Dairy Farmers of the Year by the Michigan State University Dairy Science Department.

Merle Green and his sons, Duane and Velmar, who are members of the Clinton County Farm Bureau, were honored by Dr. Harold Hafs, MSU Dairy Science Department chairman, during the dairy breeds awards presentations that were part of MSU's Farmers' Week. The award is based on the recipients' managerial ability and contributions to their community and the dairy industry.

Merle Green began the Green Meadows operation in 1917 with a single registered Holstein heifer. By 1949, the herd was large enough to see the establishment of a partnership between Merle and his oldest son, Duane, who returned to the family farm from Cornell University. Velmar joined the operation in 1959, upon graduation from MSU.

The herd, which has been on

the Dairy Herd Improvement Association testing program since 1940, has produced several well-known cows for the dairy industry. In 1951, one of Green's cows produced 42,805 pounds of milk and 1246 pounds of butterfat, which established a world record that stood until the early 1970s. During the 1950s and 1960s, a show herd traveled across the country producing several "All-American" calves.

Today the herd produces an average of 16,144 pounds of milk per cow per year. The farm consists of 2900 tillable acres and has about 30 fulltime employees.

Merle Green has been the treasurer of the Ovid-Elsie school district since the late 1960s. Duane has been a national director of the Holstein Association since 1964, a director of Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative, Inc., since 1979 and a 4-H leader for 20 years. Velmar is treasurer of the Michigan Milk Producers Association and has been an association director

since 1968. He has been a DHIA director since 1979 and is an associate director of the American Dairy Association in Michigan. He currently serves as a member of the Clint Meadows Chair campaign which will establish a faculty position at the MSU Dairy Science Department.

Also honored at the dairy awards luncheon were Sam Gingell from Brown City and Jack Kaufman from Sandusky, both Sanilac County Farm Bureau members.

Gingell was honored by the Michigan DHIA, Inc., for having the highest 365 day milk producing herd in 1979. His 1979 365 day herd average with 52 cows was 23,546 pounds of milk and 781 pounds of butterfat.

The MSU Dairy Science Department honored Kaufman for having the highest 365 day five year rolling herd butterfat average. The five year rolling average was 21,930 pounds of milk and 856 pounds of butterfat.



The owners and operators of Green Meadows Farms near Elsie in Clinton County were named the 1980 Dairy Farmers of the Year by the MSU Dairy Science Department. Following presentation of the award, Merle Green (left), made some thank you comments as sons Velmar and Duane (center, standing), look on.



Jack Kaufman (left) of Sandusky, was honored by the MSU Dairy Science Department for having the highest 365 day five-year rolling herd butterfat average. Tom Middleton (right), president of the DHIA, presented the trophy at the Dairy Award Luncheon during Farmers' Week.



Sam Gingell (left) of Brown City, receives a trophy from Tom Middleton (right), president of the Michigan DHIA, for having the highest 365 day milk producing herd in 1979. The presentation was made during the Dairy Awards Luncheon.

Dissolution Problems Addressed

Divorce Rate Threatens Farm Capital Stability

As the rising national divorce rate begins to affect farm families, farm business operators are wise to set up partnerships with buy-sell agreements at the time of their marriage when they are under minimal emotional stress.

Speaking to a group of farm-owning husband and wife teams during Farmers' Week at Michigan State University, March 17-20, George McManus, county extension director from Traverse City, advised such an arrangement to allow partners to build up equity equally and not endanger all the farm capital in case of dissolution.

"I've never heard this subject discussed in public," McManus said, "but with the rising incidence of divorce among farm owners, I think it's time to examine the problems this trend presents to agriculture and farm capital."

McManus attributes the rise in the agriculture sector divorce rate to no fault divorce, affluence and rising property values, the lessening of social stigma and religious strictures, and the increased opportunities

for women to work outside the home.

"Most of these divorces appear to occur either after just a few years of marriage or after all the children are grown and gone," McManus observed. "When a couple has been married for 30 or 35 years and built up considerable capital, the dissolution problems are enormous."

Characteristically, he points out, legal fees are extremely high because of the complications of property settlements. The individual is responsible for getting state and federal taxes paid on the sale of any property, and that can take a lot of money out of the total capital divided.

Real estate appraisals are usually high and couples selling under a deadline often don't get as high a price for their land as the courts think they are going to based on the appraisals. Furthermore, courts don't recognize the difference between cash now and future interest; they deal only in cash now which can drive the total price of a sale down. This

makes settlement difficult and tax planning difficult. With inflated land values, most farms have sizeable net worth and little cash.

The practice among farm families of selling the home place to the children for a lower-than-market value can work an unexpected hardship on the buyer in case of divorce. As market value rises, the difference between the low initial cost and the appraised value becomes equity and subject to capital gains taxes. It might be better, he suggests, to sell the farm to the children at its full market value with a first right of refusal clause and low interest, and in case of dissolution be prepared to buy the property back in order to keep it in the family.

While a divorce is in litigation, all the capital is tied up, and many farms never recover financially from the time lost. Capital is removed from agriculture, the increased debt to asset ratio after splitting the farm makes it difficult to obtain credit, cash is tied up creating new management problems during the trial itself.

37 Counties Over Goal

Since February 18, an additional 14 counties have reported 1980 membership goal, for a total of 37 county Farm Bureau's over quota. In addition, five regions and five districts have attained their 1980 goal.

Counties that have reported goal during the last month and their membership chairmen in their respective categories are, in the 1-350 member-category, Charlevoix - John Frey, Iron Range - Oliver Anderson, MacLuce - Mary Edwards and Otsego - Thomas Theisen.

In the 351-650 category, Antrim - Bruce Ghellis,

Mecosta - Bill Jernstadt, and Midland - Edna Varner, have reported goal. Two additional counties have reported goal in the 651-1200 category and include Ionia - Joseph Pohl and Jackson - Neal Sanford.

Ottawa County - Len Im-mink, St. Clair - William Essenburg and Shiawassee - Ward Perry, have reported goal in the 1201-1500 member category. Two counties in the largest member category, 1501 and over, reporting goal during the last month are Clinton - David Pohl and Huron - Bruce

Kuhl

Looks to U.S. for Assistance

Peace Corps Begins Ag Extension Program in Tunisia

Wedged between Algeria and Libya at the northern tip of Africa, the tiny country of Tunisia is looking to the United States for assistance with its fledgling dairy program.

Last summer the Peace Corps began its agricultural extension program in Tunisia with four volunteers working with dairy cattle and forage crops. This year Tunisia is asking for 20 volunteers with experience in either dairy or forage crops to serve as extension agents. The volunteers will serve a dual purpose — convincing the Tunisian farmers that dairy farming can be profitable and assisting them in increasing their forage production.

On March 5 and 6, the Tunisia Associate Peace Corps Country director, Mohamed El Hedi Naouali, visited Michigan State University in East Lansing to discuss Tunisian agricultural programs with MSU students. Although the focus of Naouali's Michigan visit was students, the Peace Corps has indicated that no college degree is necessary; prospective volunteers must have at least two years' experience in the growing of forage crops and/or raising dairy cows.

Naouali, accompanied by Robert Jackson, area manager of the Michigan / Ohio Peace Corps recruiting office and Mylen Bohle, Peace Corps agricultural volunteer currently working with Tunisian farmers, also visited Farm Bureau Center in Lansing. According to Jackson, the Peace Corps is looking for older volunteers, too; not just college students or agricultural technicians.

"There is no upper age limit in the Peace Corps," says Jackson. "At the present time, we have an East Lansing man working with Peace Corps who is a retired veterinarian. There is a couple in the Fiji Islands who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. They have been in the Peace Corps for five years."

Through contacting agricultural communicators and through farmer organizations such as Farm Bureau, Jackson says, the Peace Corps is hoping to acquaint older or retired farmers with the new direction in the international program that recognizes the contributions that experienced farmers can make in developing countries such as Tunisia.

Naouali adds that older volunteers are accepted more readily in the more conservative societies of developing nations. "In Tunisia, for example, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture has asked, 'Can you get us retired farmers from the U.S.?'"

Why? Because, says Naouali, the fact that this person or retired couple is advanced in age means that his experience and age is respected. In this society, he is considered to have wisdom by the younger people.

The problems of Tunisia's young people, better educated and looking for profitable employment, are of great concern to the Tunisian government. Since 70 percent of the population is involved in seasonal agricultural work, there is a serious problem of mass migration to the cities by a good percentage of the populace searching for jobs.

"Unfortunately," says Naouali, "they don't find industry (in the cities) to support them. If they are away from the farm, they starve."

Unemployment among Tunisia's six million people is currently running about 20 percent, says Bohle, and he adds that about 50 percent of the country's population is under seventeen years of age.

The goal of the Peace Corps project in Tunisia is to devote one hundred percent of the volunteer resources toward developing agriculture in the rural communities and to increase the profitability of farming for the agricultural worker. Through this project, the government and the Peace Corps hopes to stem the migration to the cities by giving permanent jobs to rural workers.

Another reason for promoting dairy in Tunisia is the desire on the part of the Tunisian government to switch from traditional sheep raising which has resulted in serious destruction of vegetation in the farming areas.

Tunisia's agricultural plan also calls for increased



Peace Corps volunteers David Hanson (center) and James Cherry (right) talk to farmers near Maktar. They are doing extensive work, primarily in forage and cattle production.

per capita protein consumption and a reduction in the amount of imported staples, such as milk, wheat and red meats necessary to feed the population.

At the present time, Tunisia is importing substantial quantities of meat from European countries and Bulgaria. Fifty percent or more of the country's milk supplies are imported from Europe in the form of dry milk.

The training given to volunteers for the Tunisia project will focus on the Arabic language which is spoken by most Tunisian farmers as well as on familiarization with local dairy farming practices and a general adaptation of the volunteers' skills and ex-

perience to the new work and living situation.

During their two years of service, Peace Corps volunteers receive a generous monthly living allowance, complete health care, paid travel and training, as well as a readjustment allowance of \$125 per-month-served (about \$3,250) at the end of service.

For more information about the Peace Corps agricultural projects in Tunisia, as well as in other developing nations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the South Pacific, call COLLECT (313) 226-7928 or write the Peace Corps, M-74 McNamara Federal Building, 477 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

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"Farmers of the Week" Honored by FBIG and Mich. 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 news media, award winners receive a plaque and award buckle and leather belt from their local FBIG agent.

The Farmer of the Week Award recipients for February 1980 were:



GARY WEIDMAYER

Week of Feb. 4 - Gary A. Weidmayer, 33, a dairy and crop farmer from Manchester who farms 550 acres and milks 80 cows in partnership with his father. He serves on the Agricultural Advisory Committee for the Manchester School District; is a member of the Bethel United Church of Christ and serves on the church cemetery board; is a member of the Washtenaw County Farm Bureau; is secretary of the county Farmers Petroleum board; is past chairman of the county Young Farmers; and he and his wife, Karen, received the 1979 Outstanding Young Dairy Farmer Award from the local chapter of the Michigan Milk Producers Association. They have two children.



MAX MACAULAY

Week of Feb. 11 - Max Macaulay, 45, of McMillan, a beef farmer with a herd of 350 beef cattle. He currently farms 1,100 acres and also operates a logging farm for clearing and selling logs. Macaulay has been a member of the Newberry Elks Club for the past 13 years; been a member of the Mac-Luce County Farm Bureau for 20 years; served as

a Luce County commissioner for six years; and served on the Lakefield Township School Board for four years. His wife, Susan, serves on the Luce County Mental Health Board. All their four children are active in 4-H.



EARL WISSMAN

Week of Feb. 18 - Earl Wissman, 31, a dairy farmer from Marine City who farms 500 acres and milks 75 cows in partnership with his older brother, Jim. Wissman serves as delegate to the MMPA as a representative of the River District Local; is a past district director of the Dairy Herd Improvement Assn.; past board member of the Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative; member and past board officer of the St. Clair County Farm Bureau; past secretary-treasurer of the county Young Farmers; was named 1978 Outstanding Young Farmer of St. Clair County; and he attends Macomb Baptist Church. He and his wife, Karen, are recent newlyweds.



PHILIP HALL

Week of Feb. 25 - Philip Hall, 37, of Mason, a dairy farmer who farms 700 acres and manages a herd of 110 cows in partnership with his brother, Nolan. He serves on the Ingham County Soil Conservation Board; is a member of the local Masonic Lodge, the Michigan Milk Producers Assn., and the Central Michigan Tractor Pullers Assn. Hall is also active in the local United Methodist Church and the Ingham County Farm Bureau. He is a former community group chairman and a graduate of MSU's Agriculture Short Course. He and his wife, Carol, have two children.

MFB President Responds to Reconstituted Milk Proposal

The USDA has received a petition for a public hearing on the regulatory treatment of reconstituted milk under federal milk marketing orders. The major proponent is the Community Nutrition Institute (CNI), a self-styled consumer food advocacy organization which specializes primarily in the political aspects of food and nutrition issues.

The CNI has shifted its emphasis from efforts to amend the Capper-Volstead Act to attacks on the federal milk marketing program. Members of the President's Council on Wage and Price Stability are supporting, or are sympathetic to, the CNI petition.

The stated objective of the CNI is lower cost alternatives to fluid milk. The petition proposes that reconstituted milk products be exempted from the pricing provisions of federal orders. The petition further describes "reconstituted milk products" as "dairy derived substitutes for fluid milk" and states that such substitutes include the following products:

"Reconstituted milk - manufactured by combining powdered whole milk or nonfat powder (often with butterfat or oil added) with water.

"Filled milk - manufactured

by combining water with powdered milk and adding nondairy fats such as coconut or soybean oil."

In response to the CNI proposal, Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton R. Smith submitted several comments for consideration to the deputy administrator of Marketing Program Operations at the USDA.

Smith stated that the basic tenet of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement of 1937, as amended, is that milk shall be classified in accordance with the form or purpose for which it is used, and the CNI proposal runs counter to that basic tenet.

The CNI proposal would exempt milk made from milk powder and nonfat dry milk (NFDM) from the pricing provisions of federal milk marketing orders. In his comments, Smith said that such a provision would require handlers who sell reconstituted milk to pay only the powder price for the powder used and handlers who sell fluid milk to pay the higher order prices. The two products would be competing for the same market, but the handler selling the reconstituted milk would have a price advantage in many markets.

The CNI petition further stated that their proposed

changes are necessary because federal milk marketing orders eliminate the sale of "... an equally nutritious but lower-cost alternative to fluid milk, thus aggravating the effects of food price inflation." Federal orders do not prohibit the sale of reconstituted milk, says Smith, and do not deny U.S. consumers access to "an equally nutritious but lower-cost alternative to fluid milk."

Smith's final comment was that under the CNI proposal, store purchased NFDM would continue to be the most economical product and in some markets, handler-processed reconstituted milk probably would cost consumers more than fluid milk. In such markets there would be little, if any, demand for reconstituted milk.

"Based on these reasons, a hearing on the CNI proposal is neither required nor necessary," said Smith. "Milk is being marketed under federal milk marketing orders in accordance with the Act of 1937 and the charges that lower-cost alternatives to fluid milk are being eliminated from commerce by federal milk marketing orders cannot be substantiated."

Livestock Market Reports Available 24 Hours a Day from MDA

Livestock market reports which provide accurate, up-to-the-minute information on supply, demand, price and movement of livestock and livestock products, are available 24 hours a day, according to Dean M. Pridgeon, director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

The Lansing office updates livestock market information three times a day on a code-a-phone. The recorded information is available by calling 517-373-6330.

"Our reporters cover the most important livestock auctions in Michigan based upon volume and location," said Dr. Paul Kindinger, chief of the Marketing and International Trade Division. "Auction markets have become the major method of marketing livestock in the state. These reports are important to the decision-making process of the entire marketing chain, from farm to consumer."

Two full-time and one part-time livestock marketing specialists cover 11 Michigan livestock auctions each week. Each reporter is trained as a qualified grader of livestock and reports price ranges by grade for livestock sold at the auction to the central office in

Lansing.

Auctions surveyed each week are located at Battle Creek, Cass City, Coldwater, Howell, Lake Odessa, Manchester, Owosso, Sandusky, St. Louis and Wayland.

According to Kindinger, market reports help farmers plan their marketing strategy. By knowing what supply and demand conditions exist, and what is being offered in the marketplace, farmers can more logically meet the demand of buyers.

"We gather information from markets in the Midwest and report that information during our recorded updates. For instance, at 10:15 a.m., we carry

hog reports from Indianapolis, Peoria and East St. Louis markets, plus estimated total slaughter cattle and hogs from 11 Midwest markets."

"At 1:15 p.m., the update consists of central carlot beef trade and dressed beef prices from Des Moines, cattle prices from Omaha and Joliet, hog prices from Indianapolis, and a summary of Michigan auctions. At 4:15 p.m., we update central carlot dressed beef prices, daily Midwest livestock summary from St. Paul, futures market for steers and hogs from the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and summarize Michigan auctions," Kindinger said.



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Young People's Citizenship Seminar Set For June 16-20

Approximately 225 high school juniors and seniors will participate in the 1980 Young People's Citizenship Seminar, June 16-20, at Albion College in Albion, Michigan.

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

The students will be introduced to the social, economic and political viewpoints expressed by this year's speakers: Dr. John Furbay, noted lecturer and author; Dr. Clifton Ganus, president, Harding College, Searcy, Arkansas; Dr. Charles Van Eaton, professor, Division of Economics and Business Administration, Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Michigan; and Maria Schultz, Ukrainian refugee and naturalized U.S. citizen.

Students selected for the Young People's Citizenship Seminar must be high school juniors or seniors in the 1980-81 school year and be interested in the seminar topics. They should have leadership potential and be motivated to learn and discuss principles and

issues. Students must have demonstrated scholastic ability and be willing to speak with groups after the seminar. Students should be those who will proudly represent their school or organization.

The cost of this year's seminar is \$90 per student for room, meals, enrollment and furnished materials for the five

days. A \$45 non-refundable deposit must be submitted with the enrollment forms and the balance paid before June 13. The deposit is transferrable to another student. THE ENROLLMENT DEADLINE IS APRIL 18, 1980.

Each county Farm Bureau may send four students to the seminar. One or more qualified

alternates should be selected to assure fullest participation in the seminar. Every effort should be made to achieve an EQUAL BALANCE OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN.

The seminar is sponsored by county Farm Bureaus in cooperation with the Michigan Farm Bureau. In some counties, applications will be

solicited, screened and selected by the county committee. In other counties, school leaders will be involved in recommending students for selection by the committee. Even though schools may cooperate in screening qualified applicants, the final selection is the responsibility of the county Farm Bureaus.

Farm Show Comes to Muskegon

Muskegon, Newaygo and Oceana County Farm Bureaus will be joining forces to present a farm show at the Muskegon Mall on April 11-12. Sponsored by the Women's Committees in the three counties, they will be seeking to acquaint city and suburban dwellers with the story of agriculture.

Mall visitors will have the opportunity to test free samples of various agricultural products and special appearances will be made by the Magic Cow, and the cherry, apple, honey, asparagus and pork queens. Special demonstrations of Christmas tree trimming, churning butter, making crepes and ice cream, and sheep shearing will be conducted during the two-day show.

Other activities planned during the display will be soil testing conducted by the F.F.A. students of Montague High School and the Muskegon County Extension Service will use a computerized analysis to set up a budget for those requesting it.

Farm machinery for all seasons will be on display by dealers from the three counties and drawings will be made for bags of groceries donated by exhibitors. In addition, state legislators have been invited to attend the show and will be taking part in some of the demonstrations.

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Your membership in Farm Bureau Services and/or Farmers Petroleum Cooperative entitles you to take an active role in making decisions and forming policies of that co-op. As a voting member, you actually help shape the future.

Farm Bureau Services, Michigan's largest farm supply and marketing cooperative, has members throughout Michigan. Farmers have recognized their cooperative's progressive growth and potential over the past 50 years.

During the past 30 years, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative has grown to become Michigan's largest farm petroleum supply co-op. FPC pioneered such items as Agrihol and custom diesel fuel. FPC's partial ownership of crude oil properties and refinery operations has ensured a more dependable flow of petroleum products to the farm.

Isn't it time you shared in the benefits of the cooperative movement? See your Farm Bureau Services or Farmers Petroleum Cooperative branch manager now. He can sign you up as a member today.

Remember...it takes only one dollar.

*limited to producers

Where Your Farm Comes First

Farm Bureau
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.
FARMERS PETROLEUM



PEOPLE

Sparks Honored By MFB



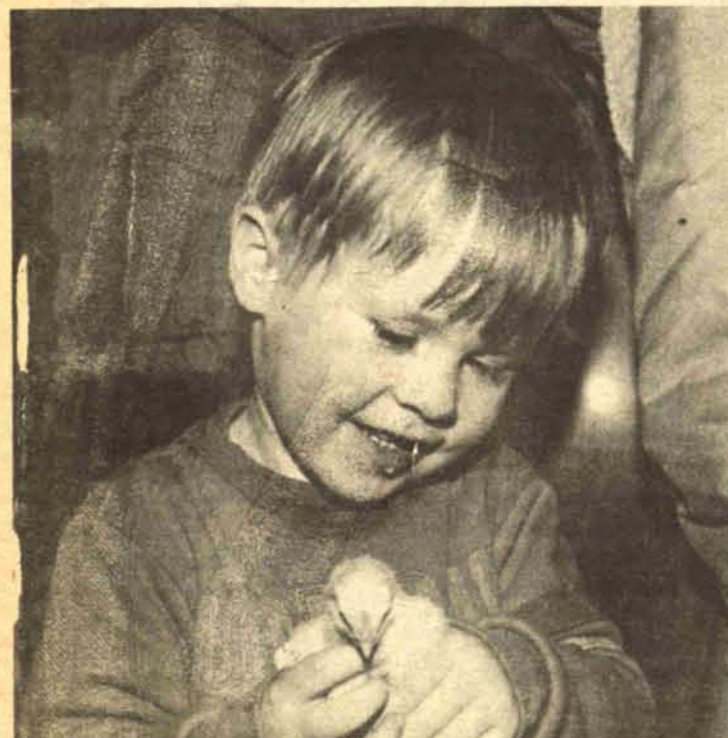
Harold Sparks (center), farm director of WLKM, Three Rivers, accepts a desk set from Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton R. Smith, honoring "Sparky" as one of the top "Agricultural Communicators of the Year" for 1979. Over 50 family and Farm Bureau friends attended a special luncheon presentation at Vandalia on March 10. St. Joseph County Farm Bureau President Roger Carr and Cass County Farm Bureau President Clifford Poehlman also paid tribute to Sparky's dedication to telling the factual story of agriculture. Sharing the presentation was Sparky's wife, Rose.

News Person Joins MFB



A five-county media blitz was held in late February for the purpose of promoting the Genesee Valley Mall display and introducing county presidents and information chairmen to local newspaper publishers and radio and television news directors. While visiting with John Johnson, publisher of the Sanilac County News (left), Wayne Wood, county president, and Cathy Knoerr, county information chairman, Johnson signed a new member application, thus becoming a member of the Sanilac County Farm Bureau.

Mall Display A Success



Two-and-a-half-year-old Matthew Akindzier of Flint found the baby chicks fascinating to hold at the Genesee Valley Mall. The counties of Genesee, Shiawassee, Oakland, Lapeer and Sanilac sponsored the agricultural display at the Flint mall.

Forestry Study Committee Appointed By MFB President

An eight-member Forestry Industry Study Committee has been appointed by Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton R. Smith for the purpose of providing greater service to members who are interested in the issues and problems of forest commodities.

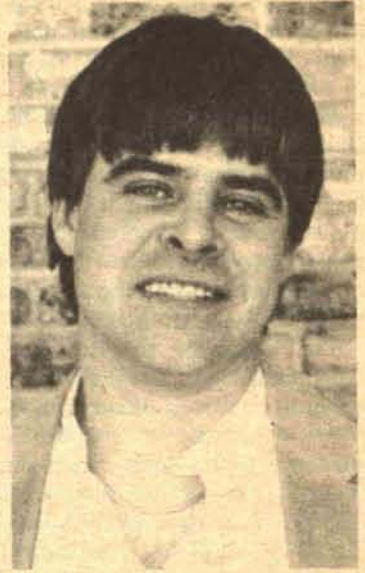
Chaired by Copper Country Farm Bureau President Donald T. Shirley of Baraga, the committee also consists of Victor Freed, Mackinac-Luce; Herb Reiley, Antrim; Hardy Elowsky, Montmorency; Paul Huber, Clare; Paul Bradley, Eaton; Adrian Hendriksma, Allegan, and Arthur Bailey, Schoolcraft, representing the MFB board of directors.

The committee is charged with the task of studying areas

of concern to the forestry industry in Michigan and submitting recommendations to the MFB board of directors that will serve in the possible development of forestry-related policies and activities of the organization.

Appointment of the committee was the result of a study of Michigan's timber industry, called for by voting delegates, to examine its economic potentials and future, and determine if and how Farm Bureau should become involved in this area. The committee will hold its first meeting in April.

Chairman Don Shirley has also been appointed to serve on the American Farm Bureau Federation Forestry Advisory Committee.



DONALD SHIRLEY

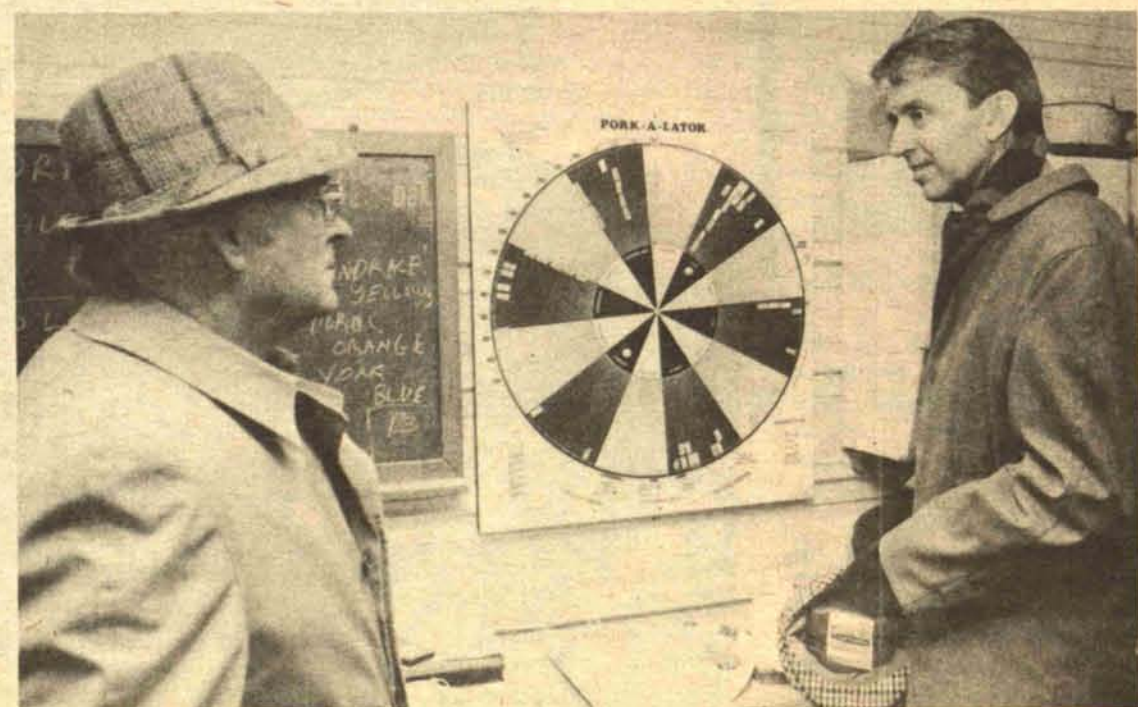
Lampen Honored By FICB



Program Innovations Earn Award for Michigan Man

Andrew Lampen (right), Holland, was awarded the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of St. Paul medallion from Burge Amdahl, FICB president, at a recent FICB stockholders meeting. The medallion is awarded for meritorious service to agriculture. Lampen was cited for his work as an innovator in developing and introducing the Agrifax farm record program offered by Production Credit Associations and for his innovations in providing credit to farmers while president of FICB from 1956 to 1973.

MSU President Visits Bailey Farm



Dr. Cecil Mackey (right), president of Michigan State University, visited the farming operation of Arthur Bailey, Schoolcraft, District 1 representative on the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors, during a recent tour of southwestern Michigan.

MACMA Staff Member Honored

Tom Butler, manager of the Michigan Processing Apple Growers Division of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA), was presented the "Fruit Man of the Year" award for 1979 by the Michigan Association of Pomesters Clubs. The presentation was made by club member Jerry Sietsma at the association's annual meeting on March 10 at Brands in Grand Rapids.

The award is presented annually to a person for outstanding achievement to the fruit industry.

Butler has been manager of the Michigan Processing Apple Division of MACMA since April, 1974. With over 600 members who produce about 60 percent of the processing



MACMA staff member, Tom Butler (right), receives the "Fruit Man of the Year" award from Jerry Sietsma.

apples grown in Michigan, the division is accredited under the provisions of the Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act (P.A. 344). It

represents all producers in the Michigan processing apple bargaining unit in negotiating prices and terms of trade with the processors of apples.

Farm Labor Expert Says Farm Worker Unions Not Inevitable

An American Farm Bureau farm labor expert says farm worker unions are not inevitable, but farm employers will have to cope with a climate of union organizing in the future.

Chuck Fields, assistant director for national affairs for the American Farm Bureau, told farmers at the March 11 annual meeting of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association in Grand Rapids, that agricultural labor is only a small part of a much larger picture of the labor movement in general.

"We will not be able to solve very many of the problems of labor in agriculture until we

reduce the political and economic power of labor," he said, "and that will take a further shift in the kind of people we send to Washington."

Jim Barrett, president of the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce, gave the farmers an update on current workers compensation reform legislation.

In the business portion of the annual meeting, Elton Smith, Don Nugent, Robert Rider and Les Dowd were re-elected to the board of directors. Robert DeBruyn, a vegetable grower from Zeeland, was elected as a new member of the board.



CHUCK FIELDS

Vivian Lott Appointed to Citizens Committee

Vivian Lott, chairman of the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee, has been appointed by Governor Milliken to a citizens committee to plan the upcoming Michigan White House Conference on Families.

"The family unit has played an important role throughout the history of this state and nation," Milliken said. "The Michigan White House Conference on Families will focus public attention on the strengths and contributions of

families to our state and nation.

"The conference will provide a forum for examining the difficulties families face in the 1980s and the ways in which family life is affected by public policies. It also may lead to the development of programs addressing the special needs of families in Michigan," stated Milliken.

Lott is one of 24 citizens from throughout the state appointed by Milliken to serve on the committee.

Donna Column

(Continued from page 2)

avoidance of that same mistake is benefiting the organization and themselves. And someday, I'll bet, we'll have some

outstanding young leaders for agriculture who will proudly proclaim: "I attended my first Farm Bureau meeting when I was two months old!"

Smith Reappointed to ATAC Advisory Committee

Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton R. Smith has been appointed to the Fruits and Vegetables Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Multilateral Trade Negotiations by Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland and U.S. trade representative, Ambassador Askew.

Smith was appointed to a similar committee by former Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz in 1975 to serve during the multilateral trade negotiations. The advisory committee provided technical advice and information to U.S. negotiators on tariffs and non-tariff trade issues affecting both

domestic and foreign commodities.

Even though the Geneva trade negotiations were completed in 1979, considerable follow-up remains, including some bilateral negotiations and establishing trade policy in general.

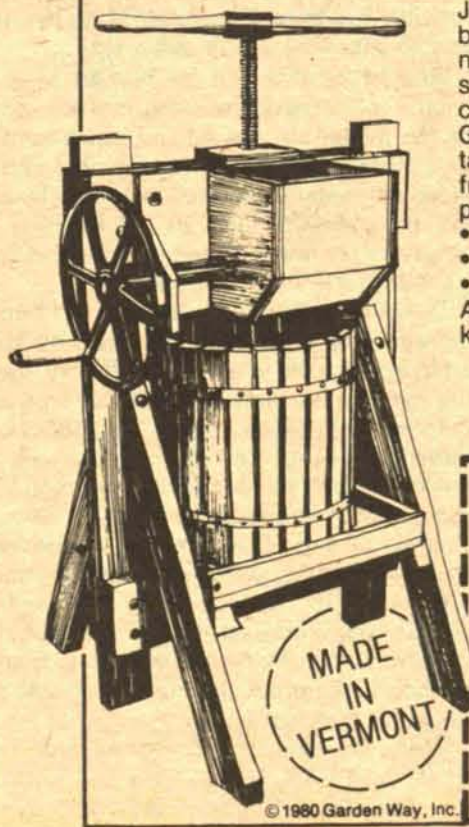
When the world trade bill was signed in July of last year, Farm Bureau was credited for its work on the international trade negotiations and for supporting passage of the bill. Farm Bureau leadership, including Elton Smith, worked with U.S. trade negotiators, both in Washington and in Geneva.

What's Happening?

April 8	District 3 Farm Bureau Women's Spring Rally	St. Andrews United Church, Dexter
April 9	District 9 Farm Bureau Women's Spring Rally	Lake Christian Reform Church, Lake City
April 11	District 6 Farm Bureau Women's Spring Rally	Club Monte Carlo, Utica
April 11-12	Mall Display	Muskegon
April 16	District 4 Farm Bureau Women's Spring Rally	Christian Reform Church, Caledonia
April 17	District 8 Farm Bureau Women's Spring Rally	Masonic Temple (Lincoln Rd.), Mt. Pleasant
April 21	District 5 Farm Bureau Women's Spring Rally	Methodist Church, Swartz Creek
April 23	District 7 Farm Bureau Women's Spring Rally	Clifford Lake Hotel, Stanton
April 24	District 1 Farm Bureau Women's Spring Rally	Porter Baptist Church, Constantine
April 30	Agriculture Understanding Day	Statewide Activities
May 6	District 10 Farm Bureau Women's Spring Rally	4-H Center, Petoskey

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Utilization of Alcohol

As the world's petroleum supply is expended at an increasing rate, man has begun to develop workable petroleum substitutes. Alcohol is a strong candidate for petroleum substitute since it can be made from renewable resources.

The two most common types of alcohol are methanol and ethanol. Methanol is derived from fossil fuel or forest products and is highly toxic. Ethanol is derived from agricultural crops and is commonly used as beverage alcohol. When concentrated to a 140-200 proof mixture, it can be used as an engine fuel.

For farm production and utilization, ethanol holds the most promise because of its agricultural base. Today there is much interest in development, fermentation and distillation units for use on farms. By-products from the fermentation process are high in protein and can be used as a feed supplement for many farm animals.

The purpose of this discussion is to summarize some of the information that is currently known about alcohol in engines. An attempt is made to provide an unbiased description of alcohol fuel utilization.

GASOLINE ENGINES

Alcohol fuels can be used in gasoline engines as alcohol gasoline blends or as straight alcohol. A common blend today consists of 90% gasoline and 10% ethanol and is called gasohol. Gasohol does have a lower energy content per unit volume than gasoline, but does not result in a significant decrease in fuel efficiency. This is likely due to the increased octane number for the fuel.

Blends have the advantage of being used in unmodified engines, but have a disadvantage for on-farm use due to a problem in mixing. In order to obtain a uniform solution of alcohol and gasoline, anhydrous alcohol (no water, 200 proof) should be used in the blending. Small amounts of water cause this solution to separate. Alcohol produced on the farm would normally have a maximum proof of 190 (5% water). In order to remove the remaining water, more sophisticated equipment is needed which requires more capital or greater energy inputs into production process. For these reasons, alcohol blending does not appear feasible for on-the-farm production.

STRAIGHT ALCOHOL

Straight alcohol of 140-200 proof can be burned in gasoline engines with minor modifications. The minor change required is enlarged metering jets in the carburetor. Enlarged jets are required due to the lower energy content of alcohol and the lower air fuel ratio required for the intake mixture.

All incompatible parts, such as plastic, should be removed from the fuel system. Alcohol will slowly work at many kinds of plastic and cause contamination of the fuel, as well as damage to the parts.

Ignition timing may also be shifted slightly when alcohol is burned. The required change will depend upon the engine used and its previous adjustment.

With these changes an engine should start and perform satisfactory on a warm summer day. In order to start an engine when the temperature is below 50-60° fahrenheit, special equipment is needed.

When alcohol is used in a gasoline engine the thermal efficiency is lower than necessary for alcohol fuel and therefore the consumption is higher than necessary. The only solution to this problem is to increase the compression ratio of the engine. However, most gasoline engines are not designed to withstand the increased pressures which would occur in the cylinder. Thus, a blown head gasket or a more major breakdown may occur under heavy engine loads.

DIESEL ENGINES

Alcohol can be used in a diesel engine in three major ways. It can be blended with diesel fuel, fed into the intake air for duel fueling or through major modifications of the engine, can be used as a straight fuel.

DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**
Manager, Member Relations

BLENDS

Blending of alcohol and diesel fuel is possible, but does not appear practical. A blend of 90% diesel and 10% anhydrous ethanol has been called diesohol. Tests show diesohol to give a drop in engine efficiency due to the lower energy content and very low octane rating of the added alcohol. Although ethanol and diesel fuel form a homogeneous solution at room temperatures, separation occurs at lower temperatures or with the addition of small amounts of water.

DUEL FUEL

The most promising method of using alcohol in diesel engines on the farm is through duel fueling. Two separate fuel systems are required. Normally additional equipment is needed to feed the alcohol into the engine. This can be done by aspirating the alcohol into the intake air with a carburetor or with a spray nozzle. Another method which has been tested uses a separate ignition system to inject the alcohol directly into the cylinder.

Duel fueled engines do have a strong advantage in that there are no abnormal problems in starting. The engine can be started on diesel fuel. After it is warmed up, the alcohol can be added.

TRUE ALCOHOL ENGINE

An engine can be built which best utilizes the unique properties of alcohol. This engine uses a compression ratio of 12:1 fuel injection and spark ignition. Alcohol is injected at high pressure directly into the cylinders using a lubricated fuel pump and specially lubricated injectors. The fuel evaporates instantly in the heated air inside the cylinder and a spark plug is used to ignite the mixture. This arrangement is sometimes referred to as the Brandt System.

Several advantages are obtained with this type of engine. The alcohol burns cooler which reduces pollutants and mechanical problems and cold starting problems are eliminated. Since alcohol is injected directly into the hot compressed air of the cylinder, the engine starts and runs smooth regardless of outside temperatures.

SUMMARY

Ethanol alcohol has unique properties which make it a suitable alternative for engine fuel. Alcohol fuel can be used in either gasoline or diesel engines; however, its properties do not allow it to be well suited for use in either type.

Straight alcohol can be burned in a gasoline engine by enlarging the carburetor jets, adding heat to the intake air and adding equipment to allow cold starting of the engine. Alcohol can be used more efficiently in a gasoline engine by increasing the compression ratio to 12:1. Most engines, however, are not designed to withstand this high of a compression in the cylinder.

Diesel engines can be modified to burn alcohol through duel fueling. Alcohol can be sprayed or aspirated into the intake air or directly injected into the cylinder to partially fulfill the engine fuel requirement. Through duel fueling, about half of the diesel fuel required can be replaced with alcohol.

Alcohol fuels provide several benefits. They burn at a cooler temperature which can improve the life of motor oil and possibly reduce engine wear. They are clean burning which reduces soot and carbon build-up. On a well-designed, well-adjusted engine, many exhaust emissions may be substantially reduced. Possibly, most important of all, alcohol can be produced from renewable resources grown on our own farms.

(Note: Based upon information provided by Bill Stout, Alan Rotz, Marcio Cruz and Robert Wilkinson, Agricultural Engineering Department, MSU.)

Energy Idea Search

The Michigan Farm Bureau is working with the American Farm Bureau Federation in a "Farm Bureau Energy Idea Search," program intended to surface innovative ideas and technology which saved energy in farm buildings or farm operations or produce energy needed for agriculture.

The Energy Idea Search consists of two categories: the "Energy Saved" category and the "Germ of an Idea" category.

ENERGY SAVED

Under the "Energy Saved" class, any Farm Bureau member who has already done something to conserve energy in farming operations, in farm buildings, in livestock operations, or around the house and wishes to share his or her ideas with others, is encouraged to submit the ideas to the *Michigan Farm News*. A member whose idea is published will receive \$10. The idea may also be published in the member's county newsletter.

"Energy Saved" ideas published in *Michigan Farm News* will also be submitted for consideration by AFBF's *Farm Bureau News*. If published, the member would receive \$25 from AFBF.

GERM OF AN IDEA

The "Germ of an Idea" category is designed to surface an invention, modification, or idea of something that has already saved or produced energy, or has the potential to save or produce energy and could be used or adapted to some part of a farm's operation. Entries in this category will be forwarded to AFBF. Ten national winners selected will be invited to present their ideas at the Farm Bureau Energy Idea Symposium, November 18-19, 1980, in Chicago. Those selected will receive travel expenses and a \$500 cash award from AFBF.

The federation also may award a maximum of 10 research grants of up to \$5,000 each to Farm Bureau members whose ideas and applications have been forwarded to AFBF from state Farm Bureaus.

The Idea Search is designed to stimulate Farm Bureau members to share their energy saving ideas and to encourage members to participate in further research and development of ideas that could benefit agriculture the most.

Any Farm Bureau members, except those who are employees, wishing to submit an entry in either category, should complete and return the coupon below to receive appropriate entry forms and information.

Farm Bureau Energy Idea Search

Please send entry forms and information on **FARM BUREAU ENERGY SEARCH**

- Energy Saved Category
 Germ of an Idea Category

Name _____

Address _____

Return to Energy Idea Search

Information Division
Michigan Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 30960
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Zip _____

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