

An Inventory of Our Organization

Background Material for Discussion in October
By Our Community Farm Bureau Groups

By EUGENE A. SMALTZ
Membership Relations and Education

ROLL CALL QUESTION—Of the services provided farmers by their Farm Bureau, which one benefits me most? Why?

On February 4, 1919, forty-two county Farm Bureaus agreed upon a Michigan State Farm Bureau "to provide ways and means for concerted action on agricultural problems". Government of the Michigan State Farm Bureau is controlled by the members' vote, represented by an elected 17 member board of directors. The following departments provide ways and means for concerted action:

Legislation—The legislative service offered farmers through the Michigan Farm Bureau is two-fold: (1) It gets the farmers' viewpoint on legislation across to the legislators, both state and national, in an effective and unified manner. (2) Keeps farm folks informed as to proposed legislation, the progress of legislation of interest to farmers, and the type of representation they are receiving from their elected lawmakers.

Membership Relations—Is that department of the Farm Bureau which is responsible for membership acquisition and maintenance. County Farm Bureaus are directly responsible for all membership work. Duplicate membership records are kept in the county and state offices.

The Community Farm Bureaus—Local groups of farm families meeting together once a month to discuss local, state and national problems.

The Junior Farm Bureau—Was started in 1935 and now has a membership of about 2,000. The Junior groups concentrate on leadership training and developing poise and confidence in their members.

Publications Department—activities include: PRESS—Publishes monthly "Michigan Farm News" prepares news articles and advertisements for Michigan newspapers and the Michigan Farmer; assists Membership Relations and other departments with publicity for their activities.

Michigan State Farm Bureau Insurance Dep't—The Michigan State Farm Bureau is providing automobile, life, and fire insurance service as the state agent for State Farm Mutual Auto, State Farm Fire, and State Farm Life Insurance Companies of Bloomington, Illinois.

The Associated Women of the Farm Bureau—In the past three years they have aimed at: (1) The enlistment of farm women in the general Farm Bureau program. (2) Participation in a broad program looking to the improvement and enrichment of rural life.

Michigan Public and Labor Relations Service—Sponsored by farmer-co-operatives, to represent the farmers and their institutions in working with all legally and democratically constituted groups toward a better mutual understanding of their respective problems to the end that the varied interests may better co-operate in building a better and stronger economy.

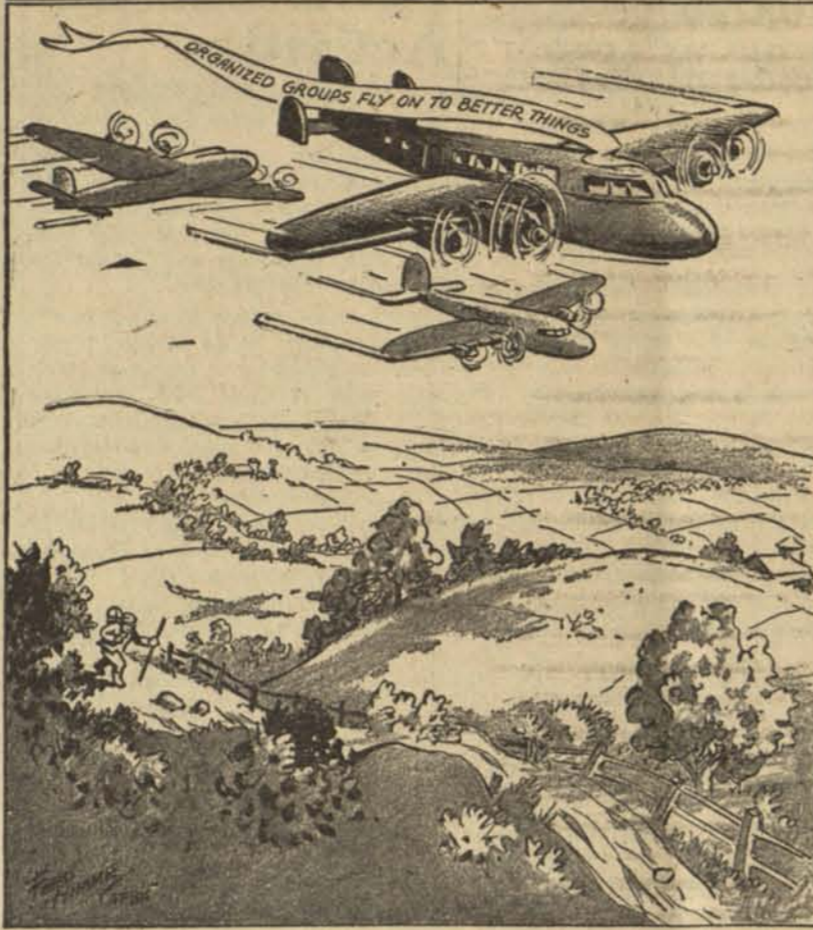
Farm Bureau Services, Inc.—Performs a co-operative, large-volume buying service for the Farm Bureau membership and 139 stock-holding member co-operatives. Farm Bureau Services is a member of national co-operative buying associations making possible greatest savings for its member co-ops through large-scale purchases.

Commodity Exchanges—The following commodity exchanges: Michigan Milk Producers Association, Michigan Livestock Exchange, Michigan Elevator Exchange, Farm Bureau Fruit Products Company, Inc., Michigan Co-operative Wool Marketing Association, Mid-West Co-operative Creameries, Inc., Michigan District, and the Michigan Potato Growers Exchange, are affiliated with the Michigan State Farm Bureau to enable the exchanges and the Farm Bureau to (1) co-operate effectively on matters of common interest, (2) to prevent conflict of interest, and (3) to avoid duplication of effort.

Questions For Discussion:

- Who determines the policy and directs the activities of the Michigan State Farm Bureau?
- Who owns the Farm Bureau Services, Inc.?
- What part should the Community Farm Bureau play in the processes of keeping members informed on their organization's activities?
- What part can the Community Farm Bureau play in enabling members to direct the activities of Farm Bureau?
- Who should determine the legislative program for the Farm Bureau?
- How is the legislative program carried out?
- Of what value is organization in promoting a legislative program?
- Of what value has the Farm Bureau Services,

WHO WANTS TO BE LEFT BEHIND ?



Inc., been to the Farm Bureau member? To the non-member? What additional services could be offered in your community?

- Of what importance is the publicity issued by the Michigan State Farm Bureau?
- What value is there in having a Michigan State Farm Bureau act as agent for insurance?
- What role is the Junior Farm Bureau playing in building a farm organization?

PROSPECTS FOR NEAR RECORD U.S. CROP YIELDS

In mid-September the United States had prospects for near record crop yields from the largest acreage planted in ten years. In Michigan, largely because of an unfavorable planting season, field crop prospects were at the lowest point since 1936, which was a drought year.

The foregoing information was taken from the September 11 report issued by the Michigan Crop Reporting Service and the U. S. and Michigan Departments of Agriculture.

Nationally, the second-largest crop crop in 23 years was indicated. There will be record crops of beans, peas, soybeans, peanuts, rice, potatoes, flaxseed and grapes.

There will be large crops of hay, oats, barley and grain sorghums and about average crops of wheat, rye, cotton, tobacco, sweet potatoes, sugar cane and sugar beets.

Nationally, the feed supply is large but it is not well distributed. The farm supply of feed grains and hay are each larger than in any recent year excepting 1942, according to the nation's crop reporting service. But the great increase in live stock presents a real problem to feeders. Other factors that will press each area to adjust the live stock to the feed supply are the transportation problems disappearance of the surplus of hay and grain.

In Michigan corn prospects had improved considerably. The crop was poorest near Lake Huron and in the southeastern corner of the state where plantings were latest.

Oats and barley crops were the smallest in many years. Buckwheat was planted on much of the acreage normally seeded to oats and barley. This year the buckwheat crop was expected to top 952,000 bushels, the largest ever and nearly twice the average production.

Michigan expected a potato crop a third larger than 1942 and the largest in 5 years. Sugar beet production was the smallest since 1929 and about one-third the average production. An increase of 500,000 bags was expected in the Michigan bean crop. Dry weather in August reduced the second cutting of alfalfa hay. Milk production was slightly under 1942. Egg production of 113,000,000 dozens for August was the largest for that month in 19 years.

BRANCH GROUP FOR CROP INSURANCE

Gilead Township Farm Bureau of Branch county has asked for the restoration of federal crop insurance in the following resolution:

"Since crop failure from causes beyond control of the farmer,—drought and floods, ice and hail, hoppers, flies, and borers are a continual menace and annually impoverish not only the farmers of all sections, but also bankrupt merchants because of lessened buying power of all.
And since the federal crop insurance administered by the AAA for five years has been generously supported, and a life saver for many sections and farmers,
And federal crop insurance is not one of political party, section or class, but is one of general welfare, and act of Congress, and since the present Congress has refused to continue crop insurance,
Therefore, be it resolved by Gilead Township Farm Bureau that we most respectfully petition United States

Senators Arthur Vandenberg and Homer Ferguson, and our Congressman, Paul W. Shafer, to introduce legislation to restore federal crop insurance and extend its provisions to all major farm crops as quickly and as economically as good business methods are devised and demonstrated in the administration of the mutual form of insurance.
And be it further resolved that we urge our local, county, state and national Farm Bureaus to send like resolutions to all members of Congress, that this resolution be published in the Michigan Farm News, and the Branch County Farm Bureau Booster.
Dow Hoopingartner, President, Herman R. Taylor, Secretary.

LAND BANKS NOT TO INCREASE FARM LOAN VALUES

"The Federal Land Banks are not going to follow inflationary land prices with higher loan values that can only lead to agricultural distress at some later date," according to W. E. Rhea, land bank commissioner of the Farm Credit Administration.

"Other institutional lenders—insurance companies, mortgage loan companies and bankers—are quite largely following the same course," he says. "The one place where the solid front against inflation is in danger of being broken is in loans being made by individuals."

"Many individuals are selling farms and taking mortgages for unpaid balances often equal and sometimes actually exceeding the normal value of the property. Others, seeking employment of funds at better interest rates than government bonds return, are competing with other lenders by offering larger loans on farm properties than sound judgment dictates."

Since 1934, Commissioner Rhea explains, land bank loans have been based on normal agricultural values—generally speaking, values which reflect the earning power of farms on the basis of average yields and "normal" prices of farm products.

"A farm has to pay its way from the returns of the things it produces," he declares. "Loans made on the basis of today's prices are going to have to be repaid from tomorrow's prices. We saw in 1932 and 1933 what happened to loans made on the basis of 1918 and 1919 prices. The land banks are not going to have any part in causing a repetition of that disaster."

There are, the land bank chief says, two opposite trends in the farm real estate situation today.

"The bulk of farmers," he says, "are reducing their real estate indebtedness. It is now lower than at any time since World War I and it is continuing to decline at a rapid rate. Repayments to the land banks, for instance, are running nearly \$5 for every \$1 of new loans made."

"These farmers, particularly if they invest part of their incomes in War Bonds are going to be in the strongest position after the war that farmers have been in for many years."

"A small minority of farmers, however, are using their better incomes to buy land at inflated prices. In many sections they are having to compete with city people who are able to pay cash for farm land, and who have bid

up its price on the theory that they are hedging against inflation. Some farmers are going to find themselves badly hurt if they come out of this war with heavier burdens of debt than they can carry when prices of farm products return to normal.

"This is not to say that a farmer should not buy land now, if he needs it or if he can buy it advantageously. But if he has to pay a premium for it, he should pay that premium in cash or liquidate it just as soon as possible so his debt balance does not exceed the normal carrying capacity of the farm."

Small Dairy Herds Can Give More Milk

More than 60% of all cows milked in this country are in herds of 10 cows or fewer and are owned and milked by 90% of the farmers who milk cows. Normally they produce 55% of the total milk supply according to Dr. O. E. Reed of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

Conditions are favorable for pushing these herds to the limit. There is a market outlet at good prices for every pound of milk.

COW'S RATIOS DEPEND ON HAY

How to doctor up dairy rations to fit the kind of hay stored in the hay-mow has been reduced to six simple grain rations by a dairy extension specialist at Michigan State College.

Three of the grain mixes are suggested for use with the best quality alfalfa hay, the kind that was early cut, has good green color and is leafy.

For this quality hay, according to A. C. Baltzer, dairy extension specialist, one mix could contain 500 pounds of ground corn or barley, 100 pounds of wheat, 100 pounds of light oats and 100 pounds of dry cull beans.

Another mix could be 400 pounds of corn and cob meal, 200 pounds wheat, 200 pounds oats and 200 pounds 16 per cent protein commercial feed. The third of the mixes to go with high quality hay could be 200 pounds corn or barley, 200 pounds oats and 200 pounds of the 16 per cent protein feed.

Some farmers will have quantities of coarse quality alfalfa, stemmy, late cut, brown in color and without many leaves. Such hay goes best with the following grain mixes: 300 pounds corn and cob meal, 100 pounds of oats, 100 pounds soybeans. Another mix contains 300 pounds ground corn or barley, 200 pounds wheat, 200 pounds oats, 200 pounds dry cull beans and 100 pounds linseed meal. The third suggested mix would consist of 600 pounds ground corn or barley and 200

pounds of 32 per cent protein commercial feed.

To any of these grain mixes should be added salt, one pound to 100 pounds of grain. Another addition should be dehydrated phosphate rock mineral feed, one pound to 200 pounds of grain. In many sections of the state, according to Baltzer, one ounce of cobalt sulphate to 100 pounds of salt has aided dairy cattle nutrition and health.

While the average tractive power of locomotives is now more than one-third greater than twenty years ago locomotive fuel consumption per unit of traffic is about one-third less.

DEAD ANIMALS COST MONEY

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COSTS ONLY 3c PER LAMB WORM-CIDE TABLETS cost less per sheep. Why pay more? See Drug & Farm Supply Dealers or, direct from PARSONS CHEMICAL WORKS Laboratories, Grand Lodge, Mich.

PURE CRUSHED TRIPLE SCREENED OYSTER SHELL

FOR POULTRY

MANUFACTURED BY FARM BUREAU MILLING CO. INC. CHICAGO, ILL.

Feeding and Other Ideas for Winter

for POULTRYMEN

- 1—Watch for Winter Colds and Outbreaks of Any Epidemic.
- 2—Keep the Litter Dry and Clean.
- 3—Watch the Water Fountains. Hens Need a Lot of Water Each Day.
- 4—Watch the Ventilation. Poor Ventilation Induces Many Respiratory Diseases.



Watch the vitamin content of mashes. Vitamins in feeds are vital for health and production. Farm Bureau Mermash and laying mash are largely fortified with Vitamins A and D and G, also the related B2 complex factors. Use Farm Bureau mashes. Then you needn't worry.

For HOG GROWERS

Don't grow hogs to more than 225 lbs. Cut down the protein in the ration after the pigs reach 75 to 80 lbs. . . . Feed brood sows while gestating and while nursing young a 14% to 16% protein feed. See that ample minerals and vitamins are present in the feed. Farm Bureau Porkmaker 33% protein has no superior as a hog concentrate.



For DAIRYMEN

Protein concentrates continue to be scarce, and high priced. Use more good legume hay, plenty of home grown grains and less concentrates.

For good legume hay (clover, alfalfa or soy bean hay) fed liberally at the rate of 1½ to 2 lbs. per 100 lbs. of live weight when silage is fed, a grain ration with 14 to 15% protein is sufficient when fed according to milk production. Water cows at least twice a day. See that salt is available or provide it occasionally.

Farm Bureau Milkmaker 32% protein is still the feed to get production and maintain health. It is fortified with irradiated yeast (Vitamin D) and with manganese sulphate.



FARM BUREAU BRAND SUPPLIES AT 300 FARMERS' ELEVATORS