

Michigan Farm News

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34th Year

Published Monthly

Farm Bureau Offers New Plan for Soil Bank

Provides Two-Way Attack on Surplus

Would Divert Part of Acreage in Surplus Crops to Grass and Pay Farmers from Surplus Crops Owned by U. S.

EINAR E. UNGREN

The 37th annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau at Chicago Dec. 11-15 dealt with the national farm problem by declaring for continuation of flexible price supports, and for a voluntary soil fertility bank program.

"The productive capacity of American agriculture has been expanded beyond effective market demand," the Farm Bureau said.

"Accumulated surpluses are acting as a ceiling on farm prices and are depressing farm income.

"The over-production and government stockpiles which are causing our present difficulties must be eliminated."

Price Supports. The American Farm Bureau reaffirmed its support for flexible price supports authorized by the Agricultural Act of 1954.

At the same time, the Farm Bureau observed in December, 1955 that the gradual change from 90% of parity price supports to flexible price supports and needed adjustments in production means that time is required to work out of our difficulties.

Under the Agr'l Act of 1954, flexible price supports became effective on price supported crops harvested in 1955 at the rate of 81½ to 90% of parity. The act becomes fully effective on price supported crops harvested or marketed in 1956 at the rate of 75 to 90% of parity, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture in relation to supplies of the crop.

The Soil Bank recommendation from the Farm Bureau is designed to reduce present surplus stocks of wheat, corn, cotton, etc. It is also designed to avoid future surpluses by converting a part of the land in surplus crops to soil building crops.

The Farm Bureau proposed a new idea for a soil fertility bank program: That the government pay participating farmers with negotiable orders for surplus farm crops now owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation. The orders could be used to take delivery of the goods, or they could be sold in the market for cash.

In its two-way attack on farm surpluses through a soil fertility bank program, the American Farm Bureau made four recommendations which it suggested should be the first order of business for Congress in 1956:

1—Farmers producing controlled crops should be encouraged to plant less than their allotments, with full protection for their crop histories.

As payment for underplanting, the farmer should receive negotiable options to buy Commodity Credit Corporation stocks to replace the normal production of the underplanted acres. This should be at prices to encourage participation, possible about 50% of parity.

The farmer could take delivery of the commodity for use as feed or seed, or he could sell the option on the open market for cash.

The underplanted acres would be devoted to soil building crops and be eligible for Agr'l Conservation Practice payments.

2—All farmers should be encouraged to devote reasonably shaped fields to the soil bank for not less than three years, unless released earlier by the liquidation of government-owned surpluses. Payments should be based on the production value of the land, and payable in CCC stocks if possible.

3—No harvesting or grazing should be permitted on lands in the soil bank.

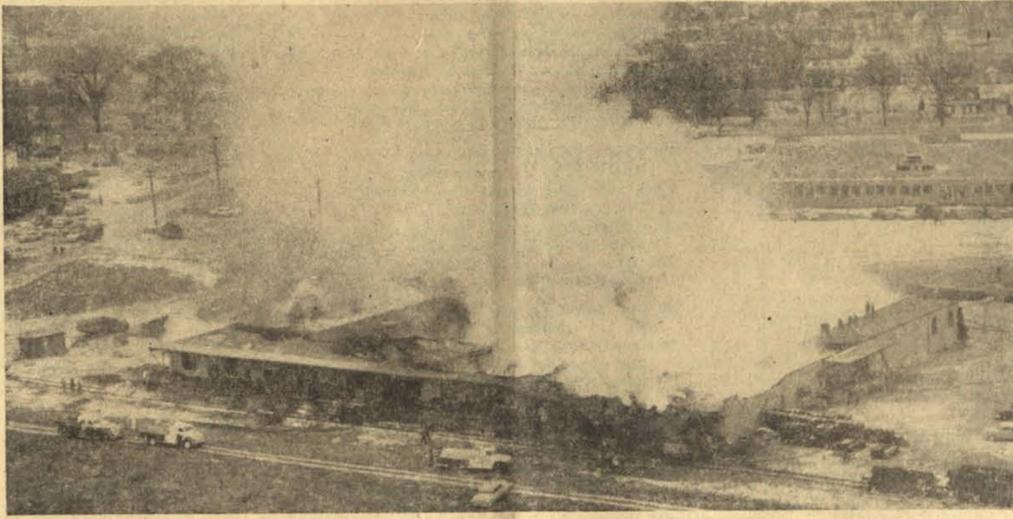
4—In order to qualify for price supports, producers should be required to put an acreage of soil depleting crops into the soil bank. The amount should be determined by a percentage of the acreage currently in supported crops.

Since the primary objective of the soil bank is to dispose of surpluses and to balance production with demand, the Farm Bureau opposes proposals to limit the amount that can be contributed to the plan by any one producer. This obviously requires that no limits be placed on the amount that the individual producer may earn or receive under the plan.

The soil bank plan was adopted unanimously by the 163 delegates representing 1,623,222 Farm Bureau members in 48 states. Cotton growers were unsuccessful in their effort to have the AFBF support 90% of parity price support for cotton.

34th Year

This edition begins the 34th year of publication for the Michigan Farm News. The first issue was dated Jan. 12, 1922. It has been edited continuously by Einar E. Ungren.



AT THIS STAGE of the fire which destroyed the Farm Bureau Services warehouse at Lansing December 8, the management and employees were making plans to continue all forms of farm supplies service without serious interruption. Incoming supplies were diverted to FBS warehouses at Emmett, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Saginaw and Traverse City. Temporary retail buildings were set up next day near the burned warehouse.

Services Warehouse Burns; Loss Covered by Insurance

Well on Way to 70,495 Membership

Membership in the Michigan Farm Bureau for 1956 stood at 44,492 on December 27.

This is 63% of the state goal of 70,495 family memberships for this year. The Dec. 27 figure includes 41,773 renewals and 2719 new members. It represents a substantial gain over the figures reported at the close of December a year ago.

Every County Farm Bureau has a goal and hopes to exceed it—and to be among the first to make it. December 27 Alcona County Farm Bureau was first with 109% of its goal; 2nd—Benzie and Bay, each with 96%; 3rd—Cheboygan, 91%.

County	1956 Members	% of Goal
Alcona	852	419 109
Alcona	241	232 96
Alcona	1,696	1,549 96
Alcona	210	208 99
Alcona	809	529 87
Alcona	491	402 82
Alcona	1,123	838 80
Alcona	1,078	1,232 79
Alcona	1,148	883 77
Alcona	1,214	940 77
Alcona	2,396	1,767 74
Alcona	2,094	1,503 72
Alcona	1,745	1,309 74
Alcona	2,880	1,737 72
Alcona	471	324 71
Alcona	1,897	1,228 71
Alcona	1,612	1,129 70
Alcona	259	182 70
Alcona	1,482	1,022 69
Alcona	438	302 69
Alcona	2,519	1,709 68
Alcona	152	100 67
Alcona	1,593	1,062 66
Alcona	334	219 66
Alcona	1,271	824 66
Alcona	2,129	1,284 64
Alcona	1,288	899 64
Alcona	896	566 63
Alcona	1,050	764 63
Alcona	1,254	790 63
Alcona	417	265 61
Alcona	1,294	788 61
Alcona	1,648	951 60
Alcona	498	299 60
Alcona	1,577	824 60
Alcona	1,254	852 60
Alcona	1,247	850 58
Alcona	2,000	1,140 57
Alcona	1,770	1,006 57
Alcona	732	421 57
Alcona	747	428 57
Alcona	710	398 56
Alcona	510	285 56
Alcona	678	384 56
Alcona	1,854	908 55
Alcona	1,585	855 53
Alcona	1,254	832 52
Alcona	1,237	640 52
Alcona	1,308	675 52
Alcona	1,307	673 51
Alcona	317	168 50
Alcona	1,894	875 49
Alcona	819	390 48
Alcona	1,254	832 52
Alcona	1,046	484 46
Alcona	1,589	728 46
Alcona	1,586	721 46
Alcona	250	108 43
Alcona	576	240 42
Alcona	894	341 42
Alcona	352	155 38
Alcona	1,247	640 52
Alcona	163	54 33
TOTAL	70,495	44,492 63

Calves

Antibiotics boost the growth rate of calves from 10 to 26 per cent during the first 16 weeks of age but there seems to be no benefit after that—unless the animals are to be marketed soon, say M.S.U. researchers.

The Farm Bureau Services main warehouse at the Farm Bureau Center on US-16 west of Lansing burned Friday, December 9.

The building and its contents were a complete loss, which was in the neighborhood of \$500,000.

The warehouse, its equipment, and the stocks of merchandise were covered fully by insurance which was shared by a number of fire insurance companies.

Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company was not carrying any of the insurance risks on the warehouse and contents. It is the policy of the Farm Bureau not to carry the insurance on its own buildings.

Insurance coverage was complete in every respect. The policies provide for complete replacement of the building even though the costs of construction may be greater than they were when the building was erected in 1949.

The warehouse was a one story concrete and steel structure 200 by 240 feet. Management of Farm Bureau Services is now considering the type of building that will replace it in view of present day needs for warehouse space.

Farm Bureau immediately began routing of incoming farm supplies to its regional warehouses at Emmett, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Saginaw and Traverse City to serve cooperatives and other Farm Bureau dealers.

The Farm Equipment Division office force moved into the main Farm Bureau office building permanently, and announced that business would be conducted as usual. Cockshutt equipment and parts are being shipped direct to dealers, largely from Cockshutt's nearest plant and warehouse at Bellevue, Ohio.

Lansing retail farm supply store of Farm Bureau Services began operating from temporary buildings and the Lansing branch elevator.

The fire was discovered at 6:45 a.m. in the northwest area of the warehouse. It spread rapidly, despite prompt arrival of fire departments from the township and city of Lansing. A strong wind from the northwest blew the fire through the building. Stocks of asphalt roofing, paints, tires, equipment in crates, and general farm supplies burned fiercely and covered the area with a dense cloud of smoke. It is thought that an oil space heater caused the fire.

Monroe County Office Building

Monroe County Farm Bureau is building an office at 8300 West Ida road at Southwick street, at Ida. The building is a 28 by 36 foot cinder block with brick face construction. It will house the offices of the County Farm Bureau and the Farm Bureau Insurance Company services for Monroe county. It will be occupied early in 1956. The site provides plenty of parking space. Monroe County Farm Bureau has a goal of 1482 members for 1956. Mrs. Viola Eipperle is secretary and Mrs. Alvin Yarger is

ass't Secretary. Wilbur J. Lohr is general agent for the Farm Bureau Insurance Companies in Monroe county.

Hog Prices Better Next Summer

Hog prices probably will be back up to a high of \$14 to \$16 per hundredweight by mid-summer of 1956. With 2 per cent less pigs farrowed this winter in prospect, prices should move up to that level, say Michigan State University farm economists. But, they add, prices next fall will be about the same as for the past autumn. So push spring farrowed pigs to market as fast as possible, they advise.

President



CHARLES B. SHUMAN of Sullivan, Illinois, was elected president of the American Farm Bureau for a two year term at the 37th annual meeting at Chicago, Dec. 11-15. Walter Randolph of Montgomery, Alabama, was re-elected vice-president. Mr. Shuman is a stock and grain farmer at Sullivan and came up through the ranks since 1933. He served as director and president of his County Farm Bureau, director and president of the Illinois Agr'l Ass'n, and vice-president of the American Farm Bureau.

Farm Bureau Institute January 3-4

"How a Successful County Farm Bureau Committee Operates" will be the topic to be developed at the 7th annual Farm Bureau Institute at Kellogg Center, Michigan State College, January 3-4.

The purpose of the Institute is to build more effective local Farm Bureau programs for a Farm Bureau membership of 70,000.

Several hundred County Farm Bureau committee chairmen and county presidents will attend the Institute. The committees include these activities: Membership, community groups, women, public relations, legislative, farm supply, insurance, resolutions, commodities, citizenship, Blue Cross, and Senior committee on Junior Farm Bureau.

One objective is to get more people participating in the program. At present more than 10,000 members are serving on County Farm Bureau boards of directors, on CoFB committees, as Roll Call workers, etc. There's always need for more.

Dr. Clifton Ganus, Jr. of Harding College, Searcy, Arkansas, and Dr. Paul A. Miller, director of extension service for Michigan State University, will open the Institute the morning of January 3.

Dr. Ganus will speak on "Basic Concepts in Government" and Dr. Miller will speak on "Committees in Action."

EDITORIAL

Word from the Farm

"Farmers talked mostly about one subject: the price problem back home. But what they said was quite different from what many politicians have been saying for them."

So observed TIME, the weekly news magazine Dec. 26 in its report of what 5,000 farmers said and did at the 37th annual meeting at Chicago of the American Farm Bureau Federation of 1,623,222 farm families.

TIME quoted Verland McLeod, who raises hogs, cattle, corn, wheat and oats on 390 acres near Lyons, Ionia county, Michigan. Mr. McLeod said:

"My income is down 25% to 30% from last year, but I'm not for 90% of parity. I'm for flexibility, something as close to supply and demand as you can get. I don't like artificial situations."

President Charles Shuman in his annual address blamed the 90% of parity support program for producing troublesome surpluses. TIME said he read a lecture to the politicians:

"It is not only dangerous from the standpoint of agriculture to see who can promise the highest level of support, but I think it would be disastrous to the party that gets into power. The party committed to high, fixed supports would feel obligated to put them into effect, and that would result in farm income going down and surpluses continuing to accumulate."

The convention's 163 voting delegates voted 3 to 1 for continued support of flexible price supports. Only the South held out for rigid 90% of parity price support for cotton.

The Farm Bureau urged Congress to enact a soil fertility bank program to replace some of the acreage of cotton, wheat, etc., with soil building crops. It introduced a new idea by urging that payments for under planting should be in crops now owned by the government, thereby reducing the surplus. Farmers would be paid for the yield lost through underplanting by certificates enabling them to buy stored crops at greatly reduced prices.

They Write to Mr. Benson

In November while making a speech at Cleveland, Secretary Ezra Benson invited the public to write him about the farm situation. He has been getting about 500 letters a day from farmers and city people.

Two suggestions occur most frequently. A majority of the people urge more action on disposing of surplus commodities to needy peoples here and overseas. There is strong support for cutting down the production of crops in surplus through a soil building program which would take acres out of corn, wheat, cotton, etc.

Secretary Benson has used his authority from Congress recently to offer large amounts of surplus foods to relieve food shortages abroad. The United States will deliver it, providing the nations accepting the food will arrange for the distribution.

The Secretary is readying for Congress proposed legislation on the soil fertility bank. He is giving consideration to the Farm Bureau's suggestion that government payments to farmers for soil building practices be made in certificates or options to take surplus stocks of grain and other products at attractive prices from the surplus stocks now owned by the government.

Thoughts on Reducing Costs

Wheeler McMillen, writing in the December issue of Chemurgic Digest, said this:

"The idea prevails widely that agricultural research concerns itself mainly with discovering means to enlarge the total farm output. . . I keep wondering whether research could not improve its 'public relations' by aiming more effort toward cutting down net costs, and less toward cutting cost only by increasing output.

"Let research bear down harder for a few years on reducing farm costs for all the elements that take money out of pocket, whether they be fuels, feeds, fertilizers, chemicals, veterinary medicines, equipment, buildings, labor, or whatever else."

Michigan Farm News

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Einar E. Ungren Editor
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Michigan Farm Bureau

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PURPOSE OF FARM BUREAU
The purpose of this Association shall be the advancement of our members' interests educationally, legislatively, and economically.



Stray Cat

He came to our back door one day,
A most bedraggled sight,
His feet were wet. His vest was gray.
The vest that should be white.
His tail was drooping and his hair
Had known no recent comb.
A queuing bum, imporing there
The shelter of our home.
Now Marthy's heart is solid gold,
As I've no need to mention.
And any creature wet and cold
Begets her best attention.
She took him in. She named him Joe
And to our pleased surprise
He seemed to know what cats should know.
He seemed discreet and wise.
He washed himself for half a day
And slept the hours remaining.
Then, with the dawn, he rose refreshed,
Demure and entertaining.
He strolled about to sniff and see
And then, no whit demurring,
He nimbly leaped on Marthy's knee
And charmed her with his purring.
No loathsome trait does Joe display.
No waulering and no fuss—
The once unprepossessing stray
Has quite adopted us.
He brought to us no useful thing
But trust and peace and play
And yet we hope he hides till Spring—
And then decides to stay.

R. S. Clark
315 North Grinnell Street
Jackson, Michigan

A Look at Farmers' Week Jan. 30-Feb. 3

Michigan farm people will have a wide choice of things to see and hear at Michigan State University's Farmers' Week, January 30-February 3, on the campus.

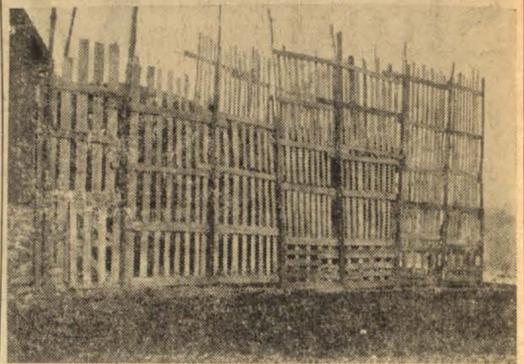
This traditional winter event usually draws between 30,000 and 40,000 people. Many organizations hold their annual meetings at the University.

Several outstanding speakers have been scheduled, including L. L. Rummel, dean of agriculture at Ohio State University. The program will revolve around the general theme, "Science Serves Agriculture." A few of the highlights:

Meetings of the dairy breed associations; the Little International showing and fitting contest; a presentation of distinguished service to agriculture awards; a swine show; an exhibit of the steers in Michigan's beef feeding project; films of the 1956 Rose Bowl game between Michigan State and U.C.L.A.

A discussion of township zoning; a session on planning for retirement; an auction of prize steers, ewes and hogs; the crowning of the onion king for 1955; and many exhibits.

Emergency Hay and Straw Rack



HOWARD HOUGHTON, dairy farmer and member of Mecosta County Farm Bureau living north of Six Lakes, had more hay and straw than he had room in his barn. So he built the hay and straw rack in this picture to deal with the emergency.

Mr. Houghton had carried over 15 tons of hay from the previous year. When his barn was filled with his first cutting of hay there was no room left for straw or the second cutting of hay.

Mr. Houghton built a straw rack on the north side of his barn and filled it with 30 tons of straw. It worked well for the straw. When his second and third cuttings of hay came along, he just added another section to the straw rack and filled it. Provision was made for the hay to be fed on a self feed basis.

The straw rack was 40 feet long, 16 feet high and 15 feet wide. The hay addition was another 16 feet long, 25 feet high and 15 feet wide. Mr. Houghton reports that the cattle ate the hay and that there was little spoilage.

Mr. Houghton has a 120 acre farm with 100 acres tillable. He milks 17 Holstein cows. Mr. Houghton's 17 Holstein cows averaged 448 pounds of fat in the Mecosta D.H.I.A. last year. He credits his good hay yields to fertilizer applications. One 24-acre field cut 73 tons of hay. A 16-acre field cut 21 tons of second cutting hay. He uses two fertilizers, 5-20-20 and a 0-10-10, applying 200 pounds to the acre.

Services Paid By Blue Cross Contract

Unless you've been a hospital bed-patient, it's hard to get a clear picture of all the "extra services" covered by your Blue Cross group hospital contract. "Extras" are all the supplementary hospital services provided a Blue Cross member, in addition to room, board and general nursing service. Of course, the extras are actually just as essential to good hospital care as room, board and nursing.

When you are a bed-patient in a participating hospital, you are entitled to receive as many of these "extras" as you need, no matter how much they cost, for the number of days provided under your contract. They include: Use of operating room, delivery room and other surgical treatment rooms. Anesthesia administered by an employee of the hospital. Drugs, dressings and casts. This includes such "drugs as ACTH, aureomycin and chloromycetin. All hospital laboratory services and basal metabolism tests. Oxygen and other gas therapy. Use of iron lungs, incubators and other similar hospital equipment. Use of radium when it is owned or rented by the hospital. Routine nurse care of a newborn baby during the mother's hospital stay when she is protected by Blue Cross. These hospital extras are covered without dollar limit under your Blue Cross group contract. Blue Cross does NOT cover the following services: special nurses; blood or blood plasma; appliances such as artificial limbs or braces; or ambulance service.

Parity Parity is a price calculated by law to give farmers a fair exchange on the proceeds of their products against the cost of the goods they buy.—Associated Press.

Community Farm Bureaus

CLARE L. MCGHAN
Coordinator of Community Farm Bureau for MFB

Dear Community Farm Bureau Members:
Several times we have discussed the possibilities of a community group making some program plans. This month we are giving you a sample of program planning as one group did it.
The following was taken from the October minutes of the Hope Community Group in Midland county as reported by their secretary, Mrs. Mae Eckmair.
"Minutes of the meeting held by officers of Hope Group at Stacy McCrary's home September 22.

Midland County Farm Bureau Board.
"It was decided to have a participation contest between the men and women. The losers must furnish the winners an oyster supper. The contest is to run for 3 months.
"We are to be given 10 questions taken from The Michigan Farm News at each meeting. Each correct answer is worth 10 points. We are to be given 10 points for each member attending. We earn 15 points for each member that we are responsible for their having attended a meeting if this member has not been in attendance during the past 6 months. We earn 20 points for bringing a non-member to our meetings. Loneda Joynt is to be chairman of the contest committee.
"Ethel Varner was appointed as the 3rd member of the Roster Committee.
It was decided that our meetings are to close by 10 p.m."

We think this type of planning can be helpful to the success of a Community Group. We realize also that good planning is only the start, that carrying out the plan makes for success.
The two new counties in the Upper Peninsula are leading the state with the organization of new groups. Menominee has 11 groups and Delta 7. Van Buren leads the counties in the Lower Peninsula with 5. We now have 1496 groups in the state. What county will have the honor of having the 1500th group?
Gold Star Award
Genesee county, North Genesee Community Group, Mrs. Gordon Rockwell, Secretary.
Silver Star
St. Clair county, Wales Community Group, Mrs. Marion M. Kelly, Secretary.
Charlevoix county, Hayes, Community Group, Mrs. Ruth Struthers, Secretary.



A long range program of future events was planned. It included giving the pledge of allegiance to the flag at each of our meetings. George Maxwell is to lead us in giving this salute. We are also to have a prayer.
"Fredia Maxwell was appointed to be recreation leader.
"We are also to try to have some item of interest at each meeting. We planned a Christmas party to be held in the Hope Town Hall. The officers are to have charge of plans for this party. We are to have a potluck supper.
"Fire Protection is our project. E. T. Cumings is chairman for this project. He is to be assisted by John McGraw.
"The secretary was instructed to notify the Larking Group that we would like to have a joint meeting of the Larkin and Hope Groups on October 18, 1955 for the purpose of nominating someone to act as a member of the

So You Want to be a Farmer? You Could Open a Store on Less

Consider the effect of the new look in farming upon the financial editor of the Philadelphia Bulletin after he had spent some time in the middle west doing some thoughtful looking around.
"Such a visitor was J. A. Livingston. He went home and wrote an article for Philadelphia readers entitled, "So You Want to be a Farmer? You'll Need Plenty of Capital."
Commenting on farming's being a "big business—with taxes," Livingston said: "It's no longer a simple way of life for a man—a family, some horses and a plow, working from sunup to sundown. It takes capital and planning.
IF DONE right, it affords decent hours and reasonable leisure and living—with indoor plumbing, electricity, the telephone, tele-

vision and all other modern conveniences."
Just the farm alone—house, barns, fences, outbuildings—would cost more than \$40,000. And though you might have to have only half that amount in cash, still "you can open a store in the city on less than that."
A RESULT, declared the Bulletin writer, is that we have more farmers than farms, which is why sharecropping is coming into vogue again. But the 1954 tenant farmer is a far cry from his predecessor of bygone days, for this fellow has money and the latest agricultural knowledge.
Referring to the area he visited, Livingston said: "Half the farms in Iowa are operated by non-owners. But the tenant is not impoverished. He's a capitalist, too. Generally he supplies the

machinery in the venture.
"As a minimum, he'd need \$3,500 of tools, starting with a tractor, and including the harrow, manure spreader, seeder, etc. If he wanted a combine, a feed chopper and a baler, his stake would approach \$10,000. He'd have to stock the farm too—with hogs, or cattle or sheep. He might do that half and half with the owner in a joint venture.
DISCUSSING the "new economics of farming," he pointed out: "We talk about a corporation having to provide \$10,000 or \$15,000 of land and tools to provide a job for one worker. It costs more than that to set up a business on a farm.
"It takes fewer farmers today but more investment to provide America with the richest standard of eating and living the world has ever known."

Brody Serves With Refugee Relief Group

C. L. Brody, executive vice-president of the Michigan Farm Bureau for public affairs, is serving on the Public Advisory Group to the U. S. Refugee Relief Program, at the invitation of the Department of State.
The purpose of the program is to help displaced persons in Europe and elsewhere to become established in the United States. The advisory group is composed largely of church groups. Mr. Brody represents farm interests.
Under the program, American citizens may help displaced persons to new lives in the United States. Congress has enacted emergency legislation whereby 214,000 migrants may become permanent residents of the United States through December 31, 1956.
The sponsor of a refugee must (a) be a U. S. citizen; (b) assure the refugee a job at wages prevailing in the community; (c) give assurance that the refugee will not become a public charge; (d) give assurance that adequate housing is available.
Congress has defined a refugee as a person in an area not Communist, or Communist-dominated, who, because of persecution or fear of it, natural calamity, or military operations, is away from home and unable to return, who

Farm Forests Film Available

"Farm Forests," a new film on farm timber lot improvement, has been released by the Michigan Department of Conservation.
Well managed farm forests may return a higher net income than many other farm crops, says the Department, which also has a farm forester consultant available to help owners of timber lots get the best returns.
The 14 minute film may be obtained from the following address: Michigan Department of Conservation
Film Loan Service
Lansing 26, Michigan

Farm Program Gets Day at Farmers' Week

Farm Bureau, Grange, and Farmers Union leaders will take part in a major discussion of the national farm program at Farmers' Week at Michigan State University Tuesday, January 31.
"A Farm Program—It's your Decision" is a title of the program arranged by the MSU agricultural

For Help on Blue Cross Questions

Whenever you have a question or problem concerning your Blue Cross-Blue Shield coverage, just ask your community group Blue Cross-Blue Shield secretary about it—she will be glad to help you.
However, in order to answer your question quickly and correctly, she needs to have certain information about your particular contract. So be sure to tell her your group number, service number, contract number and effective date. These are all printed in little boxes on your Blue Cross-Blue Shield identification card.
If your question is about your Blue Cross-Blue Shield benefits,

Three Juniors Won Honors at National FFA

Three 1954-55 board members of Michigan Junior Farm Bureau received American Farmer awards at the recent National F.F.A. convention held in Kansas City, Mo.
Dick Arnold of Allegan county received one of the four highest awards offered by F.F.A. He was named Central Regional Star Farmer of America. Dick has previously served as State F.F.A. president and this last year served as 1st Vice-President of Michigan Jr. Farm Bureau.
Leo Murphy of Ionia county received an American Farmer award. Leo was District 4 JFB director last year and is the newly elected state 2nd vice-president.
Ronald Hisler of Calhoun county also received an American Farmer award. Ron was District 2 JFB director last year.

Wheat Strawberry

Jerseybelle, a promising fresh market strawberry, will be tested by M.S.U. researchers next year.
It is sometimes true that the man who hesitates is just the person who doesn't get lost.

AGENTS WANTED
MAKE \$125 and up every week. Full or part time. Take orders for America's largest selling, nationally advertised Liquid Fertilizer since 1946. Written guarantee. No investment. Excellent opportunity for expansion. Write "Na-Churs" Plant Food Co., 616 Monroe Street, Marion, Ohio, (10-74-10b)
FOR SALE—Three nice registered Guernsey yearling bulls, strong in blood of great production sire Cesar Neptune. Dale Turner, Hemlock, Michigan. Phone MI-2-5443. (12-31-22p)
BARN EQUIPMENT
GUTTER PLOW Barn Cleaner. 5-ply self-reversing. One, two, three gutter models. Low cost. Easily installed. Write us for free literature, stating items. Milk coolers, cow stalls, parlors, pens, feed cart, wash tanks, water heater, ventilation, automatic poultry feeders, hog feeders. Ottawa-Bitch, Box 321, Holland, Michigan. (12-21-47b)
POSTS
FOR SALE—Cedar posts and poles. All sizes and lengths. Pete Bergman, Coleman, R-2, Michigan. Phone HO-5-2368. (12-21-17p)

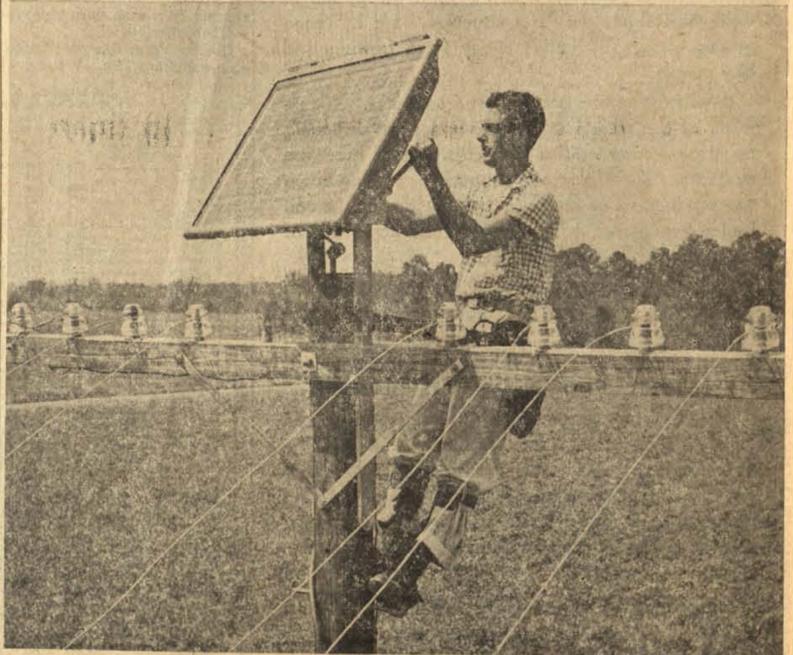
How is Your Electrical Wiring?

"Temporary wiring" may be around just long enough to blow a fuse, set fire to a building or give someone a "permanent" jolt, warns D. E. Wiant of the Michigan State College agricultural engineering department.
Slipshod repairs, tacked-on extensions, neglected insulation and use of defective supplies can endanger an entire wiring system. Wiant recommends that all electrical wiring, extensions and repairs be checked by qualified persons. Temporary wiring, unnecessary extension cords and makeshift installations should be avoided.
Check your wiring systems, outside and inside, Wiant advises. Insulators break, insulation frays and swinging wires get short-circuited on trees and other objects. Defective switches, loose junction clamps and damaged appliances are set to give trouble.
Good quality cords should be bought. Make sure the plugs are the right ones for the job. Avoid plastic caps that break easily and those hard to take hold of to pull out. Use cords with asbestos insulation for heating appliances and heavy rubber jacketed cords for motor operation.
Cords can be damaged by kinking or sharp bending. Ordinary household circuits with number 14 wire should have 15-ampere fuses; if one blows something is wrong—an overload or short circuit. Inspect the line for trouble and remove the cause before replacing the fuse with the proper size. And above all, don't try electrical repairs without pulling the switch to shut off the current.

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FOR SALE—Registered Brown Swiss Heifers. Suitable for 4-H work. Felix Pincor, Pittsconning, Michigan. Telephone TR-9-2793. (1-11-16p)



The Bell Telephone Laboratories Solar Battery being mounted on a rural telephone line near Americus, Ga.

Sunlight powers rural telephone line

The Solar Battery, invented by the Bell Telephone Laboratories to convert the sun's rays into electricity, is serving several rural families in a test near Americus, Ga.
Mounted on a telephone pole, it furnishes electricity to power a rural line during the day. It also charges a storage battery to provide power during the night and periods of cloudiness.
This Solar Battery is made of thin, specially treated strips of silicon, an ingredient of common sand. It has no moving parts and nothing is consumed or destroyed. Needing nothing except sunlight to operate, it should last indefinitely. It might be used economically where commercial power is unavailable.
The test being made of the Solar Battery at Americus, Ga., is the opening of a door through which we can glimpse exciting things for the future. While it is too early to predict the exact role of this Solar Battery, it is a striking example of the research that is constantly going on to expand and improve rural telephone service and keep its cost low.

Should Trade with Other Nations be Easier?

Is Our Price for Protection High?

Address by Charles H. Percy, president of Bell & Howell, Chicago, to the American F. B. Federation, Dec. 11, 1955.

Perhaps you may consider the problems of a photographic manufacturer remote from those of the farmer. Yet there are many similarities.

First of all, farming is essential to our national defense, as is also the photographic industry. During World War II Bell and Howell converted 100% to war work, manufacturing \$90 million worth of defense products for the army, navy and air force.

At the end of the war there was a long pent-up consumer demand for our products. Yet we, too, were faced with the problem of adjusting from a wartime to a peacetime economy.

Second, like the farmer, we have severe competition—both domestic and foreign. In the United States we compete with such aggressive and efficient companies as Eastman Kodak, Argus, Revere and many others.

In addition we are in direct competition with photographic manufacturers all over the world, our greatest competition coming from Japan, Germany, England, Switzerland, Austria and Belgium.

Germany alone sells the United States 150 different brands of still cameras. Imports to the United States last year of cameras in one price bracket (under \$5) were twice our domestic production.

These same countries export huge quantities of photographic lenses to the United States. A total of 16,000 lenses was imported in 1949. By 1953 the figure had risen to 205,000, 38 per cent of them coming from Japan.

The photographic industry competes with so-called "cheap foreign labor." I have personally visited most major photographic plants abroad. I have seen skilled German workers who are paid an average of 37c an hour, skilled Italian workers who receive 34c an hour, and Japanese workers who earn only 27c.

In contrast, the average hourly wage paid American workers by the photographic industry is better than two dollars an hour—eight times the rate in Japan.

Third, like the farmer, the photographic industry has been an object of concern to the protectionists. For many years the photographic industry as a whole had no wish to lose its tariff protection. On the contrary, it would have liked to have that protective wall strengthened.

Yet we at Bell & Howell, and more recently the entire industry, have come to the conclusion that the price of protection is too high.

Taking the narrow view, considering only our problems and not our opportunities, is not in the long run the path of progress.

Nor can one industry or one group afford to think exclusively of its own interests and forget the wider implications of a policy.

On the face of it the stand of the protectionist is quite logical. He says this group, this industry or these farmers are essential to our national welfare. They must be protected from foreign competition. They must be protected in order that when we need them they will be ready.

This theory ignores two important factors. First of all, a protected industry is seldom a strong one. Secondly, to look only at the domestic market is to see only one part of the picture. For most of the groups the protectionists wish to shelter are exporters as well as importers.

Let us consider the case for freer trade. The free nations of the world want and need the products we manufacture and the crops we raise. But they cannot buy from us unless we buy from them. To be able to trade with the United States would raise the standard of living of millions of free people.

For our own part, to refuse to

trade with the world—and tariff and custom barriers are in practice a refusal—in no way serves our own self-interest. Ultimately the refusal will isolate us from the free world and the friendship of free nations, as it will surely aid the cause of Communism.

The risks of refusing to trade are very real, but on the positive side the benefits of expanding our world trade are twofold.

History has proved that friendships follow the trade lanes.

Our nation is possessed of a tremendous capacity for production, both industrial and agricultural, a capacity which is expected to increase each year. In seeking new markets for our products, we will at the same time find ourselves in the happy position of winning friends.

All too often in considering world trade we are apt to let our fears obscure our vision, forgetting that it can mean markets gained rather than markets lost.

Let us consider our position as exporters. At present 94% of the total volume of Bell & Howell Company is sold within the United States, only about 6% going to the export field. U. S. industry as a whole exports about 5% of its production.

Your stake in this market is greater than ours. In 1954 you exported 23% of your tobacco, 28% of your wheat, 26% of your grain and rice, 24% of your grain and sorghum, 19% of your soybeans and 20% of your lard production.

But the United States must buy from the world or our own goods will stay at home. Unless we buy, we cannot sell.

And then there is the "forgotten man," the consumer. Shall he be forbidden to buy imports because they compete with the products of American manufacturers or agriculturists? Or, if he buys them, shall he pay a premium because we cannot produce that particular product as economically as our foreign competitor? I do not believe he should.

My belief has been severely tested. Let me tell you of one of our problems. Just prior to the war our company, primarily a manufacturer of motion picture

equipment, decided to enter the high priced 35mm still camera field.

Our camera was an exceptionally fine instrument and today it is used by some of the world's leading photographers. It could not be mass produced; it required many hand operations. In competing with German camera manufacturers with far lower labor rates, we lost \$1 1/4 million.

It was at this time that Bell & Howell began to appraise its attitude toward our national foreign trade policy. The temptation, of course, was to seek higher tariff protection.

We were forced to face the question: "Should the national interest be subordinated to our special interest?" We decided it should not be.

We felt we had no right to ask the American people to pay a higher price for foreign cameras simply because we had decided to go into this particular field. In 1952 we discontinued production of this camera.

It is often said that freer trade is all right in theory, but does not work in practice. Yet how does one decide how much protection is justified for a particular industry on the grounds of national defense?

Consider some of the most strategic industries of all—the aircraft, automobile and electronic industries. Do they need tariff protection? Or are they not, in fact, performing miracles of engineering and production without tariff protection of any significance?

It is true that where we must use handicraft methods, we do have difficulty in competing. But trade thrives when we exchange that which we can produce best for that which other nations can make better than we.

At Bell & Howell in our rough grinding department alone we now turn out ten times as many lens surfaces with eleven workers as we did in 1943 with a hundred workers. The difference is that we use automatic diamond grinders instead of the traditional "thumb and finger" technique. With \$2 an hour labor we compete successfully with the photographic industry in Germany, Japan and Italy.

The true criterion of cost is not dollar or cents per hour of labor, but rather total labor cost per unit produced.

Labor costs in our industry, as in yours, are by all odds the most important single element in our cost structure. This can be most

dramatically illustrated in lens manufacturing, where we have a great deal of foreign competition.

Here is the raw glass required in the manufacture of a one-half inch 1/1.9 Bell & Howell lens. Here is the aluminum required for the metal lens mount. The value of the glass and metal required for the entire lens is only 43 cents! Yet after molding, grinding, polishing, centering, cementing, coating and assembling, the finished lens has a retail value of \$87.

Years ago we sold a movie camera for \$49.95, the lowest priced camera we had ever made. At that time we paid our workers an average of 40 cents an hour. After the war we doubted we could ever again produce a camera at this price. Yet today, with an average labor cost of \$2 an hour, we are again selling a movie camera for \$49.95. And it is a fine camera, with more features and better workmanship than our previous model.

Without the spur of foreign competition it is doubtful whether the techniques that have enabled us to produce this camera at this price would ever have been developed. That is why I say that a protected industry seldom grows strong. Sometimes it becomes seriously weakened.

For instance, U. S. cotton production is down from 16.4 million bales in 1953 to 12.7 million in 1955. Cotton acreage for the same period has been cut from 25 to 17 million acres. Exports of cotton from 1945 to 1953 averaged 4.2 million bales; and it is estimated they will be down 2.5 million this year.

It would appear that cotton has been priced out of the world market. On the other hand, the high support price of cotton in the United States has acted as a protective umbrella under which foreign cotton producers could expand and grow.

In the face of this situation a bill (Senate Bill 2702) was introduced at the last session of Congress and will probably be voted on in January to establish preferential prices of cotton for export and to establish a quota on imports of cotton textiles. This is protectionism, at its contradictory best.

You cannot on the one hand sell raw cotton at preferential prices to foreign textile producers and at the same time restrict textile imports to protect our domestic textile industry.

You cannot, that is, without inviting prompt retaliation in the

form of restrictions against our export of this and other agricultural products.

Compared with 1940 American agriculture is now producing 1/2 more products with 20% less people on the farms. Twice as many tractors, four times as many grain combines and five times as many corn pickers are in use. In the last five years there has been only one year when total farm output did not exceed output in previous years. There will be another increase this year. This is a remarkable record. Yet it is not truly meaningful unless we find new markets.

As Agriculture Secretary Benson has pointed out, a storage program is not a market. Nor is a government bin a customer. The cost of storing commodities owned outright by the Commodity Credit Corporation is a million dollars a day—a million dollars a day to store the accumulation of farm products piled up under a system which some now say is a solution to the farm problem.

Americans today enjoy the highest standard of living they have ever achieved. Two long-range factors can work for the farmers' benefit in the domestic market.

First, our increasing population—the equivalent of a city of 77,000 is born every week.

Second, increased selling can create new markets as the dairy industry has so successfully done for milk products.

In the export market there exists a vast potential. For each night two out of every three members of the human race go to bed hungry! Only an increase in population can increase our domestic consumption of farm products.

Only by enabling these people to sell to us, can we make it possible for them to buy the foods they need so desperately. This is the problem that the Organization for Trade Cooperation must solve by making and executing workable reductions in trade barriers. For our nation to fail now to support OTC would be as unthinkable as for us to sponsor the United Nations and then refuse to participate in it.

Farmers have always been in the forefront of the fight for free trade. Now they can take the leadership in preventing special groups from rendering ineffective the advances made.

The alternative is to reduce the number employed in farming

attracted by the excess flow of capital to the farm.

What do you suppose would happen to the photographic industry if the government were to say to us: "We will guarantee the prices of your products and any you are unable to sell in the open market, we will buy?"

Being human, we would at first be delighted. We would make every possible effort to increase our productivity. We would hire all the people we could get for our production lines, bidding against every other photographic company for labor.

We would divert most of the people from our engineering and sales divisions to manufacturing.

We would hesitate to devote time and money to research to develop new products and we would have little incentive to improve our lines, because the sale of our present products would be guaranteed.

The growth of the photographic industry would be prodigious. Companies manufacturing pencils, radios, television sets, food, clothing and every other commodity not so protected by the government would immediately enter the camera manufacturing field.

We would be surrounded by companies knowing little or nothing about the problems of our industry. Yet they would enjoy the same market as we.

Together we would produce such a quantity of cameras—good, bad and indifferent ones—that they would flood the market, tax the government's power to store them and threaten the economy of our nation.

This too is the price of protection and this is what has happened to the farmer. Today we have the professional farmer, the man who has made farming his life work, the man who has the knowledge, the experience and the ability to be a good farmer.

We have also the "gentleman" farmer, the weekend farmer, and the hobbyist farmer. We have people in farming who have no business being there.

Yet as long as farmers enjoy artificial protection against foreign competition and against the supply and demand of the open market, they will stay.

Gale Johnson, a University of Chicago economics professor, said recently that one reason for hard times in some rural sections is that too many people are trying to make a living from farming. Cutting down the number, he

believes would help raise the economic level of these areas. One solution, he said, would be for more industries to move into agricultural communities.

This, I believe, is an area where industry and agriculture can work together. One of the chief problems of farm communities, that I have visited, is the lack of opportunity for young people, who must leave home to secure employment.

Only one out of four average farm children will be able to stay on the farm. The others must leave. Another problem is the lack of taxable organizations in depressed areas.

On the other hand, one of the problems of industry today is manpower. It seems to me that through increasing diversification of industry, one group might help the other.

If industry were to build plants in rural areas, these plants would offer farm people an alternative to farm employment, would reduce the present over-crowding in industry and would provide taxes for rural communities. One-third of farm income now comes from non-farming occupations. Why can't this be raised to half?

It is encouraging to see that Governor Stratton of Illinois has been farsighted enough to appoint a commission to study this possibility.

I think that in the future we will need to consider solutions of

this kind, remembering always that the easiest answer is not always the best. And I believe that all of us in American industry, in farming and in labor must test each answer against the national interest.

For no interest is so special that it can ultimately prevail against the national good. I believe that this nation must and will develop a farm program that is economically sound. We all have a stake in the problem for we are all shareowners in the national economy.

This brings to mind the story of the American and the Englishman who were presented to the ruler of a small Eastern country. The potentate, politely recognizing them, said to the Englishman—"and you are a British subject." The Englishman assented. Turning to the American, he continued—"and you, I believe, are a subject of the United States." "Subject, my eye," he replied. "I own part of it!"

It is the spirit of ownership and participation which will solve our problems. There was once a Chinese wise man whose enemies planned to trap him by asking an unanswerable question. One would hold a bird imprisoned in his hand and ask the sage, "Is the bird dead or alive?" If the reply was "alive," he would smother the bird in his hand. If the wise man answered that it

(Continued on page 6)

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Activities of Women of Michigan Farm Bureau

District 1

Mrs. Byron Eley, Chairman
Constantine, R-1

Kalamazoo county. 22 women gathered at the home of Mrs. Howard Corbus, chairman of Kalamazoo county Farm Bureau Women's committee, for the December meeting.

Guests were three of the 14 foreign students at Western Michigan College.

Miss Aase Jerspersen, a pretty 24-year-old blonde, is from Denmark. Her family lives in the country near Copenhagen. Her father builds boats for fishermen in Denmark, Norway and Greenland. The main business of this little country is boat building and farming. They export bacon, and butter to England, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland and France.

Miss Jerspersen told us that Denmark has a population of four million with over a million living in Copenhagen. The Danes fondly call themselves a "body with too big a head."

She said the women have an organization called Housewives League, much like our home demonstration groups.

Both women and girls attend and learn homemaking, fancy work, discuss family relations, etc.

Miss Jerspersen majored in Occupational Therapy in Denmark and also worked for some time in Scotland. While there she worked with injured miners who were gradually brought back to again be able to do hard work. She said that at one time she donned dungarees and taught them how to mix and pour cement. While attending an international meeting of Occupational Therapists held in Britain she met Miss Spears, head of Western Michigan College Therapy Department. Miss Spears convinced Aase that she should come to Kalamazoo to continue her study.

Miss Jerspersen spoke fluent English and said she had studied it since the 7th grade.

Geremiah Tekle - Harmonot from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, was our second guest. "Groom," as he has been nicknamed, is 28 years old. He had taught in high school for 5 years and was sent here by his government for 7 months' study. He hopes this will be extended so he can get a full year of schooling.

Groom is a teacher of technical skills but was sent to Western because our school has the reputation of being one of the best schools in "education" in the nation. He is doing very fine work in several courses in Auto-motives at the same time.

Geremiah is one of 9 children whose father is dead. His mother works in a school in Ethiopia, and one of his sisters works in a castle.

All children in Ethiopia's cities have access to free schooling even thru college. Few country children are literate because transportation facilities are so poor; the main method of travel is by air.

Most inhabitants are farmers, cattle being their principal pro-

duct. Their country is very mountainous but has an average temperature the year round of 70 degrees.

Timothy de Salvador, a winsome young man of 19, was our third guest. Tim is a Portuguese national who, with his family, has lived in Japan most of his life. During the war the family lived in the mountains so was not affected by the war, except for not having much to eat. Since they were nationalists of a neutral country, they were not involved in the war.



Geremiah Tekle-Harmonot of Ethiopia, Miss Aase Jerspersen of Denmark, and Timothy de Salvador of Japan were guest speakers at a meeting of Kalamazoo Farm Bureau Women's Committee.

After the war his family lived in North Korea but moved away just before the Communists took over. Tim's father is an accountant for a shipping firm and the family lives in Yokohama. The children were educated in missionary schools. Timmy is an identical twin, the other taking electrical engineering in Tucson, Arizona. He has an older brother in college in Dayton, Ohio and a sister who just married and came to California.

Tim wants to take marine engineering at the University of Michigan and go back and design ships.

All these young folks were friendly and enthusiastic about our "American Way of Living."

Both Aase and Timothy have tuitions scholarships from the State Board of Education. A number of these are given each year to carefully screened students. Western gives a number of room scholarships on the same basis and both have one.

Geremiah is partly financed by his government and partly by the U. S. as part of International Relationships. He has had some racial problems in eating places, etc. but not nearly as many as while in Oklahoma, where he was first sent. On such occasions, Geremiah said that "I go easy, try hard, and not say too much, and pretty soon it's all right."

This was a very interesting meeting for our Women in Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau.—Bergette Thompson.

Cass county. Fifteen women gathered at the home of Mrs. William Hattis for the December meeting of the Farm Bureau Women. Mrs. Norman Harvey, chairman conducted the meeting. It was voted to buy sheets for the county infirmary hospital with the \$8 collected for Christmas.

Mrs. Chester Ball was elected as the 2nd vice-chairman. The safety and legislative Chairmen gave reports.

The next meeting will be with Mrs. Brosserman and Mrs. L. Munyon will assist.—Mrs. Robert Brosserman, secretary.

St. Joseph county. The December meeting of the Farm Bureau Women was held December 16. Christmas potluck dinner was enjoyed by all. Mrs. Myron Ulrich, chairman, conducted the business meeting. Money was given to the Fairview county hospital to be used wherever needed most. A white-elf gift exchange was enjoyed by the women.

Mrs. Myron Ulrich and Mrs. Mary Breese were hostesses. Plans were discussed for county committee chairmen concerning the Farm Bureau Institute at Kellogg Center, January 3rd and 4th.

District 2

Mrs. Leta Sanford, Chairman
Allen, R-1

Calhoun county held a very successful Rural-Urban Day in October. The meeting was held in the county building with twenty-two groups represented. The morning was given over to regular business of committee. It was voted to give \$25 to the Rural Health Association.

About seventy-five Calhoun county farm and city housewives enjoyed a potluck dinner at noon. The afternoon speaker was Dr. Edward Moe, extension sociology specialist at M.S.U. He said the development of suburban areas, on former farm lands adjoining cities is creating new and more difficult problems for the country's growing population.

At the regular meeting in November Mrs. Winebaugh, citizen-ship chairman, read the ten articles of the bill of rights and gave a little of their history.

The women voted to send their vice-chairman to the Institute in

January and pay her expenses. They also voted to pay for the dinner of the three officers attending the District Council meeting held twice a year. The Committee planned a Christmas party to be held in Community Building.

Mrs. Glenn Hombaker of Athens is the new county chairman. Mrs. Milford Schultz of Athens was elected treasurer.

It was the feeling of those attending the annual meeting of Michigan Farm Bureau in Lansing that it would be better to do away with all reports and spend more time on resolutions.

Jackson county discussed at a fall meeting the qualifications of the candidates running for vice-chairman at the annual meeting of Farm Bureau Women at Michigan State in November. They sent eleven voting delegates.

The following committee chairmen were appointed: Reporter, Mrs. Allen; Legislature, Mrs. Hatt; Safety, Mrs. Thune; Citizenship, Mrs. Farnice; Camp, Mrs. Adams; Nurse's Scholarship, Mrs. Prucine, Mrs. Hamp, and Mrs. Allen.

District 3

Mrs. Martin Stockmeyer, Chmn.
Reese, R-1

Arenac county Farm Bureau Women's Committee had Mr. Deebie of Syria as their guest speaker at the November meeting. He gave a very interesting talk about his homeland. The women decided to send their birthday pennies which amount to about \$8 to the needy in Korea.

At the December meeting which featured a gift exchange they decided to have a contest to help have better attendance. This will start in January. The points will count as follows: 5 for each committee woman present; 5 for each visitor and 10 as a bonus for Farm Bureau women who have not attended a meeting before. A prize will be taken back to the home group for the women winning.

Arenac women have designated April as 100% month and are asking Mrs. Karker to be with them that day. Mrs. Alvin Selle is chairman.

Gladwin county women invited their husbands to a meeting in the Methodist Church basement to hear Mr. Parker of the Lansing A.S.C. office speak on "Price Supports and How They Affect the Farmer." All of their delegates and all but one of their alternates attended the annual meeting of the Farm Bureau Women. Mrs. John Shearer is the chairman.

Bay county women served the kick-off dinner on December 5th at the Kawkawlin church.

Clare county. Mrs. Jane Loo, secretary of the Clare Women's Committee, reported that Alice Davis gave a talk on "The Milk Program in our Schools" at their November meeting. At the December meeting the ladies enjoyed the gift exchange.

Saginaw county. Husbands and members of the county board of directors were invited by the Saginaw County Women's Committee to an evening meeting held in the Jonesfield town hall. One hundred twelve persons were present to hear Representative Holly Hubbell introduce Congressman Alvin Bentley, guest speaker.

Mr. Bentley spoke on the problems of farmers, stating that since foreign countries have increased their production of farm crops we have growing surpluses in wheat, corn and cotton.

He asked the farmers' opinion on rigid high supports against lower flexible lower supports for farm produce. He said that some of our excess acreage should be put back to grass as government surplus is costing almost a million dollars a day.

Midland county. One hundred per cent attendance featured the December meeting of the Midland Women's Committee. A collection of \$11 was used to buy popcorn, apples and other fruits for Christmas for the children in the Baptist Children's Home near St. Louis. A ten dollar gift package was sent to Mr. Herbert Celomens, a displaced person in Germany.

Mrs. David Bryan, safety chairman, attended a Safety Conference held at the new Community Center in Midland. Midland ladies are planning an evening meeting in January, beginning with a potluck supper. Husbands will be guests.

Sportsmen Against San Juan Rabbit

At the last meeting of its board of directors, Michigan United Conservation Clubs spoke out against the introduction of the wild European or San Juan Rabbit into Michigan.

The sportsmen called on Beagle Clubs and other groups to be on the alert to the possible dangers of permitting this rodent to become established in Michigan, as it has in Australia.



NORMA KIMBALL, Cass county, represented Michigan Jr. Farm Bureau in the National Farm Bureau Young People's Talk Meet contest held in connection with the AFBF convention at Chicago Dec. 12. Norma was one of the 15 contestants from many states.

The general topic for this year's contest was "Developing and Expanding Agricultural Markets."

Norma won her right to speak in the national contest by winning the state Talk Meet contest sponsored by Michigan Junior Farm Bureau. She has been an active member in the Cass County Jr. Farm Bureau for the past 3 years. She has attended Western Michigan College at Kalamazoo and is now teaching in a rural school near Niles, Michigan. The Talk Meet contestant from Kentucky was declared the national winner.



BETTY WITKE, Lapeer county, represented Michigan Jr. Farm Bureau in the National Farm Bureau Young People's Talent Find. Betty was one of the 23 talent numbers presented in a National talent show held in the Hotel Sherman in Chicago on December 11 as part of the AFBF convention.

Betty is a vocal soloist. She was accompanied on the piano by her sister, Barbara Witke.

Betty has been a Junior Farm Bureau member in Lapeer county for two years. She is a senior at Lapeer high school. There are no winners determined in the national Talent Find. Instead each talent number presented is used for entertainment in some part of the AFBF convention. Betty sang for the National Fruit and Vegetable Conference and also for one of the Farm Bureau Young People's conferences on December 12.

Dishpan Hands Make Trouble

You probably call it "dishpan hands," but the chances are it's the beginning of what is really a case of "housewives' eczema."

This is a malady that's fast becoming the number one occupational hazard of the housewife, according to Dr. Matthew Brunner.

Dr. Brunner, in an article in the AMA Journal, defines housewives' eczema as a troublesome skin condition usually brought on by contact with common cleansing agents used around the house.

He said these include synthetic detergents, ammonia water, hypochlorite bleaches, abrasive powders and various waxes and polishes.

Most cases start out with mild dryness, redness and some scaling—a condition sometimes jokingly referred to as "dishpan hands."

But it's often no joke. With continued exposure to soap and water, it usually gets worse. Eventually it will start to blister and to itch and burn.

By then, Dr. Brunner says, it's become a full-blown case of eczema and in severe cases may spread up the arms and even to the face.

If it's reached this stage, it usually takes from four weeks to three months to clear up.

Dr. Brunner suggests that the best way to avoid housewives' eczema is to make a point of us-

What is Obstetric Nursing?

MISS HENRIETTA EPPINK
Obstetric Nursing Coordinator
Michigan State University

In the first article of this series, Miss Kempf mentioned that if you became a nurse, you might like to be part of the team that ushers in and welcomes new babies.

That is obstetric nursing, only it is not quite so simple.

There is the period while the baby is developing during which the prospective mother needs health supervision. There is family planning to be done to assure that all will be in readiness for the new baby. Then, after the baby comes, there must be watchfulness to adapt the care to the individual baby.

Let's go back to the beginning. It seems as if the start of pregnancy should be that beginning, but the obstetric team is interested in what has happened before that.

Many factors influence the way the pregnancy will progress, the condition of the baby, and the kind of home in which it will live.

The hereditary traits carried in the genes of the father and mother will decide the foundation on which this new person, mind and body, will be built.

How a woman feels about having a baby will be influenced by her childhood experiences in her own family, by what her goals are, and where her interests lie.

The importance of nutrition during pregnancy is a factor that most people are aware of, but not everyone thinks of the fact that a very important period in the development of the baby comes before a woman can be sure she is pregnant, so good nutrition must come before pregnancy.

The relationships within the family will help to determine the kind of environment in which the child will live.

The obstetric nurse cannot work in all of these areas, but she is interested in the specialized services and community education that help to make conditions just right for growing and welcoming healthy babies.

During her pregnancy, almost every woman meets a nurse either in the clinic or the doctor's office. It may be the family doctor's office, and the nurse the same one who bandaged Johnny's finger, but she knows a good deal about obstetrics because it is a big part of the family doctor's work. It may be in the office of a doctor who specializes in obstetrics or in a hospital clinic.

Wherever it is, the nurse helps with a physical examination, and makes a careful check of the woman's weight, her blood pressure, and what the urine examination shows. Then, also, blood is taken for a Wasserman test for syphilis, which is required by law, and for a blood count to see if there are enough red blood cells to carry oxygen for mother and baby.

Almost every woman who comes in is in good health, and only needs to come back for minor checkups at certain times. There are a few women who think "What's the use?" and do not come for prenatal care, but the nurse knows that to neglect this care is not safe.

She knows that formerly many more mothers and babies died and that the increase of prenatal care helped to reduce that number of deaths. She knows that there are doctors who give their whole lives to the study of preventing such deaths, but that the results of this study cannot benefit anyone who does not come for an examination.

Therefore, the obstetric nurse encourages every pregnant woman to have a doctor's care.

During pregnancy, too, most prospective mothers and fathers want to learn about how the baby grows in the mother's body and what it needs, about how the mother can stay healthy (and good-looking!), about how to plan ahead for the baby after it is born.

Almost all office and clinic nurses have some plans for helping prospective parents learn what they want to know.

They answer questions; they have books and pamphlets available; they conduct classes and demonstrations; they show films and play recordings. They are glad to have the opportunity to lessen fear with knowledge and make the prospective parents less dependent on the local superstitions.

During labor and delivery, a doctor and obstetric nurse usually play a part. The doctor may

not be there constantly, but the nurse stays close to the woman and her family. She notes the progress of labor. She watches for signs of trouble, but almost all women have normal labors and deliveries.

Much of the nurse's function during this time is to give reassurance and support. She keeps the family informed and tries to give the woman in labor the comfort of the family's presence and love.

Knowledge of what is going on removes fear and its results, tension and pain, so the nurse tells the woman about the labor process and its progress. She helps her cooperate with the natural forces that are working to expel the baby from the uterus.

She knows that natural forces can usually accomplish this with more gentleness and less injury to mother and baby than artificial means. She gives medicines for pain when the doctor orders them, or helps the doctor with injections that block nerves to painful areas.

Taking the baby home is a happy time for everyone.

Preparing the delivery room is part of the obstetric nurse's work. In order to avoid infection in mother and baby, cleanliness is most important; there are emergency medications and equipment that must be ready in case of need. Infections and hemorrhage used to be responsible for many mothers' deaths, so the obstetric nurse is alert to preventing them.

While the doctor is delivering the baby, the nurse is standing by, ready to do whatever may be needed. As soon as the baby's cord has been cut he is breathing, the nurse cares for him seeing that he is kept warm and that his mouth and throat are kept clear for breathing.

Most nurses will agree that obstetric nursing is happy work and never more than at this moment of happy ending, or should we say beginning? The new father and mother are entranced by their new baby, as you see in the picture. The nurse joins in their happiness as she tucks mother and baby into their beds for a rest.

The next days are still important ones to the eventual outcome. There is still need for protection from infection; there must be observation to detect anything abnormal. In addition, the obstetric nurse uses this period for helping the mother learn to care for herself and the baby and to fit the baby happily into the family group.

If the delivery was in a hospital, there will be a going-home scene like the one in the picture, but the interest in the family goes on. In some communities every birth is reported to the public health nurse who comes to the home to see that all is going well.

If the nurse is busy, she may go only to the mothers who have had their first babies and those whom the hospital nurse tells her need special attention.

When the new mother comes to see the doctor for her final check-up six weeks later, she often brings a picture of the baby, which the nurse proudly adds to her collection on the bulletin board.

(Editor's Note—This is one of a series of articles for the purpose of describing opportunities open to women who wish to prepare for professional nursing.)

Meet to Consider Deer Problem

Nearly 100 farmers and sportsmen met at Hillman recently to discuss joint problems of deer herd management, crop damage, and trespassing. Held under the joint sponsorship of Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Grange and Farm Bureau, the meeting was the first of its kind in the northern part of the state.

Deer damage to farm crops, particularly strawberries and potatoes, in the Alpena-Presque Isle area was of concern to those present. Representatives of large private hunting clubs were also present.

Menominee Co. Organizes Farm Bureau

WESLEY S. HAWLEY

Members of 15 new Community Farm Bureaus met at Stephenson high school December 28 and organized the Menominee County Farm Bureau. They adopted by-laws and elected a board of directors.

Members of the board are: Sam Dragic, Stephenson; Curtis Larsen, Wallace; Edmond Sager, Stephenson; August Veerer, Powers; and Charles Curran of Vulcan, and Lyle Wesley of Stephenson, directors at large.

Menominee is the second County Farm Bureau in the Upper Peninsula and the 65th in Michigan.

The first goal in Menominee county was 15 Community Farm Bureau groups. The next is a membership of 100 families, which is expected soon. The groups will average about ten families to fit home size meetings.

The members like their group gatherings and feel that this fills a need in bringing farmers together for Farm Bureau work and sociability.

Delta County Farm Bureau was the first in the Upper Peninsula. It was organized October 17 and has 11 community groups. They plan to organize more and are building toward 100 member families.

The Delta Farm Bureau expects to send its president and the chairmen of the membership and community committees to the Farm Bureau Institute at Michigan State University January 3-4. Menominee hopes to send its president.

The process of getting fully organized and active takes time in a new County Farm Bureau. The folks in Delta county are making very good progress.

Weather and snow have interfered little in the work of the new Farm Bureaus in Delta and Menominee counties. The weather has been cold, but roads have been kept open.

99,000 Babies Aided by Blue Cross in '54

Maternity care is now the biggest single reason why Michigan residents go to the hospital.

Michigan Blue Cross reports that in 1953 it paid for only 455 maternity admissions costing \$27,000. It paid nearly \$13 million in 1954 for 99,000 maternity admissions.

Blue Cross records show that today maternity admissions account for over 21 per cent of all its hospital admissions. As the number of maternity admissions has continued to rise each year, so has the cost of providing hospital care.

Blue Cross points out that new developments in medical science, expansion and improvement of hospital services, and necessity for increased personnel to care for patients have increased the cost of maternity care.

The costly improvements in

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hospital care are in many ways responsible for the fact that practically all children are now born in the hospital.

Blue Cross reports that 15 years ago the average maternity case cost only \$60. Since then, charges to Blue Cross per case have more than doubled, climbing to an average of \$130 per case in 1954.

In terms of the lives and health of mothers and their babies, however, there is no basis for comparison, according to Michigan Department of Health records.

For, in spite of the ever-increasing birth rate in Michigan, infant and maternal mortality rates have declined steadily and rapidly.

In 1930, when only about three out of 10 births occurred in the hospital, 63 out of every 1,000 babies died at birth. And for every 165 births, one mother died.

In 1954, with over 95 per cent of all births in Michigan in hospitals, infant mortality dropped to fewer than 25 deaths in 1,000 births. And the maternal death rate dropped to only one in 2,300 births.

Parity is a standard for measuring farm prices by law to be fair to farmers in terms of the prices they pay.—Associated Press.

Soft Long-Liner



Easy to Make
2370
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Styled with the new wide oval neckline, and a gently curved hip yoke, this long-torso style is a picture of youthful femininity.

No. 2370 is cut in sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40. Size 16: 4 1/2 yds. 35-in.

Little Girl's Dress



2241
1, 2, 3, 4

Ever-so-pretty princess dress is charming alone, or teamed with square-necked button-on pinafore trimmed to match dress.

No. 2241 is cut in sizes 1, 2, 3, 4. Size 2: Dress, 1 1/2 yds. 35-in. Pinafore, 1 1/4 yds. 35-in. with 1 1/4 yds. contrasting ruffling.

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Jumper Favorite



7309
SIZES
12-20
by Alice Brooks

Favorite jumper—fashion "must" for winter! Iron-on flowers—take just seconds to spark the neckline with gay color!

Pattern 7309: Misses' Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. Tissue pattern, washable iron-on transfers in combination of pink, green. State size.

Send 25 cents in coins for each pattern to Michigan Farm News 263, Needcraft Service, P.O. Box 162, Old Chelsea Station, New York 11, N. Y. Add five cents for each pattern for first class mailing.

Resolutions on Michigan Farm Bureau Affairs

What We Expect Of Ourselves

These are the resolutions on "Our Farm Bureau" adopted at the 36th annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau at Michigan State University, Nov. 10-11, 1955. The sections on National and State Affairs were published in this paper December 1.

Our Farm Bureau Membership. Farm Bureau has gained recognition in the field of legislation. We have attained a voice at the conference table on matters of interest to agriculture and have been asked to contribute to the solution of national and international problems.

This has been due to a steady growth in membership and the increased participation of our members in the affairs of the organization. This membership participation has resulted in policies that are sound and reasonable.

If we hope to maintain this influence, if we expect to continue to speak for farmers, we must grow not only in numbers but also in the determination to transmit our policies into action. We don't expect the challenges and issues to decrease. We must be prepared to meet them.

The Michigan Farm Bureau expects to reach its goal of 70,000 member families, our share of the A.F.B.F.'s 1956 goal of two million members. This is necessary if we are to protect our best interests as farmers and help preserve our free enterprise system.

To reach our goal of 70,000 members each and every County Farm Bureau must give serious consideration to its own goal. There have always been certain counties that have set the pace in the membership campaign. Some of these counties have nearly reached their potential limit and can no longer be expected to put us over the top.

Therefore we would urge that all County Farm Bureaus plan and aggressively execute a membership campaign.

Counties that contain industrial areas may need to carefully appraise their potential. We believe that anyone who is interested enough to live on a farm or produce farm products, even though he is not a full-time farmer, should be considered for membership. Our attitude toward part-time farmers, whose philosophy promotes our way of life, should be tempered to include these people in our organization.

Policy Development. Farm Bureau's policies are based upon the grass roots thinking of its members. To better represent a more complete cross section of agriculture, we must know their thinking about the issues and problems facing agriculture, the nation and the world. Therefore, we implore all our members to contribute their best ideas by taking part in the discussion at community group meetings and by attending the county annual meetings.

We would also emphasize the need for counties to select the best available people for delegates to the annual convention of Michigan Farm Bureau.

Policy Execution. The development of policy is but the first step in attaining an effective program for agriculture. Our policies must be put into action. To do this is not always an easy matter. It may require the help of non-farm people and often requires the support of public officials or elected representatives whose decisions are affected by the pressure of influential individuals or the endorsement of large organizations or powerful groups.

Therefore, we would urge all of our members to support in every way necessary, the resolutions as adopted by a majority vote of the delegates at this convention and at the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau.

Community Farm Bureaus. The Michigan Farm Bureau may be justly proud of its community discussion group program. Its value has been recognized by other State Farm Bureaus. We sincerely believe these discussion groups are the means by which our members become acquainted with the purpose, objectives and programs of Farm Bureau. They encourage "grass roots" thinking, so necessary to determining policies of the organization. They are one avenue of service-to-member programs. They can stimulate the interest for community betterment and improved rural living.

Therefore, we urge our State and County Farm Bureaus to make every effort to bring to every member the opportunities offered by these groups. Our goal of a group for every 35 members can be achieved by the use of active county committees, by members of groups inviting non-attending members and by making the community meeting more interesting and constructive.

Any Community Farm Bureau that offers a service restricted to group members certainly deserves the active support of those

benefiting by the service program.

Our Service Programs. Our service programs are among the important activities of our organization inasmuch as they affect the maintenance as well as acquisition of membership.

The Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliated companies have done a commendable job by serving members and farmers in general.

However, we believe further improvement can be made by giving additional consideration to the users of large quantities of farm supplies and services as well as economically serving the smaller farm operators.

Farm Bureau Women. We commend the Women's Committee of the Michigan Farm Bureau for the excellent work they are doing in the field of public relations, public health, and international understanding. To strengthen this work further, we urge all Community Group representatives to attend the Women's Committee meetings, and report to the Community group.

Junior Farm Bureau. We realize that a strong Farm Bureau must constantly be developing new leaders. To do this, many counties have a Junior Farm Bureau dedicated to leadership training. These junior groups have contributed many present-day leaders to their County Farm Bureaus.

We urge that every county conduct a thorough survey of potential Junior Farm Bureau members, and take the action necessary to interest these youth in the junior organization.

Citizenship. We urge Farm Bureau members to understand and appreciate the Bill of Rights. This document was written for the protection of all people and is not to be used as a shield for undemocratic purposes.

Good citizens are informed voters. With a national election in 1956, we urge Farm Bureau members to give much thought to current issues and candidates and to participate in all elections. County Farm Bureau Citizenship Committees will need the active support of all Farm Bureau members if rural Michigan is to exert its rightful influence in governmental affairs.

Public Relations. As rural and urban areas are becoming more closely integrated, we must strive to promote better understanding between these two groups. Many of our County Farm Bureau Public Relations Committees have done a commendable job. In other areas,

much remains to be done. We would urge those responsible for the success of this part of our program, on state and local levels, to use every available means to create a better understanding between producer and consumer.

New Michigan Farm Bureau Center. The Michigan Farm Bureau, its Board of Directors, its staff, and any committees which had a part in the planning, execution, and erecting of the new Michigan Farm Bureau center should be commended and congratulated for their action in respect to this long-needed forward move. We believe that the interests of Farm Bureau will be better served by this action.

We encourage County Farm Bureaus to arrange tours and visits, to enable the membership to become acquainted with this efficient facility.

Waldo E. Phillips. With sorrow, we learn of the passing of our former Michigan Farm Bureau President and elder statesman, Waldo E. Phillips of Van Buren County. His leadership, counsel, and energetic support have meant much to Michigan farmers and their organizations and cooperatives. He was the recently re-elected President of Michigan Elevator Exchange, and was Chairman of the Council of the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives from the time of its organization.

We acknowledge our great debt to our friend and neighbor, Waldo E. Phillips, and extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Phillips.

F. B. Membership of Retired Farmers. It has been suggested by a few counties that a person who has been a regular Farm Bureau member for 10 or more consecutive years, retires from farming and then may or may not take a part-time job, shall not be reclassified as an associate member. This would require a change in the bylaws and in our opinion would create administrative problems at state and county levels out of all proportion to the number of persons involved.

The committee recommends that this proposal be referred to the M.F.B. board of directors and staff for study.

Commendation of M.F.B. Staff. We, the Board of Delegates to the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting, wish to express to the management and staff of the Michigan Farm Bureau our commendation for the capable, efficient, and effective work that has made our organization the voice of agriculture.

Reaffirmation. We reaffirm the resolutions adopted at previous annual meetings that are now in force, except insofar as they are modified or supplemented by the resolutions adopted at this annual meeting.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

- Michigan Farm Bureau District
- 1—Waldo E. Dick, Chairman, Lawrence.
 - 2—J. Willis Hoffman, Hudson.
 - 3—Allen F. Rush, Lake Orion.
 - 4—John Henry Albers, Hamilton.
 - 5—Edmund F. Miller, Jr., Lansing.
 - 6—Henderson Graham, Caro.
 - 7—Guy Freeborn, Hart.
 - 8—Archie McCallum, Breckenridge.
 - 9—Fred Lynch, Fife Lake.
 - 10—Mrs. Beaman Q. Smith, Atlanta.
- Mrs. Charles Nickel, Monroe, M.F.B. Women.
Mrs. Ernest Heim, Traverse City, M.F.B. Women.
Mrs. John C. Watling, Bath, M.F.B. Women.
Thomas E. Hahn, Rodney, At Large.
Russell E. Hazel, Richland, At Large.
Herman F. Howelsen, Clinton At Large.

Seven Million Life Insurance In 5 Weeks

Between November 8 and December 13 Farm Bureau insurance agents sold the remaining \$7,000,000 of Charter Life Insurance to set a new record for sales in five weeks.

When the Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company was organized in 1949, attractive Charter Policies to a total of \$25,000,000 were authorized. Policies amounting to \$18,000,000 were sold to start the Company, and offer was discontinued.

This fall it was found that the remaining \$7,000,000 could be offered only to those persons who had subscribed to the original Charter Policy offer. They took it. Sales of Charter Policies were included in the annual Brody Day sales contest which was completed December 21.

Newaygo DHIA Group Was First in 1905



RECALL OLD TIMES. Men identified with the history of Newaygo Dairy Herd Improvement Ass'n gathered around the first Babcock tester Dec. 6 at the 50th anniversary at Fremont. The group was the first in the United States and organized Dec. 6, 1905. Left to right: Clare M. Musgrave, agr'l agent; Harry Blandford, Newaygo's first agr'l agent; Bob Addy, an early tester for the Ass'n; Harry Stroven and George Stroven, only living charter members; Max Kempf, president of Newaygo DHIA.

Dr. Ralph Hodgson, chief of the branch of dairy husbandry research, U. S. Department of Agriculture, brought the rather disheartening information that after 50 years only 7½ per cent of the dairy cows in the nation are under DHIA test.

He said there are 2,175 dairy herd improvement associations

and equipped with the best of seed cleaning and processing equipment. A few men will operate it.

One new idea is the elimination of handling seed in bags within the plant. Seed will be handled mechanically in bulk. Seeds from harvest and elsewhere will arrive at the plant in bags or in bulk. They will be dumped and elevated to the top of the building to come down through the seed screening process.

After that, the seeds will be moved in bulk by suction air lift and finally into bulk storage in one of 52 steel tanks on the second floor. They have capacities up to 20,000 pounds of seed.

When seed is ready to be shipped, it will be drawn from a bin, bagged, and moved out.

Mr. Schantz said the best methods and equipment observed in new seed processing plants throughout the country have been adopted by Farm Bureau Services. The suction air lift is one.

FB Services Building Seed Cleaning Plant

Farm Bureau Services has started construction of a modern seed processing plant at the Farm Bureau Center on US-16 west of Lansing.

Richard Schantz, manager of the seed department, said the plant has been designed to clean, process, store, and bag up to 10,000,000 pounds of field seeds a year. It should be ready to operate by May 1.

The processing plant will have a floor space of 40 x 60 feet and be 65 feet high. It may require about 30,000 square feet of warehouse space.

Mr. Schantz said the new operation will be highly mechanized

Seven Steps To Higher Farm Income

Charles B. Shuman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, listed seven steps toward higher farm income in an address to the opening general session of the 37th annual meeting of the AFBF December 13.

He called for:

1. Orderly shrinkage in the agricultural production plant to balance farm production with demand.
2. Elimination of price-fixing of agricultural products.
3. Elimination of government-held surplus stocks of farm commodities by stopping the flow into the surplus stockpile and continuing present surplus disposal programs.
4. Continued efforts to expand sales of farm products in this country and abroad.
5. Increasing competition in the pricing of the products which farmers buy.
6. Reducing the costs of marketing and distribution of farm products through improved efficiency and greater competition.
7. A greatly intensified program of research and agricultural education in all areas affecting agricultural production and marketing.

Farming would be "more prosperous and stable," Mr. Shuman said, "if prices and production were determined by economic law rather than by political action."



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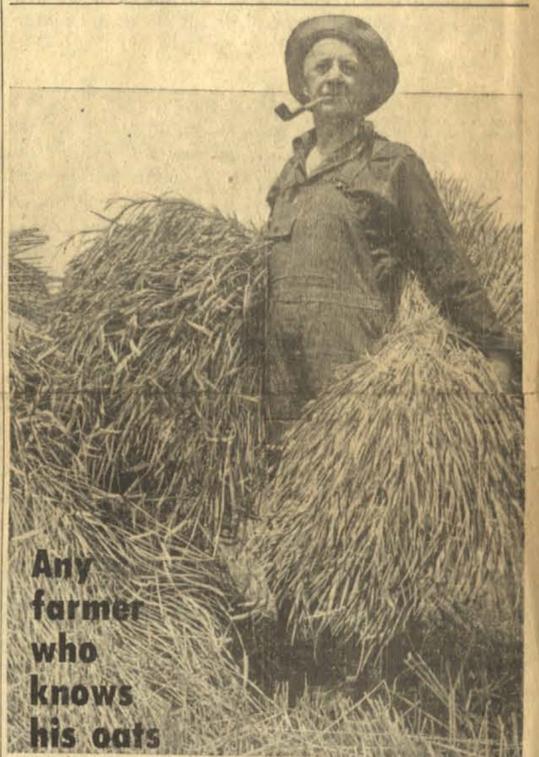
Mineral feeding authorities at Michigan State, as well as at Purdue, recommend traces of Cobalt and Iodine in ruminant rations in Michigan and Indiana.

No response is indicated from other trace minerals in this two state area at least.

We are proud to introduce you to Hardy Cobalt Iodized Salt which makes it easy to provide both of these vital trace elements, Cobalt and Iodine.

Now Hardy Cobalt Iodized Salt (blue in color) for ruminants to supplement Hardy (the original) Trace Mineral Salt (red in color) for other livestock.

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A Wonderful New Year

This time we want to tell you all about your Farm Bureau feeds for swine.

First of all, we want to assure you Farm Bureau members that there are no better feeds made than your own feeds. These feeds are made for Value-In-Use on your farm. They are Open Formula so you, or any feed expert you choose, can see just what amount of each ingredient goes into all your F.B. feeds. Indiana, with a large swine population, finds splendid satisfaction in the results the feeder gets on the use of F.B. hog feeds.

Try this Program for Hogs

A Gestation Ration. Condition your sows for large litters of sturdy pigs. Begin when (or even before) the sow is bred. (If sows get too fat, decrease corn and step up the oats or alfalfa.)

Here's the formula: 10% F. B. Porkmaker 35% and 45% Ground Ear Corn, 25% Pulverized Oats, 20% Alfalfa Meal.

Farrowing Ration. Limit feed from 24 hours before farrowing to 48 hours after. Feed a bulky laxative ration for 2 days after farrowing. Take 10 days to get sow on full feed. Plenty of water. Free choice Minerals. To start sows off, use 20% Pork 35% — 40% Ground Shelled Corn — 20% Pulverized Oats — 20% Ground Wheat or Middlings. Then go to this self feed ration: 20% Pork 35% — 60% Ground Ear Corn — 20% Pulverized Oats.

Starter Rations

Give pigs a chance at F.B. Faro-Ettes when 2-3 days old. It's a Pre-Creep sugar feed that starts them good—and fast. At 3 weeks change gradually to F.B. Creep-Ettes. It's a winner. Feed to weaning time or two weeks longer.

Growing Rations

F.B. Pig and Sow feed 17% (Your dealer will mix it for you using your own grain.) Feed to 100 lbs. to 125 lbs. weight.

Fattening Rations

A low cost, satisfactory ration is one made up of 10% F.B. Pork 125-80% Gr'd Shelled Corn—10% Fine Gr'd Oats.

Write for a fine, comprehensive handbook for hog raisers. It's free!
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC. FEED DEPT.

Farmer Looks at the Guaranteed Annual Wage

Community Farm Bureau Discussion Topic for January

Background Material for Program in December by our 1496 Community Farm Bureau Discussion Groups

DONALD D. KINSEY
Coordinator of Education and Research, MFB

Just why should the farmers bother their heads about matters of labor and industry? Why not just crawl into our shells and forget the whole business?

Such action would be foolish. What one part of our economy does directly affects the others. Labor and industrial policies directly affect the farmer's welfare. For this reason farmers must be concerned about events and programs in these fields. Let's look.

Gross farm income has not dropped since 1950. But net farm income is down. Net farm income is made up from three things. It is the price you get, multiplied by the amount you sell—MINUS the Costs. And the reason net farm income is down is, to a large extent, that costs are up.

The things that the farmer buys are often the products of industry and labor—his tools, equipment, supplies and goods for the home. If these keep costing more, he is bound to have less left to spend as earned dollars.

Thus it is both right and necessary that the farmer should share in the policy making program that affects labor and industry. He has to "pay the shot," so why not? For labor or industry to neglect the farmer's interest in the economy is to threaten the whole closely-knit economy.

A grave question exists. Can the farmer get back to a PARITY OF INCOME (not merely parity of price) so long as everyone continues to demand more and more money for producing the goods that the farmer must have to farm successfully? Costs must be stabilized promptly if the farmer is ever to catch up to the pace in the rest of the nation.

A common answer to the problem today by other groups has been "Give us more—and if the farmer has to have some help, put him on a government welfare program."

Of course he will then be under the thumb of the government. And since he is told how much he may grow (remember wheat quotas?) he may have small income because he may have a limited amount to sell. Yes, the farmer has many reasons to be concerned about what happens in labor and industry—about wage plans and general policies of the economy.

The Guaranteed Annual Wage
Now just what is this guaranteed annual wage idea that has been promoted by labor recently? At the fullest point it would demand that industry pay a full wage for a 40 hour week, for 52 weeks of the year to all eligible employees. Labor seeks that goal. But let's list the points.

1. The guaranteed annual wage asks that industry guarantee payment of wages for a full 40 hour week—or for some fraction of this amount, depending upon contract agreements.

2. The demand may be for 52 weeks of the year, or for a certain smaller number of weeks—depending on contracts.

3. The wage may be guaranteed to certain employees only. The employee would have to have from one to two years "seniority" in the union before becoming eligible. This is a union standard in the plan.

4. In order to finance the program, the industry is asked to set aside from 2 1/2% to 5% of the payroll in a reserve fund. Money thus accumulated would be used to pay the workers during any periods of lay-off or unemployment.

Arguments for the Guaranteed Annual Wage. The merger of the labor unions last month gives an increased force of numbers to the demand for a guaranteed annual wage. The principal arguments in favor of the idea have come entirely from the labor unions. They are as follows:

1. This guarantee of regular income would establish a greater

the release of the funds would help to offset depressive trends.

7. Executives, School teachers and some others get annual wage guarantees under contract. Workers should be granted the same privilege.

Arguments Against the Guaranteed Annual Wage. 1.—The idea does not face up to a simple fact. No industry can actually guarantee wages to its employees. The ability to pay at a certain rate depends upon the success of the sales program—with the general public as customers. Studebaker could not meet competition at the wage rates demanded, and was facing bankruptcy until an adjustment in wage rates was permitted by the union.

2. People in small businesses and professional work have no guarantee of security. They voluntarily face the risks of their enterprise. They invest hard-earned funds into training, inventories and establishments. The workers in industry have no investment but the fact of their employment. Why should they have a greater guarantee of security than others of our society?

3. Any and all increase in the cost of production must be passed along to the customers—the general public. We say general public because, while workers do form a body of the customers, there are many others who must pay the way for these increased costs.

When prices are too high customers stop buying. If the guaranteed annual wage causes people to slow down their purchases, it may be that the workers will suffer in the long run. Decreased public demand would reduce their jobs.

4. To pay a guaranteed annual wage an industry would have to have a very high productive volume. The overhead expense for small industries would be higher. This would mean a more critical "breaking point"—a point below which the industry would be running in the red. Small industries would face failure on a "sudden death" basis.

5. Industry should not be required to carry all of the risks of being in business. Workers should share some of those risks. Who is to guarantee the business that it shall always operate at a profit that will assure a high living standard? Business men worry about income, too.

6. The guaranteed annual wage

is actually inflationary. Any program that continues to pour increasing money into the economy trends toward inflation. Dollars compete on the market for goods and services available, prices rise, and the purchasing value of increased incomes becomes less. This reduces the value of savings and investments.

We must remember that the set-aside fund is made from actual increases in wage payments, so it is doubtful whether it would tend to curb inflation.

7. Workers already have a program of unemployment compensation insurance to tide over lay-off periods. This is more than the citizen gets who suffers failure in a private enterprise. He is often left with a burden of debt.

The unions hope to force employers to sponsor higher unemployment compensation rates. The guaranteed annual wage is not likely to do this. The employer pays only 2% on Social Security. But he pays all of the unemployment insurance tax. He is not apt to favor laws, therefore, that would increase unemployment benefits.

Summary
Let us finish here by looking back to a point or two. The security of a guaranteed annual wage is no better than the security of the industry that must pay it. If it puts the business in danger, the workers are in danger of losing their jobs entirely.

And let's ask—who is going to guarantee the farmer a living wage, year around, and year to year? The unions have said that the government should do this.

Two things bother many people on that point. If the government "pays off" the farmer, the government tells him how to run his farm. And there is a big question as to whether it will allow him to raise enough to sell so that he has a living standard at parity with others in the economy. A simple parity price guarantee at 100% will not do it.

If I have 100% of parity on price, but can sell only half as much by regulation—where am I?

Questions

1. In your opinion is a guaranteed annual wage a good thing for farm prosperity?
2. Can the farmer get the "net income problem" solved unless there is a leveling off on the costs of the goods he buys?
3. Where should Farm Bureau stand on the guaranteed annual wage?

Easier Trade With Other Nations

(Continued from Page 3)

was dead, the bird would be released to fly away. When the question was put to him, the wise man pondered for some time. Finally he replied, "Gentlemen, the answer is in your hands." This time the answer is in our hands.

Farmers' Tax Guide Book Now Available

Farmers who may be confronted with problems growing out of the new social security phases of their Federal income tax returns, as well as with other points in their tax determinations, will get a big assist from the new Farmers' Tax Guide now available at district offices of the Internal Revenue Service and from county agr'l agents.

The 64-page booklet describes in detail the steps to be taken by farmers in preparing their 1955 returns. The booklet also provides numerous examples on how to do it. A "rapid-finder index" is included along with a check list of items of farm income and expenses. Particular problems encountered by many farmers are clarified under a series of spot headings.

The booklet also deals with such subjects as farm inventories, depreciation, capital gains and losses, casualty losses and thefts, trades, condemnations and diseased livestock, soil and water conservation, and other matters of farm interest.

Pay for Chocolate Milk in Schools

After a USDA order of last August, Michigan school officials feared chocolate milk in this state would need to be made from 3.8% butterfat milk in order to qualify for reimbursement under the school milk program.

Vigorous efforts were made by farm and dairy interests, to get a revision in the order. After a conference with Martin Garber, Director of Food Distribution, USDA, in Washington, Michigan Farm Bureau secured agreement to a reclarification of the order to permit reimbursement for chocolate milk made from a 3.5 milk

with the syrup added, which permits the dairies to use the same milk they normally bottle for consumer use.

Farm-City Week Was Successful

Merle Tucker of New Mexico, chairman of the National Farm-City Week steering committee, said that the first annual observance of Farm-City Week, October 23-29, was an outstanding success.

Congratulating Michigan Farm Bureau members on their part in making the week successful, Tucker said that he believed the results would be felt throughout the year. Tucker headed the Kiwanis International Committee, which coordinated the national week devoted to a better understanding between city and farm.

3-Prong Plug For Safety

Many folks will find a "new look" when they buy appliances this fall. It will be a three-prong plug for 115-volt outlets that will not fit the standard two-wire outlets they have in their home. This new three-prong plug has been recommended by Underwriters Laboratories in an effort to prevent electric shocks and save lives.

In new equipment, such as washing machines and power drills, and so forth, manufacturers are making a gradual change over to the three-prong plug to provide a ground for the frame of this equipment.

In old wiring systems, to replace two-wire wall outlets with three-wire outlets, an electrician can run a third wire from the outlet back to the service entrance fuse box where there is a good ground.

When new wiring systems are being planned, future re-wiring costs may be eliminated and additional safety features obtained by providing three-wire, 115 volt outlets. Service areas such as laundry rooms, kitchens, and farm shops certainly demand electrical facilities for three-prong plugs.

Farm economists at M.S.U. expect food prices to average about the same or a little lower next year.

Insurance Co's Expand Sales Organization

N. L. Vermillion, manager of Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, has announced an expansion and reorganization of the insurance sales organization for 1956.

Ivan Allison, who has served as assistant sales manager for the past year, has been promoted to sales manager, effective January 1.

Two new sales regions and appointment of two additional regional sales managers has been announced.



IVAN ALLISON

Mr. Vermillion pointed out that the 1956 sales plans are designed to provide improved service to present policyholders as well as continue to increase the number of members using the services of Farm Bureau Life and Farm Bureau Mutual.

Previously, the state was divided into five sales regions. The new organization, however, calls for seven regions with regional sales managers, in most instances, having less territory and fewer agents under their supervision. Closer team work and better service are expected under this

new regional organization.

Mr. Allison started his career with Farm Bureau Insurance as an agent in 1949 while still attending M.S.U. After graduation in 1950 he came into the home office as casualty underwriter and transferred in 1954 to the sales department. In January of 1955 he was named assistant sales manager.

The new regional sales managers are Frank A. Walker and Charles E. Owen. Both have had extension experience in insurance sales and supervisory work. They also have farm backgrounds and have previously been associated with Farm Bureau.

With the addition of Mr. Walker and Mr. Owen, the seven regions will be supervised as follows: Northern Region—Cliff Jacobs; West Central Region—John Medema; East Central Region—Burton Richards; Thumb Region—Charles Owen; Central Region—Frank Walker; South West Region—Marvin Korick; South East Region—Ray Kalarah.

Completing the 1956 sales team are Irv LeBlanc, sales promotion supervisor, and Bill Wellman, a sales trainee who will join the department on January 1.

The casualty division of Farm Bureau Mutual has a record of almost seven years of service to Michigan Farm Bureau members. It has 63,000 auto and farm liability policies in force. Farm Bureau Fire Insurance celebrated its first anniversary on July 17, 1955 and has over \$40,000,000 in coverage on the property of Michigan Farm Bureau members.

On September 20, 1955, the Life Company marked its fourth year of operations. The company now has more than \$60,000,000 of life insurance in force and has returned more than \$125,000 in dividends to policyholders.

The 1956 organizational changes are designed to keep pace with the increasing demand and use of Farm Bureau Insurance services.

Tractor

Use top quality oil and change it often to avoid abnormal tractor engine wear during the winter.

Self-interest is the thing most likely to warp a man's judgment.



SPECIAL GIFT — Clark L. Brody (left), chairman of the State Board of Agriculture, and executive vice-president of the Michigan Farm Bureau, carried this MSU blanket to the Rose Bowl Dec. 26. Nile Vermillion (right), manager of the Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, presented it Dec. 21 at a dinner at Michigan State College at the conclusion of the annual "Brody Day" insurance sales contest. Top agents in the contest and MFB staff members gathered to pay tribute to Mr. Brody for many years of service to the Farm Bureau.

First Award Winners for Membership

JERRY CORDREY
Coordinator,
Membership Acquisition

The first award winners for the 1956 Membership drive were announced Dec. 21.

Two of the four contests terminated December 12. These two contests consisted of trophies being awarded to the three counties that wrote the most new members in the first week of the drive, and three trophies for the counties with the highest per cent of new member goal.

The awards were based on memberships actually in the Michigan Farm Bureau office, sent in envelopes dated on or before December 14th.

The winners in the contest for most new members to Dec. 12: Calhoun, 103; Sanilac, 92; and Kent, 76.

The winners in the contest for highest per cent of new member goal to Dec. 12: St. Joseph, 56%; Calhoun, 45.6%; and Livingston, 41.8%.

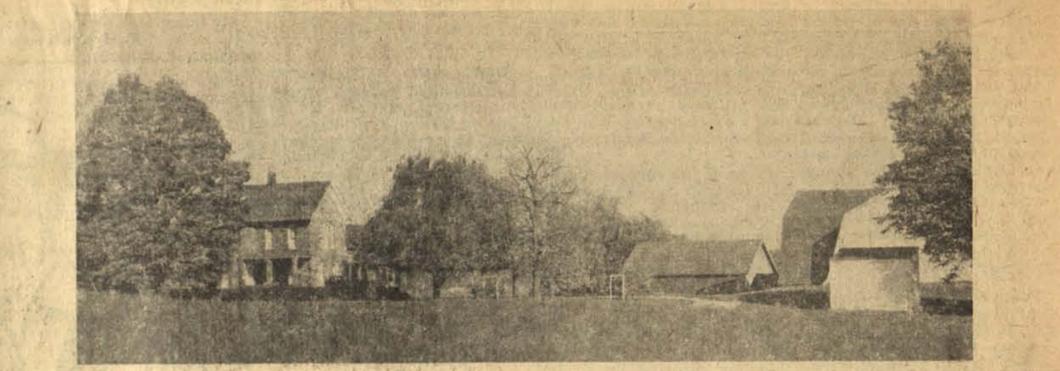
The next contest date to be aware of is January 15th. Three trophies will be awarded to the three counties with the highest per cent of county goal.

West Amboy Group

West Amboy Community Farm Bureau of Hillsdale county at its first meeting this fall John Morgan, chairman; Glen Robison, vice-chairman; Gladys Cook, secretary; and the committee chairman; Discussion, George Wilcox; Women, Ella Moorehouse; Minuteman, Ernest Garfield; News, Eva Canfield; Blue Cross; Esther Robison. Fred Crowl is delegate to the county convention.

If we didn't have the little men in this world, the great men would never be noticed.

Insurance is important in successful farming

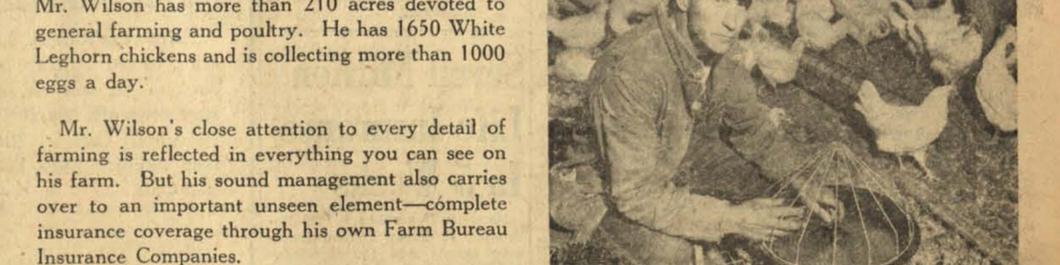


"An Unseen Asset—Until You Need It"

Farming, today, is an exacting business. It requires the utmost in farming know-how plus a keen sense of management. The farmer must combine many skills to develop and maintain a successful operation.

... until you need it. But then you can see this unseen asset in action."

Mr. Wilson has Farm Bureau Farm Liability, Fire, Auto, and Charter Life insurance.



The Ernest Wilson farm in Allegan county is an outstanding example of the well managed farm. Mr. Wilson has more than 210 acres devoted to general farming and poultry. He has 1650 White Leghorn chickens and is collecting more than 1000 eggs a day.

Mr. Wilson's close attention to every detail of farming is reflected in everything you can see on his farm. But his sound management also carries over to an important unseen element—complete insurance coverage through his own Farm Bureau Insurance Companies.

"Sound insurance protection is all important in successful farming," explained Mr. Wilson. "And I feel that Farm Bureau Insurance—owned and operated by Farm Bureau members is doing the job as farmers want it done. It's an unseen asset

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
4000 N. GRAND RIVER AVE. • LANSING, MICHIGAN

Discussion Topics

These were chosen by your State Discussion Topic Committee from the results of the questionnaire returned by the Community Farm Bureaus.

Feb. The Serious Political Attacks on Farmers Cooperatives.

Be sure to read your discussion article in the Michigan Farm News. Attend your Community Farm Bureau meetings.

* There's a Farm Bureau insurance representative nearby to serve you. Ask any Farm Bureau office how to reach him for information about life, auto, fire and farm liability protection, or about the FIP Protected Savings Plan.