

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE **ACTION** PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

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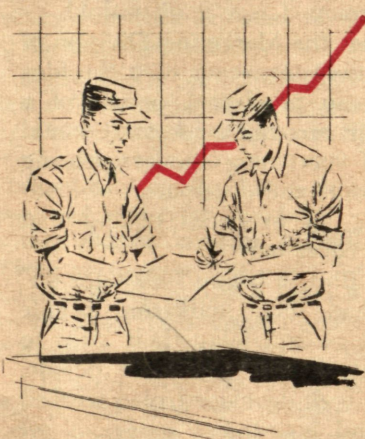
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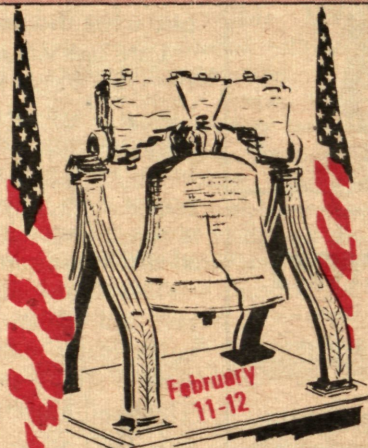
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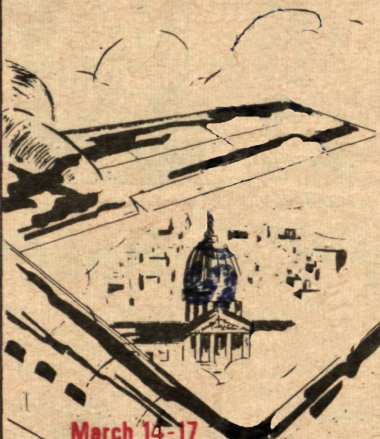
March



MEMBERSHIP ROLL-CALL



FREEDOM CONFERENCE



WASHINGTON TOUR

April

May

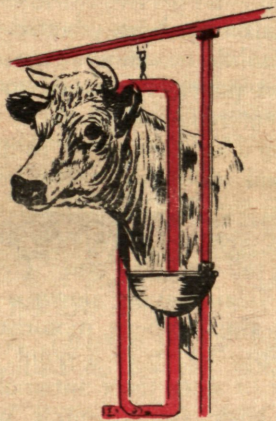
June



WOMEN'S SPRING MEETINGS



MICHIGAN WEEK I



SUPPORT A.D.A. I

July

August

September



FARM BUREAU PICNICS I



FAIR TIME



MACMA SELLS APPLES I

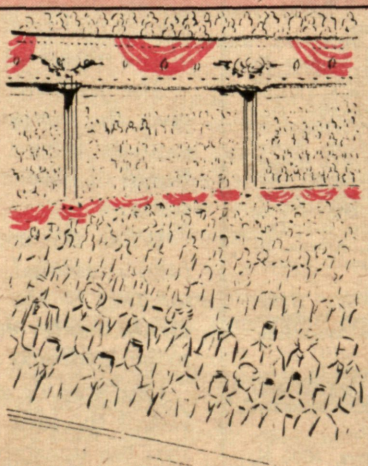
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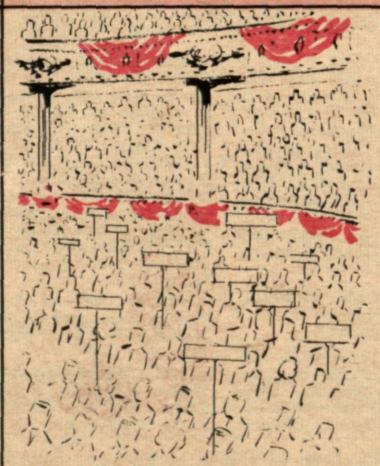
December



ANNUAL MEETINGS-COUNTY



...MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU



...AMERICAN FARM BUREAU

Membership "Roll-Call" Passes Half-Way Mark

Spurred on by a year-end report of an all-time high in membership reached by the American Farm Bureau Federation, Michigan Roll-Call volunteers have more than passed the half-way mark toward their goal of 68,612 Farm Bureau members for 1965.

According to late membership reports tallied by the Field Services Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau, nearly 40,000 members have already been signed for 1965. Of this number almost 1,000 are new members.

Glenn Sommerfeldt, Division Manager, reports that membership work appears to be well ahead of last year at this time with a steady 5% lead over last year maintained for most of the sign-up period.

Meanwhile the 60 Michigan delegates attending the 45th annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Philadelphia, were inspired in Mid-December by the resounding membership gains recorded in 38 of 49 states.

These gains raised the 1965 membership in the American Farm Bureau to 1,647,455, an all-time high, and a gain of 19,160 over last year.

Two of the most impressive gains were made by states bordering Michigan — Indiana and Illinois. The Hoosier Farm Bureau reached its membership quota and went on to record the largest numerical gain of any state, 4,422 families more than last year. Illinois also reached membership quota and produced its seventh consecutive year of growth.

Such gains were termed "the one best answer" to critics of organized agriculture according to American Farm Bureau officials who called for renewed effort by all farmers in reaching an eventual two million member goal.

Determined Michigan membership volunteers are continuing these efforts and a variety of methods are being used to help shade the serious work with overtones of fun.

For example, Houghton County Farm Bureau leaders have offered membership incentives ranging from cash awards to their best farm produce. County president Joe St. Amour has announced a cash "bounty" paid to workers for each new member secured. Not to be outdone, Roll-

Call Manager Rudy Larson offers 50 pounds of his fine Upper Peninsula potatoes to any worker signing a new member.

Those who join have not been forgotten, for board member Harold Tikkanen will present each new member with a dozen fresh eggs!

In the Northeast region, Alpena, Alcona, Iosco and Cheboygan counties used the "turkey for Christmas" idea this year, in a promotion that brought a large turkey to each community group which scored a 100% membership renewal, "plus two new members" — the turkey to be used by the group in a Christmas or New Year's dinner meeting. Four turkeys have been earned in both Alcona and Iosco — and contest results were not yet available in other areas.

Montcalm County, which has issued "first-to-reach-goal" challenge to the rest of Lower Michigan, reports 57% of goal reached, with 50 new members signed.

Other high-ranking counties include Arenac, now at 65% of goal, in the Saginaw Valley region, Sanilac with 68% in the Thumb, and Newaygo with 70% in the Western region.

Cheboygan county appears to top the Northeastern region with 70.7% of goal, while Clare county in Northwest Michigan at 70% holds the lead for that region.

Allegan county, at 66% of goal, appears to hold the advance position in the Southwest region while 67% for Wayne county places it in top position in the Southeast.

Coming Events Calendar

Important Farm Bureau activities of weeks ahead in the New Year include:

JANUARY 5-6-7 — Young Farmer Conference, Lansing.

JANUARY 22-29 — February 5-12-19-26 (six consecutive Fridays) "Economic" Seminars for ten-county area near Olivet College.

FEBRUARY 11-12 — Freedom Conference, featuring Dr. Walter Judd, at Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant.

MARCH 14-17 — Washington Legislative Air-Tour — flying trip to the Nation's Capitol, sponsored by Farm Bureau Women.

Editorial

Majority Control

At the scene of mob action, the mob takes advantage of the fact that it is a majority. It was a majority vote when Pilate asked the assembled mob to choose between the execution of Barabas and Jesus. Their choice sent Christ to Calvary.

A majority once knew the world was flat. A majority of the people once opposed the American Revolution.

In Philadelphia, in the year 1787, patriotic Americans decided that in this new nation, under God, they could form a more perfect union. Those writers and signers of the Declaration of Independence created a new Constitution for the central government of a land which was to be both a nation and a Confederation of States.

They created a Representative Government, rather than a democracy based upon "one man-one vote," a Republic of representation.

Most recently in Philadelphia, in our year of 1964, patriotic American farmers met for the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Where in 1787, the patriots were smarting under the arbitrary rulings of the King of England, this time our patriots were angry at arbitrary Supreme Court rulings calling for all state legislatures to be apportioned strictly on the basis of population.

For nearly 200 years of American history, it has been common for states to apportion their House of Representatives on a population basis and their Senates on a geographical basis — by counties. In this they have followed the federal system as spelled out in the Constitution where each member of the Lower House of Congress represents about the same number of constituents, while every state, regardless of size, is allowed two Senators.

One of these senators, George Aiken of Vermont, speaking before the American Farm Bureau Federation convention, said: "We are engaged in a struggle between the powerful political machines of the great cities and the people of the United States. Make no mistake about it, this is a battle for the political control of the nation and with that control goes the power to tax, the power to spend and the power to enact programs that will affect the lives and welfare of every living person for generations to come . . ."

In the words of Dr. John Carew, of Michigan State University: "Under our present system many state senators are farmers or small-town businessmen whose personal way of life is intimately associated with that of their rural neighbors. They are generally conservative, economy-minded, possessed with a strong feeling of right and wrong, alert to the legislative needs of agriculture and suspicious of their freer-spending liberal city colleagues. Their voting records reflect their way of life."

When reapportionment is accomplished, Carew suggests, these men will lose out to politicians who will more likely be lawyers or wealthy businessmen rather than farmers.

To prevent this, voting delegates to the American Farm Bureau annual meeting have called for a Constitutional Amendment. In policy resolutions they wrote:

"Our time-tested and successful pattern of legislative representation on both an area and a population basis provides a workable system of checks and balances. It assures a republic that is truly representative form of government with consideration for minority and area interests."

"We recommend a Constitutional amendment guaranteeing the states the right to apportion one house of bicameral state legislatures on the basis of factors other than population."

"We strongly urge state Farm Bureaus to seek enactment by their state legislatures of petitions to Congress calling for a Constitutional convention to consider this issue . . ."

M.W.



Deadly Skid Reaction

By Robert Bunker

Skidding has become a serious problem on Michigan roads.

Skid chain-reaction mishaps form a spectacular illustration of motordom's most frightening peril — treacherous skids that send automobiles swerving out of control and into trouble. Thousands of drivers through the winter months experience this frightening sensation.

Drivers all too often jam on brakes in a skid condition instead of "pumping" them to bring the car to a quick, safe, stop.

Interest in skid hazards has been whetted by recent discoveries that an automobile traveling at speeds of 50 to 60 miles an hour on wet pavements tends to "hydroplane" much the same as a water-skier as he skims the surface of the water; thus causing a loss of steering in the automobile.

The typical "dry road" skid starts when a motorist sees a stop sign or stalled vehicles just ahead and slams on his brakes in a panic stop. The wheels lock. The rear end breaks away in a tail-wagging skid. The tires get hot when they skid and begin laying down a slick trail of molten rubber. When this happens, motorists instinctively do the right thing. They let up to a point, thus allowing them the opportunity to steer their automobile.

There are a few basic fundamentals which can be followed by all good drivers to help reduce the skid tendency and still keep the car under control:

1. Never apply the brakes on a skid.
2. Disengage a clutch if the car has a standard transmission. If it has an automatic, leave it in drive but take your foot off the accelerator.
3. If the rear end starts to swing around, steer in the direction of the skid. Straighten the front wheels instantly, then when the swinging stops, counter-steer if the rear end starts to swing the other way.
4. In a front wheel skid, straighten the wheels if they are angled so they will roll instead of skid.

By making the drivers more aware of skids and how to cope with them, more people will be able to handle one of the great treacherous highway killers.

One of the latest devices is a mechanism to pump the car's brakes and consequently reduce the possibility of dangerous skids. This unit is hooked into the automobile's transmission and can be attached to the car in a matter of a relatively short time with the simplest of tools.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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President's Column

Buy Food Chain?

The announcement by the press, radio and television that "Farm Bureau intends to buy the A & P chain of retail markets" startled the public in October of 1964. It certainly set off a flurry of chatter, pro and con, among Farm Bureau members across the country.

The newsmen really jumped the gun, of course. They made a complete blanket out of a small piece of cloth. I would not criticize them for it. They like to find a story that is startling.

But if we want to get the true situation down pat, we have to back up a bit and see just what did happen. I saw it all unfold.

Late last summer, the Marketing Division of the Ohio Farm Bureau came up with the idea that if Farm Bureau purchased control of a large national chain of retail markets, it would have a means of increasing its bargaining power with processors and distributors of food-stuffs. There is a lot of detail behind that idea that we can't cover here.

The Ohio Farm Bureau began "talking it up" last fall. They had their marketing people cover many meetings explaining their ideas to state Farm Bureau Boards and staff people. They had a pretty well developed plan worked out, with costs and investment programs set up to finance the plan.

The Ohio folks felt that a prompt decision was necessary if the plan was to be set in motion to gain the best results. The idea certainly had scope enough to tickle the imagination of people, and a lot of folks were ready to go for it right off.

Enough interest developed to bring the proposal before the delegates at the American Farm Bureau Convention last month. It generated as much discussion and excitement on the floor of the convention as any matter before the delegate body.

I think that the idea emphasizes an important point that we should not overlook. It means that Farm Bureau is actively looking for ways and means to build a broad-based, effective approach to this tough problem of marketing and the improvement of farm incomes. I do not say that the Ohio idea is the answer. I want more information before I decide.

True enough, farmers who invested in such an idea would not lose the value of their investment. The stock would always have a sale value. But that is not the point.

The delegates found too many unanswered questions in the proposal to justify any immediate decision for action. For one thing, they were not so sure that this approach would do the job they wanted done — to provide a method for improving farm incomes in the market. Costs would be more than just the money that farmers invested.

It would take a complete mobilization of all Farm Bureau forces to collect the financing funds. Such programs require a lot of money to promote and carry through. Would the results justify such time and expense? We would really have all of our eggs in that basket if we decided that the word was "Go."

The delegates also recognized that a lot of study is needed before Farm Bureau is ready to jump such a big hurdle. Possible legal questions must be answered. Can farm producers legally go into the retailing business, be producers and retailers, too, without running afoul of the anti-trust laws?

The final decision at the convention was to give the proposal careful study in the immediate future. The American Farm Bureau Board of Directors is charged with making this study.

When the facts are in and have been carefully examined, the Board can call a special meeting of the delegate body for a decision. Or the matter may be left until the Convention to be held next December in Chicago.

One way or another, we have not heard the last of the idea. But, from where I sit, I think that the delegates showed very good judgment in handling this question.

Elton Smith

Your Attitude Can Kill You!

Public indifference is the most dangerous roadblock to safety! That people "don't give a hang" about the mounting record of vehicle accidents, deaths and injuries was the most distressing problem faced by the Governor's Special Commission on Traffic Safety, appointed in 1964.

Representing Farm Bureau on this Commission were Nile Vermillion, Vice-President of the Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, Marjorie Karker, and Mrs. Anton Hoort, Portland.

WE, THE ENEMY

Pogo, the comic strip possum, exclaims, "We have met the enemy, and he is us!" Driver attitude and public callousness contribute more than any other thing to our highway calamity.

Major project for the Commission is "How to jar the public out of this coma of indifference?" Nothing has done it up to now. Drivers take security behind their insurance and their seat belts—a thin shell of security, indeed! These protections may even be taken as license to be less cautious on the roads. The driver's guard is down.

The public snaps its fingers at the accident reports. Manufacturers jump the power of cars, build "speed jobs." Gasoline companies advertise "get-away" power. The accident problem is out of their aura of thought—as remote as an orbit of Mars. Drivers forget the hazards of the highway until they suddenly find themselves at the center of a rending crash. If they live, its memory lingers on with the handicaps of their injuries—if.

The Safety Commission gives top priority to a powerful public campaign to arouse public concern—to shatter indifference. Little can be accomplished until safe driving and a demand for preventive laws is based on basic attitudes of the people.

Even the skyrocketing costs,

reflected in rapidly rising insurance rates, has not checked the accident rate. Rates cycle upward again and again. The losses and ballooning court judgments make higher rates inevitable. Court dockets are overloaded with traffic accident damage suits.

The Governor's Special Commission on Traffic Safety brought together 219 citizens. Some were public officials. Most were just citizens concerned with the public interest. Hours of study and discussion of the problems behind the bad record were aimed at finding answers. Causes of accidents were numerous. It was clear that no single "cure" would correct the situation.

Sub-committees were selected and gave special attention to certain aspects of the problem—law enforcement, traffic courts, driver education, vehicle safety, highway engineering, driver licensing, accident recording and public information.

Recommendations developed by the Commission were taken to regional meetings of citizen groups in October of 1964 for study, discussion and support. Support is the main thing needed.

The recommendations will be placed before the 1965 Legislature. It is clear that government must take a hand. The tragedy cannot be allowed to grow as it has in past years. Growing public support for, and respect for traffic laws to stop it, is a "must."

PROPOSALS

The Commission drafted 29 recommendations. Among them, it proposed that:

1. Our Michigan State Police and other enforcement agencies are seriously undermanned and handicapped in traffic enforcement and control. The Michigan State Police force should be expanded up to national standards.

2. That police agencies should increase their use of devices, such as radar, for the detection of violations. Almost all accidents occur when a violation is being committed.

3. That Michigan have more uniform regulations for licensing vehicle operators under the direction of a single state agency. This agency would also handle titles to vehicles. More exacting tests for operators' licenses would be required, the point system for violations would be made broader and more meaningful, and adjustments in penalties would be made for drivers who operate a vehicle without a license.

4. That special traffic courts be established, presided over by qualified, full-time judges.

5. Since present controls over drunk driving have proved ineffective, stricter laws should be passed requiring consent to allow a test for alcoholic blood content. A scale of increasing penalties is recommended for repeated convictions.

6. That courts be given greater discretion in the sentencing of drunk drivers, with some of the present loopholes in the law removed.

7. That a program be stepped up for the removing



of known road hazards even if it required an increase in gas and weight taxes to do it.

8. That all new drivers be required to take driver education instruction with longer training periods than are given at present.

9. That all motor vehicles be inspected for safety at regular intervals by state-authorized or state-operated inspection stations.

10. That a stepped-up program of public information regarding the traffic situation and its records be pursued—using all media of communication on a maximum basis.

Many such proposals will be considered by the Legislature at its 1965 session. You may want to talk them over with your Legislators. But don't be a "roadblock." *Death on the highway is the issue.*

FARMERS' CONCERN

The disastrous accident record on the rural roads in the past two years roused the concern of Farm Bureau delegates at the convention in November. They recommended the formation of County Farm Bureau Safety Committees to tackle the problem at the home level.

The delegates gave support in their action to the recommendations of the Governor's Commission regarding the regulation of drunk drivers, conditions for the licensing of drivers, and the removal of known road hazards.

They called upon farmers to use the utmost caution and care in the operation of slow-moving farm vehicles on the roads and highways so as to avoid the necessity of laws which could be more drastic than necessary for the farmers.

Accident Tolls Boost Auto Insurance Rates

The increasing volume and expense of Michigan's traffic accidents will necessitate a rate adjustment for auto policyholders of the Farm Bureau Insurance Group, according to N. L. Vermillion, Administrative Vice President. "The increase becomes effective January 1st, 1965."

The dollar amount of each policyholder's rate adjustment will depend on driver classification.

"Farm Bureau Companies, like insurance companies throughout Michigan, have encountered increasing auto claim expenses during recent years," Vermillion stated. "This accounts for the general upward trend of rates throughout the state."

More Michigan residents are having traffic accidents each day and the resulting costs—medical care, repairing damaged vehicles, and liability judgments—are increasing at a rapid rate.

Premium rates are determined by the driver's classification, which is based on factors such as age, sex, vehicle use, geographical location, and type of vehicle. When the dollar amount of claims paid in a certain classification increases substantially, rates must be adjusted to maintain protection for all policyholders. The accident volume in some rural areas, for example, is growing faster than that of urban areas.

In addition to immeasurable suffering and pain, Michigan's 1964 traffic accidents caused a

financial loss which has been estimated at \$380,000,000, the insurance official continued. This is an increase of \$40,000,000 or about 12 per cent over 1963.

"In spite of rising expenses, the Farm Bureau Insurance Group will continue to do everything possible to provide policyholders the most comprehensive coverage available while maintaining the lowest possible premiums," Vermillion said.

Policyholders were urged to contact their Farm Bureau agent if questions arise concerning the rate adjustment. The 210 members of the agency force throughout Michigan can answer specific inquiries and gladly make any desired coverage changes.

PINPOINT BLAME

In pinpointing the responsibility for Michigan's rising accident record, the voting delegates of the Michigan Farm Bureau have placed part of the blame at the door of automobile manufacturers "whose present promotions stress horsepower, blazing starts and the speed capacity of their products."

At the same time, the Farm Bureau delegates noted that farmers themselves are often at fault and cited records which show a rising incidence of traffic accidents on rural roads. "Accidents on these roads and crossings have been rising faster than at any other point in our road system," they noted.

Among recommendations listed to help halt that disastrous trend were: use of seat belts, removal of road obstructions, full use of the red triangular metal warning flag on all slow-moving farm vehicles, safe operation of farm machinery, and the clearing of brush and tall crops that hinder vision at intersections.

"Failure to check the rising accident trend must mean rising insurance rates, to say nothing of the endless deaths, injuries and suffering," the farm leaders said.

New Blue Cross Benefits

The Michigan Farm Bureau announces a special arrangement with Blue Cross-Blue Shield, to provide continuous group coverage for 19-year old family members. The new, special lower-cost "rider" extends family benefits to these young adults at a great reduction in costs.

The special "Family Continuation Rider" (rider "F") is added to the parent's contract and provides continued Blue Cross-Blue Shield coverage for young adults between the ages of 19-25.

It makes possible a 50 per cent reduction in cost from the present single-subscriber rate. Coverage will be the same as the parent's contract.

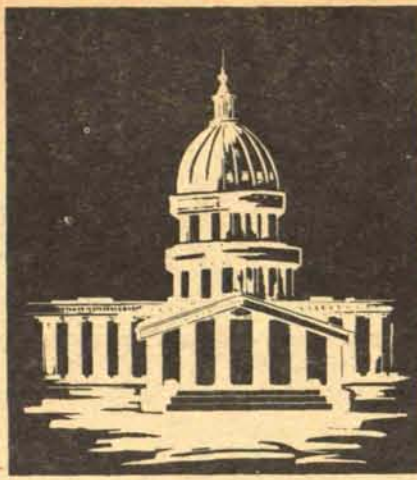
To be eligible for family continuation coverage, the dependent must be: (1) unmarried, (2) dependent on parents for more than half of his support as defined by the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and reported as such on the parent's most recent income tax return, (3) a legal resident in the parent's home (temporary residence at school or summer camp also constitutes "legal residence" at home).

Application forms for this special family continuation rider have been mailed to each Farm Bureau subscriber having a minor who reached the age of 19 in 1964.

Other Farm Bureau members with dependents between 20 and 25 years of age who are eligible for family continuation coverage will be given the opportunity to select this "rider" at the next Farm Bureau group re-opening in March.

Nineteen-year-olds who do not qualify for Rider "F" will continue to be offered Blue Cross-Blue Shield group coverage in their own name under their parent's Farm Bureau membership at single-subscriber-rates as is the present policy.

capitol report



Policy "Briefing" Planned

Michigan Congressmen are meeting with National Affairs Committees of County Farm Bureaus prior to the opening of the first session of the 89th Congress on January 6.

The State's delegation is composed of 12 Democrats and 7 Republicans. Seven of the 12 Democratic Congressmen will be "freshmen" serving their first term.

In familiarizing themselves with Farm Bureau policies, the Congressmen are hearing the report of decisions hammered out at the American Farm Bureau Federation convention held at Philadelphia December 7-10, 1964.

The meetings were scheduled in late December so that the Congressmen could have the advantage of the most recent thinking of farmers.

Delegates at the Philadelphia convention recognized the need for change in the present price support and adjustment program. They urged that the present wheat and feed grain laws be repealed or be allowed to expire. New wheat legislation should be enacted in time to eliminate the necessity for another referendum on the wheat certificate plan now called for under existing law. This would propose the same program which was vigorously rejected by wheat growers on May 21, 1963.

In order to clear the slate for new legislation, delegates would eliminate the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture for wheat marketing quotas and acreage allotments and would repeal the multiple price wheat plan. The 1963 Feed Grain Act and the wheat program applying only to 1964 and 1965 would be permitted to expire.

The Farm Bureau program would enable each farmer to decide for himself which crops he should grow, how much of each he should produce, and whether or not he should place a part or all of his farm under a cropland retirement contract. Price supports on wheat and feed grain would be set at the U. S. farm price equivalent of the average world market price during the preceding three years but not less than 50% of parity. Support prices set in this manner, (1) would permit the market to operate, (2) would not encourage unneeded production but (3) would provide protection against a substantial drop in wheat and feed grain prices. To prevent depressing market prices, the Secretary would be prohibited from selling CCC surplus stocks of wheat and feed grains at less than 125% of prevailing price support levels, plus carrying charges.

Farm Bureau delegates put emphasis on a "practical land retirement program" which would help adjust agricultural production to effective market demand. The proposed program would be temporary and voluntary. It would provide for competitive bids by farmers and would take cropland out of production for three to five years. (Land diverted to timber production could

be placed under contract for up to ten years.)

The program would emphasize the retirement of whole farms, thus greatly reducing the cost of administration and permitting low income farm families to look for better opportunities in other endeavors. Grazing of retired acres would be prohibited.

The Farm Bureau proposal would cost much less than the present program, which has retired land on a year-to-year basis, permitting rotation of acres. It is estimated that 40-60 million acres should be retired in order to adjust agricultural production. An average figure of \$15.00 per acre has been estimated. During the previous cropland retirement program, the average cost was \$10.55 per acre, with more land offered than could be accepted.

After vigorous debate, delegates recommended elimination of the price support on soybeans. Said one delegate — "We'll never be in a better position to eliminate soybean supports."

Delegates devoted much attention to improving the cotton program. During the past 30 years, cotton has lost much of its market to synthetics, partly because of high price supports. The national cotton allotment is now 16 million acres. At one time 48 million acres were devoted to the production of cotton. It is estimated that 10 million acres actually could grow enough cotton for the present market. Acres not growing cotton move into soybeans, grain sorghum or other crops thus competing with general agriculture.

The Farm Bureau program would provide a gradual reduction in cotton price supports and a new proposal would offer an allotment retirement program whereby the grower could release his allotment permanently in exchange for three annual rental payments.

The Farm Bureau program also calls for the gradual reduction and elimination of the cotton mill subsidy program now costing \$300 million per year.

Delegates supported the Sugar Act and proposed to increase the basic quotas for mainland sugar as well as increasing the domestic portion of market growth.

Delegates also authorized support for a two-year extension of the present Wool Act. Delegates recognized that wool growers need a better program and called

for action on eight points for improvement. In order to provide time for this program to become effective, delegates supported a two-year extension of the present Wool Act.

U. S. mill consumption of apparel wool has continued to decline while the consumption of wool-like synthetics has increased to five times its 1954 level.

Apportionment of state Legislatures is another topic to be discussed with Congressmen in the series of meetings. Farm Bureau is supporting two actions. One — an amendment to the United States Constitution providing that one House of a state Legislature may be apportioned on the basis of factors other than population. The other deals with resolutions to be passed by state Legislatures, calling on Congress to initiate a Constitutional Convention for the purpose of amending the U.S. Constitution.

Two thirds of the states must initiate such action before a Convention may be called. Ratification by three-fourths of the states will accomplish the actual Amendment.

These actions would mean little to Michigan unless the Courts strike down Michigan's present gerrymandered apportionment as violating the state's Constitution.

Farm Bureau Membership Pays Off!

Henry Nelson, prominent Ionia orchard owner and farm leader, recently expressed his beliefs concerning the importance of Farm Bureau and its market-development program. His statement follows:

Farm Bureau and its marketing organization, "MACMA" have been of definite economic value to me. I make this statement after experience gained as a long-time Farm Bureau member and as a member of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association for the past four years.

MACMA sold my last two processing apple crops. I am convinced that the action of this Farm Bureau affiliate has netted me at least an extra twenty to thirty cents per hundredweight of apples sold, for both years. That's a lot of extra income when one considers the nearly 30,000 bushels of apples involved this year alone.

What is not so apparent is the effect this marketing association has had on the rest of the industry. This year was one of our heaviest crop years. Usually a bumper crop means that farmers take a licking. This year, through



GOV. GEORGE ROMNEY congratulates Ernie Porterfield, Farm Bureau member from Harrietta, on becoming Michigan's 1,000th "active" tree farmer. Porterfield, a pulpwood producer and sawmill operator, told Gov. Romney, "I'm glad I came in the middle of the century, for tree farming promises a future for this once stump-dotted state." The Wexford County tree farmer and his son, Jim, produce about 3,000 cords of pulpwood and 15,000 board feet of lumber annually.

Apple Prices Move Up

For the first time in modern memory, the price of a bumper crop of Processing apples has increased as the year progressed. This is exactly opposite of former trends where a bumper crop usually spelled low prices, drifting toward prices still lower.

The Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) this week reported a further substantial increase in price for Spys and other preferred varieties out of storage. The increase in Spys was a full 50¢ per hundredweight on sales made just prior to Christmas, bringing them to the \$4.00 mark. This is a price considered "in line" with earlier MACMA suggested prices.

Michigan processing apple growers look upon the price increase as direct proof of the value of their Farm Bureau member-

ship and of MACMA's ability to deal with processors in matters of price and other terms of trade.

An affiliate of the Michigan Farm Bureau, the MACMA organization is one of the newer "economic services" in Farm Bureau's substantial market development program.

In a year when Michigan's apple crop of 18½ million bushels (compared to last year's small crop of 12 million) threatened to engulf producers with vast tonnages of low-priced, marked-down apples, the marketing efforts of MACMA have been largely credited with holding the price level to a realistic figure.

In the opinion of many growers, Farm Bureau — through MACMA — "held the price level at least 50¢ per bushel higher than it would have been."



PART OF THE CROP — from 100 acres of apples, is examined by Henry Nelson in his orchard near Ionia. A strong Farm Bureau booster for more than a decade, Nelson has been an early supporter of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) — the processing apple marketing successes of which he feels could be spread to other commodities.

Farm Bureau's action with MACMA, the processing apple prices held up, and have even seen an increase in prices recently.

Of course, not everyone grows processing apples, but it is apparent to me that Farm Bureau strength can be used just as effectively in other areas, in other commodities and crops. The business-like manner in which MACMA has conducted itself in

the processing apple-area sets an example for Farm Bureau marketing associations elsewhere.

Over the years I have heard farm neighbors say many, many times, "farmers should get together to get things done." Well, here is a going Farm Bureau outfit that can benefit all of Michigan agriculture.

I say 'Join Farm Bureau' and use it to build the marketing tools we need.

Wilbur Smith's

Iron-Curtain Agricultural Report...

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Smith, Burlington, were among a group of 59 Michigan farm people who toured Iron Curtain countries in September. Included were visits to farming areas of Poland, Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union. Wilbur is District 2 Director on the Michigan Farm Bureau Board. Mrs. Smith (Ruth) formerly taught school for many years. Their tour account follows:

QUESTION: What do you feel is the most important single thing you have gained from your Russian experience?

RUTH: The fact that it truly was a person-to-person experience. We wondered if Russians have the same opportunity to observe us as we did in visiting them. Our question was answered as we came back on the plane from Brussels, for we discovered 25 Russian farmers coming to Ohio, to gain impressions of farming there.

I feel that it is through such people-to-people programs that we will eventually solve the world peace situation. Everywhere we went, people in the schools, those one met in the street—all said they wanted peace, "we want to be friends with the United States . . ."

QUESTION: I wonder if they mean the same things as we do when they use the word "Peace?"

WILBUR: I don't know. Since Khrushchev is gone—it is my opinion that the people of Russia will be worse off than before. At least the people of the towns felt that they were treated much better under Khrushchev than under Stalin.

QUESTION: What was your impression of Moscow?

WILBUR: We stayed at the big Leningrad Hotel. That night we were just wandering around and ended up finally at the train depot across the street from the hotel. There we discovered hundreds of people waiting to get somewhere. Most were poorly dressed, many clutched a few tomatoes, a few apples, or watermelons. Many were stretched out, sleeping, surrounded by their possessions.

QUESTION: How were people on the street dressed?

RUTH: I would say that just going along the street in Moscow, one would think they were on any street in America. People were well dressed and they combed their hair about the same way as we do. They have permanents—I got a hair-set for 75¢ in Moscow—the same thing cost me \$4.00 in Switzerland. They wore about the same kind of shoes with high-heels as we do. However, the peasants are another matter. Although their clothing appears clean, they dress more as we think of Russians dressing—women have long, shapeless and coarse dresses, shoes are flat and without style.

QUESTION: What were your impressions of "Iron Curtain" farming?

WILBUR: After leaving Moscow, we went into Poland, and visited both a Collective and a State Farm there. There are also a few private farms left in Poland. A State Farm is a true, state owned and operated enterprise, with wages paid by the "State." A collective farm is considered more on a "cooperative" basis, in that "wages" come out of gains made, if any, at the end of the year.

One man had 80 acres and some pretty good machinery on his "private" farm. He was making an equivalent of four or five thousand dollars per year. Mostly on sugar-beets. We found out that at the end of the year the government steps in to remove more than half of this for "taxes." Too, there are controls that can be exercised, and if for any number of reasons the government officials decided that the farm is not being "economically" handled, they can step in and confiscate it.

All through Poland we saw such things as one horse, pulling a single plow, just as the pioneers of America did to break the prairie sod here about 200 years ago. Single-horse, one-section drags—grain drills of 7 or 8 holes, show how far behind the times this part of the world is.

QUESTION: What about farming in the Soviet Union itself?

RUTH: Sixty per cent of the Russian people live on farms.

I think there are four things wrong with Russian farming. In the first place, the people who manage the "Collectives" are not necessarily farmers. At the Collective where we visited in Tbilisi—we asked the manager what he did before coming to the farm. He said that he had been a clerk in a city office, yet now three years later, here he was managing this farm.

I would say that the Russian farm machinery is the next major defect within their system. We saw little machinery on the farms. They always said that it was "busy out in the field," but we never saw any out in the fields other than a few pieces that didn't even seem workable. The machinery we did see had not been taken care of.

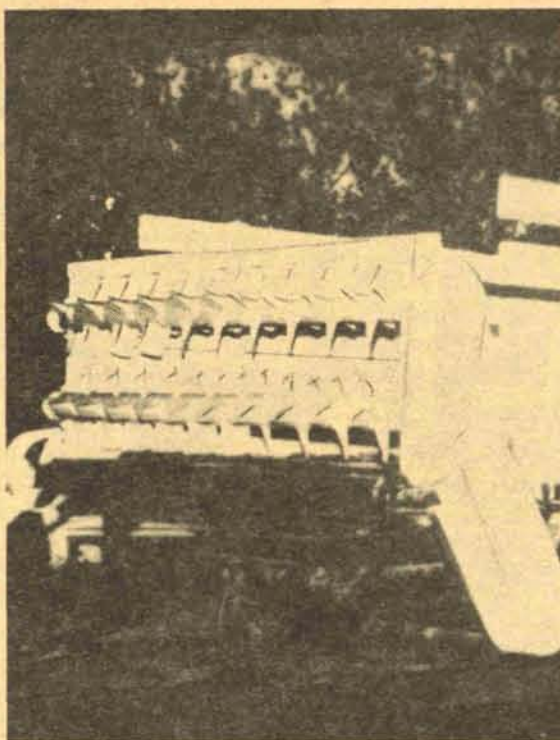
The next thing that is wrong with Russian Agriculture, and they admitted this, is that they do not have the chemical fertilizers which they need.

But the fourth and most important thing wrong with Russian farming is the lack of initiative caused by their system.

Since private enterprise is not allowed, the people who love the land, who would be best to farm it, are not allowed to do so. When you are not doing something for yourself, one does not put complete effort into it. The peasants are allowed from a half, to a full-acre of land, and a cow and a calf, a pig and a few chickens. This is theirs. They may use it themselves, or sell their produce. You can readily guess where the real time and energy goes.

We have a picture of a corn patch next to a house. Wilbur is standing in it, and it is very tall, very green patch of lovely corn.

We went out into the main cornfield for a comparison, and it is there that you see the difference between Communism and private enterprise.



GIGANTIC MACHINES are proudly displayed to impress visitors at the Moscow Exposition. Although monster machines such as this multi-beater manure spreader are on year-around display, they are seldom found at work on collective farms, tourists report.



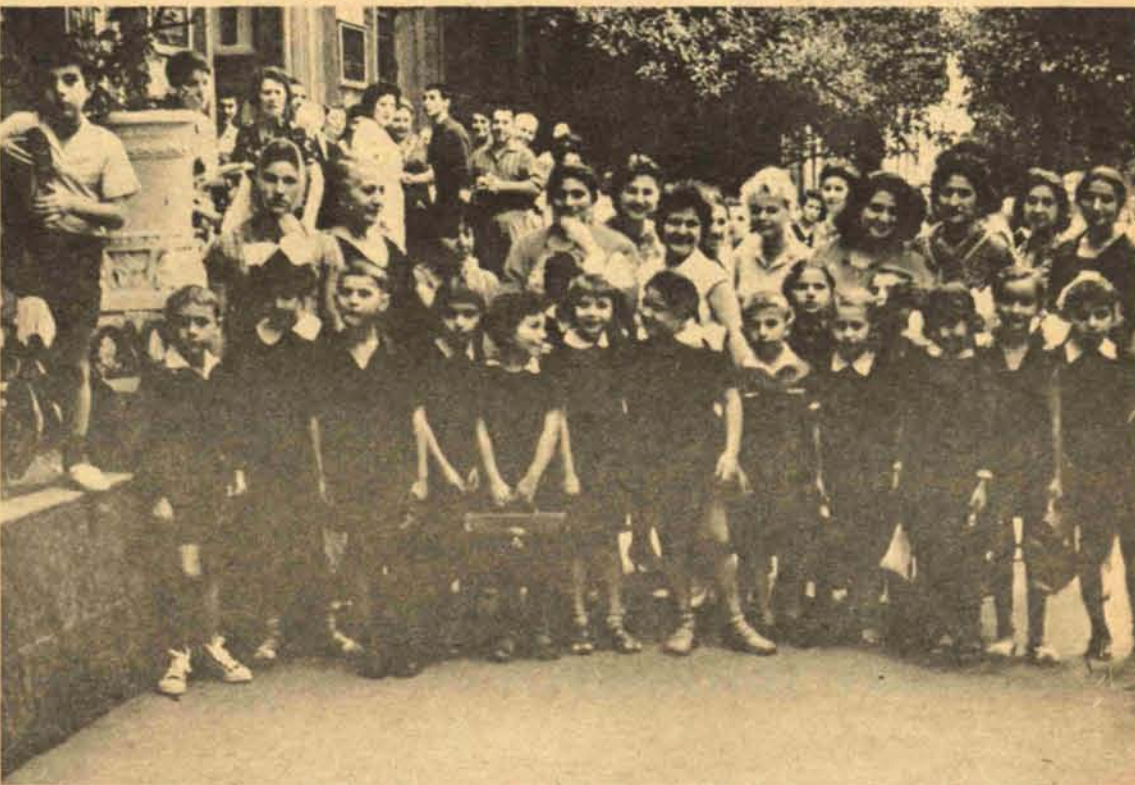
PIONEER PLOW almost identical with those used to break U.S. prairie sod 200 years ago, is a common one-horse tool on "modern" Russian farms. Visitors report many one-horse implements such as drills and drags. Modern farm machinery is scarce.



PRIVATE-ENTERPRISE CORN is lush and well tended. By comparison "Government corn" is weedy and stunted. Wilbur Smith stands in shoulder-high one-acre field granted to Peasants by government decree. Russian farmers lavish attention and care on these private plots.



PEASANT CLOTHING is coarse and shapeless, and has much the appearance of that worn by pioneer immigrants to the United States years back. These citizens were hiking along a typical dirt and gravel farm-to-market road.



RUSSIAN STUDENTS LINE UP for photograph made in Baku. The Smiths were much impressed with school officials and the strict disciplines under which students worked. Many students speak excellent English. Mrs. Smith said, "as a Kindergarten teacher I made note of the fact that youngsters do not start 1st grade until they are 7 years old. Before then the children often attend nursery schools where they are taught involved subjects such as 'morals' and ideology."

Freedom, Economic Forums

Smith Sets Example

By Norman A. Brown
Coordinator of Student Programs
Michigan State University

People interested in the future of Michigan agriculture could well take note of the example set by Michigan Farm Bureau president, Elton Smith.

Smith, an outstanding Kent County dairyman, has been responsible for guiding one of Michigan State University's outstanding students into a career in agriculture. Jerry Good, a dairy major in the Michigan State University College of Agriculture, gives Smith much credit for encouraging him to attend Michigan State University.

Good, a city boy, worked on the Smith dairy farm during high school. Smith provided the boy with a dairy calf and encouraged him to join a 4-H Club and study vocational agriculture in high school. Upon graduating from

Caledonia High School, he wasn't sure about furthering his education. Smith brought the young man to the Michigan State University campus and introduced him to faculty members in the dairy department.

Young Good has earned all of his expenses through working summers and during the school year. In his junior year he was awarded a Dairy Memorial Scholarship which provides tuition and this has been his only outside help.

Good gets-up each morning at 1:45 a.m. and works till 6:45 a.m. milking the cows at the Michigan State University dairy research barns before going off to his first class. Other sleep is worked in between classes and in the evenings. That is, when he isn't busy with campus activities such as the Dairy Club. Jerry served this student club as vice president last year and is now president.



WORKING TOGETHER — In planning a pilot program for "building a better economy" are Farm Bureau leaders from ten, south Michigan counties. Meeting at Olivet College, they planned with college and Michigan Farm Bureau Officials, a seminar on national economics for farm leaders. Counties participating are: Branch, Ingham, Hillsdale, Ionia, Jackson, Calhoun, Eaton, Kalamazoo, Barry and Clinton.

Freedom and Economics, two areas of prime concern to Michigan farmers, will be examined in a series of conferences scheduled by the Family Program Division of the Michigan Farm Bureau for January and February.

Included will be the annual Farm Bureau Freedom Conference, to again be held at Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, February 11-12.

The seminar on economics will be conducted in six consecutive weekly sessions beginning January 22, at Olivet, as a joint project of the Michigan Farm Bureau and Olivet College.

FREEDOM FORUM

According to J. Delbert Wells, Manager of the Family Program Division, Dr. Walter Judd, famed expert on the Far East and former Minnesota Congressman, will be featured on the Freedom Conference program. Judd served as a medical missionary to China and is the former chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. He will outline potential trouble spots around the globe and in another session will deal with the Southeast Asian situation.

Because of his personal knowledge of internal China and service on the Foreign Affairs Committee, Judd is considered one of the greatest authorities on the hot war in the Chinese-Vietnam theatre.

A second major topic of the Freedom Conference is titled "What follows state Reapportionment by Court Decree?" Many states are in positions similar to Michigan, in that they will be legislatively reapportioned by court decree on a strictly population basis.

Leaders well-versed in Constitutional Government warn that this is the first step toward a complete change away from our Constitutional Republic. "What to expect next?" and "how fast will it come?" are questions to be studied.

Group sessions are planned again this year to discuss how a political party operates and local opportunities to work within a political party. Four discussion groups are planned to include: (1) precinct or township work; (2) what your county party chairman does; (3) proper voting procedures — machine, paper,

Massachusetts ballots; (4) Party structure and recent changes in party law.

The Freedom Conference is open to the public. Every County Farm Bureau is urged to send a substantial delegation.

ECONOMIC AREA

Discussions centering around our American private-enterprise system will be featured on the six-session "Seminar on Economics" scheduled for Olivet College later this month.

A "pilot" program currently limited to residents in the ten county area surrounding the college, the seminar has goals aimed at creating a better understanding of our private capitalistic system, and to help rural leaders

become more eloquent in its defense.

Meeting on six consecutive Fridays, starting January 22, the sessions will center on such topics as: (1) money, (2) banks, (3) investment companies. Following this will be discussion of the part played by the iron, steel, and petroleum industries as representative of our basic resources.

Later in the series there will be discussions on Farm Bureau's program of economic services and on distribution services such as retailing and credit.

The final session will deal with government policy as it effects business, price and costs.

Success of this pilot project will tie into plans to expand the program into other areas of the state.

Rural Electric Report...

By Jim Porter

"Top O' Michigan" Rural Electric Company

Most readers are familiar with cooperative type enterprises, but few are aware of the unique aspects of rural electric co-ops — their problems and handicaps.

There are facts which have been forgotten, taken for granted, or never known, which should be set forth concerning the manufacture (generation), wholesaling (transmission) and retailing (distribution) of electrical energy.

To begin, electrical energy cannot be economically or efficiently packaged, frozen, concentrated, or otherwise stored for future use. Rather it is generated, transmitted, and distributed to the point of use instantly — at the rates of 186,000 miles per second. I think you'll agree, that is prompt service.

Electric cooperatives which generate and transmit energy are commonly known as "G & T" Co-ops. There are two such co-ops in Michigan.

The second, more common type are distribution or retailing co-operatives. Thirteen of these serve their 96,000 member-users in our state.

The assets of a distribution co-op consist of wires, poles, transformers, rolling stock, specialized labor force, funds, buildings, land and equipment necessary for delivering, recording, and billing of energy, plus the construction of new facilities, as well as maintaining the existing delivery system.

Electric co-ops have no "inventory" of kilowatt hours, thus, their function is to supply energy

on demand to a member-user at any time, day or night, 365 days a year, on a cooperative basis.

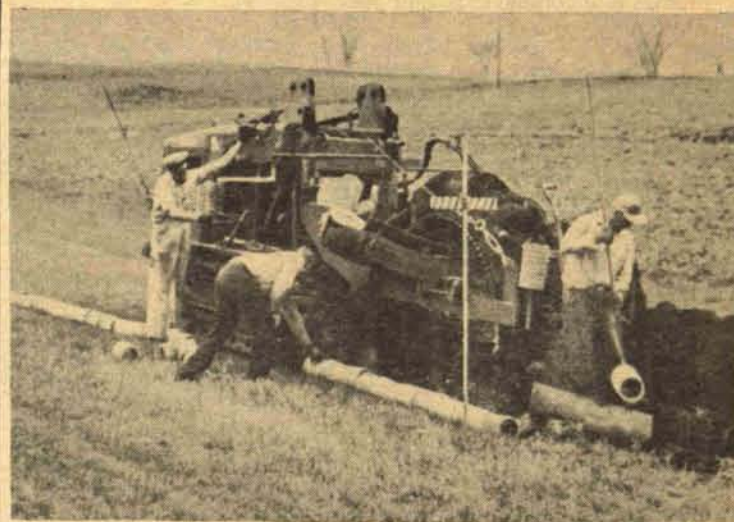
This demand is limited only by the need of each member-user, generally requiring no advance notice or ordering. A flick of a switch and a light bulb glows, or a multiple horsepower motor labors uncomplainingly.

The cost to build and maintain any electric distribution system in relation to its revenue is greater than in any other industry. This presents finance problems in not only initial construction, but maintenance also. This further complicates the difficult task of rural electrification.

Electric cooperatives are neither government owned, nor controlled. They are NOT tax exempt. NOT failures, but disturbingly successful. NOT Communist-socialistic, but are FREE enterprise. Not outmoded — needless, but a vital, necessary economic force.

Non-political — a kilowatt couldn't care less about Republican and Democratic differences...

Put unproductive acres
back to work with
low-cost
concrete drain tile



Draining waterlogged land lets you plant earlier, increases yields. In fact, concrete tile—with its low first cost—can pay for itself the first year in profits from higher crop production.

Installation is simple—and fast. Uniform in shape and thickness, with straight cut ends, concrete tile are easily aligned for maximum drainage. And concrete's high strength and durability provide years of trouble-free service.

Concrete tile are manufactured and designed for local soil and weather conditions. Get maximum production from your croplands by installing concrete drain tile. See your local concrete drain tile manufacturer or tiling contractor. He will be glad to give you estimates on the tiling job you have in mind and suggest the best tile size to use.

Portland Cement Association

900 STODDARD BUILDING, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933
An organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete

Dairymen Discuss Milk Market-Order

Dairymen attending the annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau took active part in debate concerning a proposed resolution that called for a share of Class I milk sales to be allotted each producer, based on his production history. The voting delegate body took no action on the resolution other than to encourage study of the proposed legislative actions and asked for a vigorous educational program to inform Farm Bureau members of these proposals, "including the so-called Class I Base Program."

This article is the first in a series aimed at carrying out this policy.

By Don Moore, Manager
Market Development Division

Much attention in recent years has been focused on dairy marketing. Several government programs have been proposed, but the only one found generally acceptable to both Congress and to farmers has been a support price maintained through purchase by the Commodity Credit Corporation.

In the last two sessions of Congress there has been considerable support for legislation which would permit the establishment of a so-called "Class I Base" Federal Milk Order markets.

The aim of the plan is to guarantee a milk producer in a Federal Order market a share of the Class I (bottled milk) sales based on his production history. The thinking is that the dairyman always knows how much of his milk would receive the higher Class I price and he would then be less anxious to produce excess milk.

In these articles I shall try to discuss some of the background for the interest in such a plan, some reasons favorable to it, some reasons unfavorable to it, and possible alternatives.

BACKGROUND

The base-excess plan for marketing milk was devised many years ago to help balance milk production throughout the year. Prior to the widespread establishment of Federal Milk Orders, some variations to the base-excess plan were in use. All had the goal of eliminating the spring flush and fall "drought."

As is well understood by those producers who market their milk under a base-excess plan, the base period is set during the months of low production. The average daily delivery during this period becomes the "premium" priced milk for the following year.

In Southern Michigan, the present base is calculated as average daily production of the 5 months, August through December. A 122 day minimum and 153 day maximum is used in the calculation. Because of every-other-day pick up, 154 days may be used in some cases. Bases run from February to February.

Production statistics show that seasonal peaks and lows have been pretty well leveled out. When the Southern Michigan market is compared to markets which do not have such a plan, it can be seen how well the goal has been accomplished. For example, Michigan's variation runs approximately 8% from high to low. In contrast New York with a seasonal premium of \$1.00 during the low production months, runs about 26%. However, some other markets have an extremely favorable balance of production.

While base-excess plans have done well at balancing production throughout the year, they have not done so well at holding down the production of unneeded milk

to maintain their share of the higher priced milk.

The amount of money available to pay for base milk depends upon the amount of milk sold as Class I within the market. After the total value of Class I and II milk is computed, then this amount must be allocated to base milk and excess milk in the market. Excess milk is assigned the value of Class II. The balance of the fund can then be used for base milk.

As Class I sales increase, more money is available; but as the base percentage increases, more and more base milk must go into Class II—the same as though it were excess. Consequently, the base price decreases.

The question becomes — to what extent does the base-excess plan contribute to the increase in supply in the market? And would the old seasonal production patterns return if the plan were discontinued?

within the market. The effectiveness of the base-excess plan depends on placing a premium on production during the base forming months. In so doing it has created a situation which is commonly known as the "base race."

Producers are put in the position of competing against each other — and themselves to constantly increase their base in order

INFORMATION MEETING TO BE HELD

A meeting to discuss the Dairymen's Class I Base proposal will be held under Farm Bureau sponsorship, the evening of January 28.

The meeting will be strictly informational with ample time for questions. No attempt will be made to promote or dissuade thinking regarding the plan. A panel of University people who have no commitment for or against the Class I Base will take part in the discussion.

Farmers interested in learning what the Class I Base plan really is, and what its possibilities and limitations are, should plan to attend this session. County Farm Bureau dairy committees are particularly urged to be present.

Date: January 28

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: 109 Anthony Hall, Michigan State University

Attention Farmers...

If you need more than you can pay for now, ask your co-op manager about a PCA-Farm Supply Line of Credit

When your spring operating needs outrun your checking account, see the manager of your cooperative where supplies for your farm are sold. He can tell you how to say "Charge It" and save money at the same time. The answer: a PCA-Farm Supply Line of Credit.

All you have to do is fill out the application at your cooperative. Production Credit is cooperating with you and your co-op manager, and a PCA fieldman will visit your farm to complete the details quickly. On approval, you can buy your

spring, summer and fall needs as your situation demands.

Repayment schedules to your co-op are planned to fit your farm income. And you'll find simple interest on the unpaid balance will lower your costs . . . enable your co-op to give you better service.

Talk to the manager of your cooperative this week. It's the way responsible farm operators say "Charge It" and still keep their supply cooperatives on a very competitive business basis.

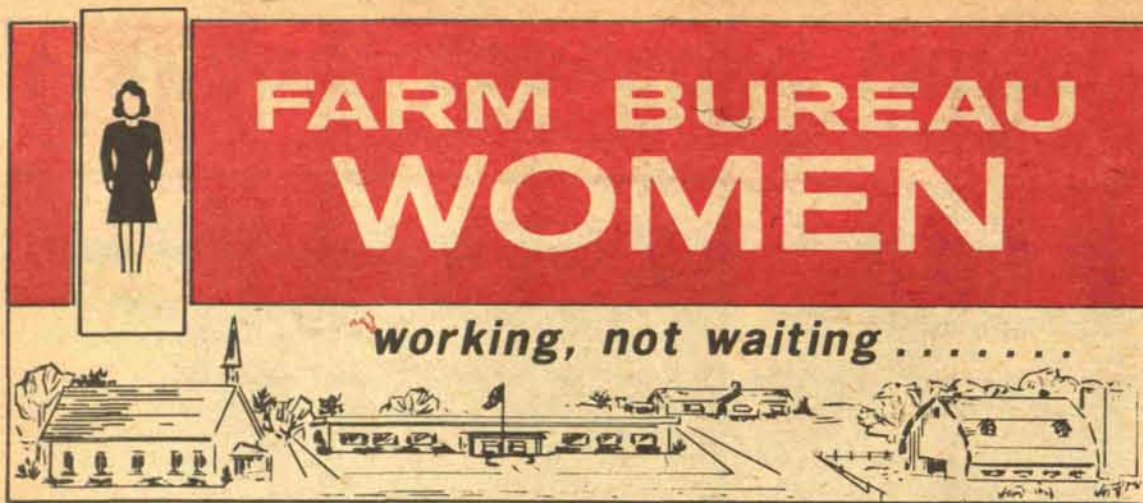
LOW COST LOANS

- Feeder Loans
- Improvement Loans
- Car and Truck Loans
- Farm Equipment Loans
- Operating Cost Loans



PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATIONS

Adrian • Allegan • Alma • Alpena • Jackson • Kalamazoo • Lakeview
• Ann Arbor • Bad Axe • Bay City • Lansing • Lapeer • Marshall
• Cadillac • Caro • Charlotte • Coldwater • Escanaba • Gaylord • Grand
• Paw Paw • St. Johns • Sandusky
• Rapids • Hillsdale • Howell • Ionia • Traverse City



A Time For Giving!

By Donna Wilber

Christmas is a time for giving, a time for receiving, a time for that warm inner-glow as we play the role first performed by the shepherds and wise men hundreds of years ago at a lowly manger in Bethlehem.

This true spirit of Christmas was evidenced throughout the state as Farm Bureau people again participated in their annual holiday projects. In *Alpena County*, members of the Women's Committee, representing 29 groups, each gave \$1.00 toward a gift for the 42 retarded children at the Pied Piper School.



For the fifth consecutive year, *Alpena County's* Silver City community group has sent a Christmas gift box to their adopted ward at the Traverse City State Hospital. Each of the 61 patients in this ward received a personally signed Christmas card plus money to pay for treats at their Christmas party.

Gifts for the elderly was chosen as the Christmas project for the *Chippewa County* Women. Almost 80 gifts were contributed to residents of Maple Lodge, county home for the aged, and to the patients in the long-term care ward of War Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Robert Sims, committee chairman, reports that much appreciation was expressed by these institutions for remembering people who would possibly otherwise be forgotten.

The *Calhoun County* Farm Bureau Women showed the true spirit of Christmas by contributing to CARE. Their December meeting speaker was Dr. Charles Swan, sociologist from Albion College. Dr. Swan spoke on Africa and its contributions and influence on the progress of the world. He pointed out that all men are of one race — the human race.

A heartwarming person-to-person Christmas project took place in *Shiawassee County* when the Women's Committee entertained ten retarded school children, their teacher and two of the mothers.

The children, who are trainable, but not educable, brought along Christmas centerpieces, jewelry, plaques and handpainted pillow cases which they had made. The school is supported through the sale of these gifts, also from United Fund and parents of the children. Organizations such as the *Shiawassee County* Farm Bureau Women's Committee, which donates regularly, help keep the school in operation.

In *Livingston County*, community groups have made donations of gifts and money to the Howell State Hospital.

The *Newaygo County* Women met in December for a luncheon featuring holiday dishes. Mrs. Doris Shapter, Home Extension Agent, was special guest. The women were intrigued with her demonstration of how familiar objects in the home could be turned into unusual and attractive centerpieces.

Mrs. Shapter spoke briefly on the human resources program. Just as agriculture has changed so much in the last few years, she said, changes in life will be occurring even more rapidly in the future. She explained that today's children will make up a large part of tomorrow's labor force and asked, "What of their preparation?" Discussion groups are being formed to bring these problems before the people, she said.

For the third year, the *Oakland County* Farm Bureau Women have chosen the county Medical Care Facility to be the recipient of their Christmas gift — this year a much-needed flexible walker for the physical therapy department. The ladies also provided the facility with Christmas records for their new phonograph.

When the *Lapeer County* Farm Bureau Women gathered for their annual Christmas party, complete with roast turkey and all the trimmings, they took a collection to buy candy for the Suncrest Hospital.

This has been an annual project of the Lapeer Women for the past 15 years. The candy is used in nut cups for the trays at the hospital for elderly folks.

These have been just a few examples. In almost every county, Farm Bureau Women's Committees spread joy to those less fortunate than they. And because they cared, the true spirit of Christmas was theirs.

WASHINGTON AIR TOUR, MARCH 14-17

The sixth annual Washington Legislative Air Tour, sponsored by the Farm Bureau Women, has been set for March 14-17.

Cost? — \$101.57 for air transportation, three nights at the famous Willard Hotel, several meals, tips, etc. For more details, write to: Farm Bureau Travel Service, Information Division, 4000 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing.



WELCOME TO PHILADELPHIA — Those attending the American Farm Bureau annual meeting in Philadelphia, December 7-10, were greeted by gingham-clad "Freedom Era" ladies from the Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, Women's Committee. Receiving programs from Mrs. Beryl Young, Morristown, and Mrs. Maynard Rothenberger, Lansdale, are (left to right): Ted Landis, Calhoun County Farm Bureau president, and Mrs. Landis; Mrs. Smith and Wilbur Smith, Michigan Farm Bureau board member from Dist. 2.

AFBF Women Meet

By Mrs. Wm. Scramlin, Chairman
Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Committee

Six Michigan Farm Bureau Women represented their state at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in Philadelphia, December 7-10. They were your state chairman, vice-chairman Mrs. Jerold Topliff, and four district chairmen — Mrs. Verness Wheaton, Mrs. George Southworth, Mrs. Earl Morehouse and Mrs. Earl Hendricks.

Our voting delegates dinner was held at the Sheraton Hotel with state Farm Bureau presidents as special guests. Each state chairman gave a one-minute report on an important project undertaken by the women during the past year. Michigan reported on the 20th birthday celebration and the new scholarship program.

At the women's annual conference, members of the American Farm Bureau Women's Committee presented a panel, "We, the People." This was a discussion of women's projects against the background of our great American heritage, much of which centers in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Haven Smith, chairman of the American Farm Bureau Women, chose as the title of her annual report, "Where to? — What next?" She mentioned great decisions in our country's history and the actions of women following these.

We all have great responsibilities at the present time accept-

ing our duties as citizens, she said, and stressed how effective we should be in our church "action" groups where citizenship, civic reform and policy-making are concerned.

Later, Mrs. Smith was re-elected chairman of the American Farm Bureau Women's Committee and Mrs. Wm. Wilkie of Arkansas was selected as the new vice-chairman.

Other important action included the presentation of the 1965 work program for Farm Bureau Women. Michigan will now incorporate parts of this total program into their own, as will other states, providing nationwide effectiveness.

The Michigan Women's delegates spent half a day sight-seeing in Philadelphia, viewing many historic places such as Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell.

We could not help but feel greatly challenged as we visited the sites which mark the birth of American freedom.



RECOGNIZE ANYONE? — Perhaps even yourself? This was the 1947 Northwest Farm Bureau Women's camp at Torch Lake. The photo was submitted by Mrs. Ray Neikirk who served on the board of directors when the Farm Bureau Women first became an official part of the organization 20 years ago. Her contribution to the Women's 20th birthday celebration at the annual meeting brought back some memories — this enjoyable camp among them. Mrs. Neikirk explains that the lone man in the front row, Mr. Wesley Hawley, M.F.B. staff member at that time, served as "watch dog" for the women, from his post just outside the camp gate.

Report Solid Membership GAINS!

A big membership gain for 1964 was reflected in the general tone of quiet optimism evident throughout the 46th annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau in Philadelphia, December 7-10.

At the same time that states announced reaching their membership goals, the American Farm Bureau tallied an all-time membership high of 1,647,455. This is an increase of over 19,000 farm families who decided that the "Farm Bureau way" is the right way. Thirty-eight of the forty-nine units of the American Farm Bureau Federation showed membership gains over 1963; some reported gains in every organized county. As Secretary-Treasurer Roger Fleming pointed out in his annual report, this increase came in the face of continuing declining numbers of farmers and declining farm profits.

Fleming also stated that the cost-price situation continues to get too little serious attention from the very lawmakers in Washington who are responsible for much of it. Although the gross income of farmers has increased by nearly one-fourth since 1947, he said that net farm income has dropped from 17.3 billion dollars to 12.5 billion in 1963.

"Farm Bureau must improve its relations with others, both inside and outside of agriculture," he added. "We will need to learn how to communicate our policies and programs with regard to food and fibre, especially to the urban people of this country. We need to let them know we are on their side — that there is no inevitable conflict between the welfare of producers and consumers, instead we have a common stake in a food and fibre producing industry that is both productive and free."

In his annual report to the delegates, American Farm Bureau president Charles B. Shuman asserted that government payments have only partially offset tremendous losses suffered by the producers of wheat, feed grains, cotton and other crops as a result of the government's price-depressing surplus disposal operations. He said that "with the Administration's payment program going full blast, net farm income continues to drop and family farms are being squeezed out of agriculture at a rapid rate."

"If the new Administration means what it says about making the market price system work, it will find that Farm Bureau will cooperate to the fullest extent."

Highlights of every convention are the special interest meetings, where specialists from many areas of agriculture discuss opportunities open to farmers. Robert Braden, representing MACMA, the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association, appeared at both the Organization and the Fruits and Vegetables conferences to report the success of the Michigan Farm Bureau in the area of apple marketing. Basic to the success of any program, he said, is the need for it and a willingness by the producers to utilize it.

"In Michigan," he reported, "we have been able to help only because we have merited the confidence of the producer and the respect of the buyer." He said that nearly two million bushels of apples will move this year through MACMA to processors, and that the industry shows signs of recording one of its biggest years.

Among outside speakers appearing was Senator Allen Ellender, chairman of the Senate Agricultural Committee. Noting that the new compensatory payment program for cotton is proving very expensive and ineffective, he called on Farm Bureau to "join hands with the members of Congress and others in providing agriculture with a sound and realistic program that will benefit all mankind."

Senator George Aiken, ranking Republican on the Senate Agricultural Committee, drew applause from the delegates when he called on Congress to submit the matter of legislative apportionment to the people for a vote. He called for "a fight to the finish" on this constitutional issue.

Voting delegates late in the session reiterated their support for a constitutional amendment guaranteeing to states the right to apportion one house of their legislature on the basis of factors other than population. They also called for a revision in the method for the selection of presidential electors. In the area of governmental programs, they requested programs "whereby farmers may earn and get a high per-family real income in a manner which will preserve freedom and opportunity."



PRESIDENTS SWAP NOTES — American Farm Bureau president Charles B. Shuman and Michigan Farm Bureau president Elton Smith, take time out from busy schedules to talk about their own families and farms. Shuman operates a grain and livestock farm with his sons in Sullivan, Illinois.



MARKETING DISCUSSION — Bob Braden of MACMA appeared before the Organization Conference and discussed some of the opportunities and problems in marketing farm products. Pointing out that MACMA helped move nearly one-half of the Michigan apple crop, he said, "This has happened because we have the confidence of the grower and the respect of the buyers." He added that such conditions result only when producers show an interest in, and use such a service.



AWARDS PROGRAM — Before a backdrop depicting Independence Hall, twenty-eight state Farm Bureau presidents receive membership awards of Philadelphia. This event was part of a two-hour pageant built around the struggles of the Founding Fathers to write a vital, living constitution which would encourage initiative and protect the rights of citizens for all time.

Detroit Junior Livestock Show...

A Farm Bureau family membership isn't really a requirement to enter the Detroit Junior Livestock Show, although a look at the "Winner's Circle" made it appear that way. All top honors at the 35th annual show, December 7-10th, went to 4-H youths from Farm Bureau families.

Dennis Good, 13, Charlotte, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Good, won grand champion honors with his 985-pound Angus steer. The steer, named "Count," won over 239 other entries exhibited by 4-H Club members from throughout lower Michigan. This was Dennis' fourth attempt to win grand champion honors in the Detroit show.

A pair of cousins, Philip and Gloria Schmiede of Chesaning, took top honors in the sheep show. Philip, 16, son of Mrs. Wilma Schmiede, exhibited the grand champion lamb, a 102 pound Hampshire which sold to Food Fair for \$4.75 per pound.

Cousin Gloria, 14, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Schmiede, exhibited the reserve grand champion lamb and a grand champion pen of Hampshire lambs.

Richard Wooden, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wooden, Cassopolis, walked off with top honors in the swine show. His grand champion barrow, a 220 pound Hampshire, was purchased for a record \$4.00 per pound by the Crown Packing Co. of Detroit. Richard also exhibited the grand champion pen of barrows.



TOP HONOR over 239 other steers was the accomplishment of Dennis Good, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Good, Eaton County Farm Bureau members, as he captured the grand champion steer award. His 985 pound Angus steer, named "Count" was sold in the traditional closing livestock auction for \$2 per pound.

Other winners were: JoAnn McCalla, Ann Arbor, reserve grand champion pen of barrows; Judy Sober, Fowlerville, reserve grand champion pen of lambs; Roderick Smith, Otisville, grand champion carcass lamb; Marlene Girbach, Saline, grand champion hog carcass; and Bruce Chamberlain, reserve grand champion steer carcass.

Also: Linda McCoy, Grand

Blanc, reserve grand champion steer; James Myers, Stockbridge, reserve grand champion carcass lamb, and Kathy Johnson, Flint, grand champion steer carcass.

A total of 240 steers, 119 lambs and 118 hogs were shown by 4-H Club members in the annual show sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service of Michigan State University and the Detroit Junior Livestock Society.



BEAUTY AND THE BEASTS — Gloria Schmiede, 14, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Schmiede, Saginaw County Farm Bureau members, exhibited the grand champion pen of lambs at the Junior Livestock Show. Gloria's cousin, Philip Schmiede, 16, also took top honors with his grand champion lamb.



PROUD YOUNG FARMER and happy buyer pose at the Detroit Livestock Show with the Champion pen of swine. Richard Wooden, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wooden, Cass County Farm Bureau members, also exhibited the grand champion barrow which sold for a record \$4 per pound. The buyer is Allen Chailupski, Kroger Co.

New Year's Greetings



**FARMERS
PETROLEUM
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

"THANK YOU!"

— those words best describe our appreciation of your support to Farmer's Petroleum Cooperative this past year.

1965

— will bring still greater expansion of F.P.C. savings and services because of your continued support. These savings, this service, will be explained early in 1965 at an exciting series of POWER FARMING programs.

POWER FARMING

— with Farm Bureau, will indeed be the big news of the big New Year. Prizes, luncheon, entertainment and impressive POWER FARMING demonstrations are all included.

SEE YOU THERE

— watch for announcements, or ask at your local County Farm Bureau office for program details.

"F.P.C." — provides
FarmPOWER, Cooperatively

Migrant Problems Studied!

"Throughout our travels with the migrants, we were very proud of the fact that we were from Michigan," Dr. Myrtle Reul told Michigan farmers attending the Farm Labor Management Workshop at Michigan State University recently.

Dr. Reul, a Social Studies Professor at Michigan State University, and her husband, a Lansing businessman, spent most of her sabbatical leave in a study of migrant farm workers in the United States.

During much of the time they traveled from farm to farm throughout the United States from Florida, Texas, California, Washington, Oregon and back into Wisconsin and Michigan. Part of the year was spent traveling with the seasonal farm workers and working in the fields and crops.

Dr. Reul offered the farmers attending the management workshop a number of very practical suggestions as to improvements which might be made to make the efforts of the workers more effective.

She highlighted her comments by pointing out that very often workers and their employers failed to communicate. The worker often does not understand, perhaps because of language problems, what is expected of him.

The farmer, said Dr. Reul, could improve the quality and quantity of the work turned out by his workers through a short training course. This could include examples and actual demonstrations of what should be accomplished and the best ways

of doing the work. Also, the establishment of confidence between the employer and the employee is important, said Dr. Reul.

As a specific problem, Dr. Reul pointed to the lack of toilet facilities in or near fields, which were sometimes as much as a mile across. She urged that growers consider providing portable, or temporary, toilet facilities.

"I didn't find any complaint anywhere on the wages paid in Michigan," Dr. Reul reported, "and I believe that Michigan can continue to attract migrant workers even though the competition will be greater next year." Dr. Reul was referring to the termination of the Mexican labor law (P.L. 78) and the increased competition for domestic farm workers which will put pressure on all users of migrant labor even though they may not have used Mexican Nationals in the past.

Questioned on her observations in Michigan farm housing, Dr. Reul said that Michigan housing lacks the opportunity for family privacy but has some of the best as well as some very poor housing. When asked whether she

avored a voluntary educational approach to improve housing, or legislation to provide minimum housing standards, Dr. Reul said voluntary progress is ideal but may be too slow. "We need minimum standards of housing, safety and health. We also need inspection."

The Farm Labor Management Workshop was arranged under the direction of Dr. Dan Sturt, of the Department of Agricultural Economics, in co-operation with the Continuing Education Service of M.S.U. The two-day workshop attracted nearly 100 seasonal farm labor users.

MIGRANT POLICY

Voting delegates to the recent annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation passed a comprehensive resolution dealing with migrant labor housing. They pointed out that substantial progress has been made in most areas as the result of substantial expense to farmers.

They said that the cooperation of workers in the proper use and care of facilities should be encouraged and that state Farm Bureaus should support the enactment of state laws relating to housing standards.

Business Agreement Signed With Farm Bureau Services



BUSINESS AGREEMENT — with Farm Bureau Services, Inc., is signed by board members of the Caledonia Farmers Elevator Company. Inking the agreement are (from left) Clarence Rodgers, director; Gerald Waldeck, secretary; Roy Noffke, treasurer and Frank Wiersma, president of the Caledonia Company.

The board of directors of the Caledonia Farmers Elevator Company, has signed a business service agreement with Farm Bureau Services, Inc., of Lansing. The agreement becomes effective January 1.

Such business service is available to elevator and farm-supply cooperatives which are stockholder members of Farm Bureau Services.

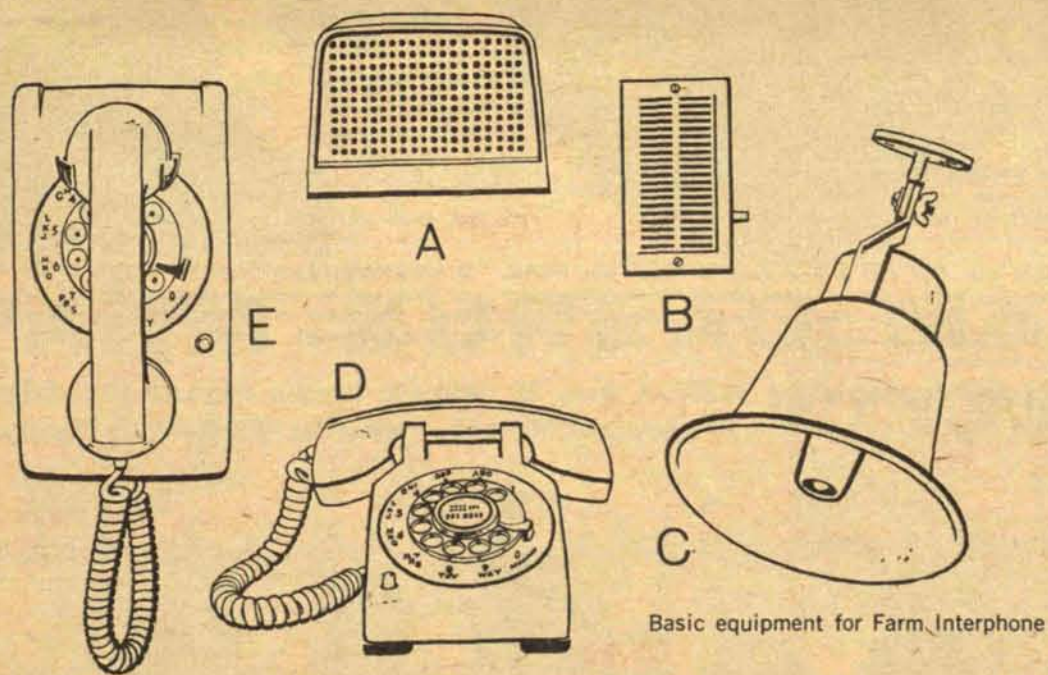
In signing the agreement, Frank Wiersma, president of the Caledonia company said . . . "Such business arrangements mean economies that result from

local integration with large operations. At the same time the board of directors retain management control."

Included in the business service are such things as monthly reports tabulated on electronic machines, a business analysis, management and employee development programs, an annual audit and preparation of tax returns.

Paul Kaechele, manager of the Caledonia company for the past 13 years will continue in the same capacity.

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D, of course, is your house phone, and E is your farm building extension. Additional phones and speakers can be installed, as needed.

But the real beauty of Farm Interphone is not the separate parts. It's the way they work together, to provide a really complete communications system for the farm. Regular telephone service is combined with a special on-farm communications hookup. You can reach people on the farm or off, quickly, with Farm Interphone.

Like more information? Equipment demonstration? Stop by or call our Business Office—we'll be glad to talk it over with you.



MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

Charlevoix County Farm Leader Retires



"BEST WISHES for a happy retirement" was the message that went with a set of luggage presented to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Willis by Charlevoix Co-op board of directors president George Smith. Willis retired as manager of the co-op after 27 years of service in that position.

Fred Willis, well-known Charlevoix area farm leader, has retired from his position as manager of the Charlevoix Farm Bureau Co-operative. He had been manager of the co-op since 1938, and still serves as the county Farm Bureau secretary.

Active in farming all his life, he has some firm ideas regarding today's agriculture, which he voiced recently in an interview with the *Charlevoix Courier*. "Farmers would be far better off if they didn't rely so much on the government and didn't allow Washington so much authority

over their business," he said.

He recalls agriculture's "heyday" in the 1920's when farming was the most important segment of the county's economy. Although he has watched the number of farmers in Charlevoix County decline over the years, he still believes there is a good future in agriculture. Willis feels that those farmers who work hard and keep pace with modern trends will continue to prosper.

The Charlevoix Co-op board of directors presented Fred and his wife with a set of luggage at a retirement party in their honor.

AGRICULTURE IN ACTION AROUND MICHIGAN

CURRIER AND IVES CHARM



"THE ROAD—WINTER"—said to be the most popular of all Currier and Ives prints, depicts leisure time serenity often associated with winter during the early 19th Century.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE



ADVISORY COMMITTEES—help guide the Michigan Farm Bureau in areas of special commodity interest. Pictured representing the Fruit Committee are (seated, left) Everett Wiles, chairman, Bangor, and Henry Nelson, Ionia. Looking over the agenda is Noel Stuckman of the Market Development Division.

MICHIGAN BEANS IN PARIS



MICHIGAN NAVY BEANS, in tomato sauce, are a hit in the U. S. exhibit at the "Salon International de l'Alimentation" in Paris. From the left is E. O. Crawford, representing the Michigan bean industry; American film star Jean Seberg, and Jacques Gauthier, representing a French firm of bean and pea importers.

HELPFUL FRIEND



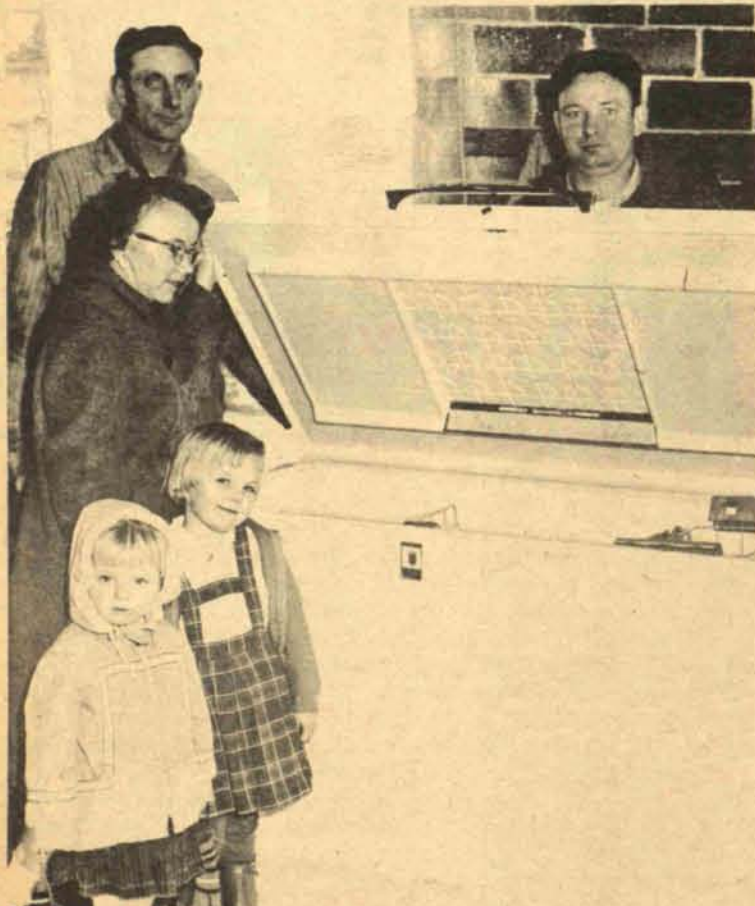
RATS ARE NOT ALL BAD,—some are your best friends. They help fight cancer and other diseases through laboratory research, reports the American Cancer Society. They add, "to cure more, give more."

ONE-HORSE HEAT



A "ONE HORSEPOWER" farm thermostat has been developed by Honeywell to control heating systems in horse and dairy barns. "Scamper," the horse in our picture, is only rated as a "Quarter-Horse"!

FARMERS PETROLEUM PRIZE



THE TOM KOPACZEWSKI FAMILY, — of Standish, pose with a 15-foot Unico Deepfreeze, won in state-wide competition from among thousands of entries in a Farmers Petroleum "Redi-Grip" tire promotion. Ben Jammer, Arenac and Bay county FPC Sales Representative helped deliver the prize.

STYLE SHOW FUN



FARM BUREAU WOMEN of District V modeled original designs at a fall hat and style show. Shown are: Belle of the Ball—Mrs. Richard Garn, Eaton; Tullula Toast—Mrs. Marvin Tiedeman, Genesee; Nattie Nellie—Mrs. Raymond Mayers, Clinton; Fi-Fi, the can-can girl—Mrs. Clarence Mead, Clinton; Sweet Sue—Mrs. Lida Dunning, Eaton, and Tillie Twist—Mrs. Merl Byington, Shiawassee. Clever narration by state chairman, Maurine Scramlin, added much fun to the program.

Farmers Speak Out — On Taxes!

Farm Bureau members were well represented at a series of public hearings held by a special Interim Legislative Committee studying the property tax and its effect.

Legislative Counsel, Bob Smith, arranged for Farm Bureau leaders from six counties to testify at the hearings.

In Detroit Ralph Burch (Wayne), this year's chairman of the state resolutions committee, told the Legislators that taxes on his 200 acre farm are now in excess of \$2,100. He rents additional land at no more than the owners have to pay in taxes. Ralph also read appropriate parts of Farm Bureau's state resolutions on tax reform passed by the delegates at our November Annual Meeting.

Mrs. Robert Tefft (Washtenaw) put special emphasis on the need for better land use planning pointing out that large acreages of highly productive farm land are being used for suburban developments without recognition of future food and recreational needs. This also results in excessive assessments on the remaining farms.

Allen Rush (Macomb) testified that the average Michigan farmer now pays about 13% of his net income on property tax alone, more than three times that paid by other economic groups. He said that his school taxes are now three times higher than they were and state aid for his school has dropped from 60% to less than 50%.

Frank Smith (Monroe) said he and his two brothers operate a vegetable farm of 400 acres with taxes in excess of \$4000 (about 80% for schools). He pointed out that elimination, through taxes, of specialized crop farming near cities would lead to higher fresh food prices to the city consumer due to higher costs between farm and market (transportation, labor, packing, etc.).

All four said that their county Farm Bureaus support a state in-

come tax to relieve taxes on real and personal property. All agreed that property taxes will continue to spiral upward in their counties due to the rapidly increasing population and the resulting demand for more schools and other governmental services.

On the following day in Lansing, the committee heard similar testimony from George Fogle and Stanley Fay (both are Ingham county dairymen). George said that the taxes on his 180 acre dairy farm near Lansing were four times higher in 1963 than they were in 1954. In one year (1963-64) they rose nearly 15%. He told of working on a school building committee with a professional man who couldn't understand why some were opposed to voting higher millage — the increase would cost him only \$20 a year but it costs George \$200 a year!

Stanley read parts of both the Ingham County and state Farm Bureau resolutions. He also had prepared a list of the taxes paid by various types of property in his township as compared to his own.

Gerald Waldeck (Kent) and Lee Cook (Kalamazoo) spoke at the hearing in Kalamazoo and related similar problems of farmers in highly populated counties. Gerald said that cities should not be allowed to pre-empt the use of the income tax as has happened in Ohio and other states. He called particular attention to the heavy personal property tax paid by farmers and felt that agriculture deserved the same consideration recently given industry through the exemption of "tools, dies, jigs, etc."

Lee outlined Farm Bureau recommendations for tax reform. He said property taxes must be lowered and a state wide income tax would be one of the most equitable means of achieving a balanced tax structure.

Farm Bureau member, Niles Hagelshaw, also appeared at this meeting for the Kalamazoo County Farm Bureau. He said that he recently toured the Communist countries in Europe and it was his observation that control of agriculture was first achieved by confiscatory property taxation. He told how the property tax is affecting his own farm. He said that, while he once opposed an income tax, he now believes it is the most equitable means of paying the necessary costs of government. Ownership of property is no longer an accurate measure of wealth or ability to pay.

Legislative Counsel, Bob Smith, testified at the Lansing hearing and explained in some detail

Farm Bureau's tax reform program with specific recommendations for action.

Others appearing at these hearings were, for the most part, city,

county, and school officials, and representatives of urban groups.

It must be noted that, as usual, Farm Bureau was the only spokesman for farmers!



INGHAM COUNTY FARMERS, — Stanley Fay (left) and George Fogle, pause outside the Supreme Court hearing room where they testified concerning the effect of property taxes on farm income. Both are active Farm Bureau leaders.



PROPERTY TAX STUDY COMMITTEE MEMBERS, — hear Mrs. Robert Tefft, Washtenaw county farmwife, testify concerning farm tax problems near a metropolitan area. Committee members include Representatives Davis, DeMaso (Chairman), Folks, McNeeley and Wales. Mr. and Mrs. Tefft are long-time Farm Bureau leaders.

FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS: 25 words for \$2.00 each edition. Additional words, 10 cents each. Figures such as 12 or \$12.50 count as one word. NON-MEMBER advertisers: 15 cents per word one edition, two or more editions, 10 cents per word. Copy deadline: 20th of the month.

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35 WOMEN

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Property Tax Relief—For Whom?

DISCUSSION TOPIC

Prepared by the Education and Research Department,
Michigan Farm Bureau

Why a statewide, flat-rate income tax? You should examine "THE WHY." Farm Bureau delegates gave the nod to such a tax for the third straight year at the November convention. Tied to their approval was the provision that such revenues be used to relieve farm property taxes.

Here is the picture. It is important to get it clearly in focus. Center your sights on the cold, hard facts of the tax situation facing farmers.

In 1950, farmers of Michigan paid \$15 million in property taxes. This was 4.9% of their net incomes, figured before taxes. By 1963, real and personal property took \$44.4 million of the farmers' net incomes in taxes—13.3%. This is two to three times the shock to income faced by any other group.

The direction is still up. Taxes on farm property have risen at a rate of 5% per year recently. Since 1948, property taxes for schools have multiplied almost 5 times.

The Michigan Legislature has shrugged the farmer's problem aside, for the most part. At the special session in November, the effort at tax reform was scuttled. It became jammed on the rocks of party politics, with one party fearing that another might be able to claim credit for progress.

During the regular session of 1964, a little progress developed in changing the state school aid formula, to base it on more than mere property valuation per pupil. Such changes can help. But adjustments in the school aid formula alone can never solve the problems of property tax pressures.

A century ago, property was a fair indication of ability to pay. This is no longer so. Incomes have little relation to property ownership today. Persons not owning property often realize more income than those who do. Maintenance costs on property have soared.

AND — UP THEY GO!

Unless alternatives are found, property taxes must increase at a startling rate. Schools face a future of expansion forced by the coming of more and more children. The need grows for special education programs for children with various kinds of handicap. We must broaden educational opportunities for employment training for youth who have dropped out of school and who wander the streets looking for jobs that do not exist, for untrained people.

Such educational programs are costly—but welfare programs are more costly.

SOME WOULD INCREASE LOAD

While Farm Bureau delegates propose ways of relieving property tax burdens, some legislators talk of things that would boost them.

As it now stands, 2½¢ of the 4¢ state sales tax goes to schools and local governments. But some legislators claim that local governments do not need what they are getting, and propose to knock off the ½¢ and keep it at the state level.

There is also growing talk about the need for more highway funds. The Municipal League wants more highway monies for cities and for the state. To get it, county shares would have to be trimmed. Some also propose that counties take over more of the responsibility for local roads. All would mean more taxes on rural property. Road taxes on property

would be a step back to the 1920's for farmers.

Another added burden. Counties must bear the costs of the new mental health programs. Do all these things show much concern for relieving rural people of the heavy burden already being carried in property taxes?

A TASTE OF "MAJORITY RULE"

The meaning of reapportionment, control of the Legislature by city majorities, should begin to become clear from actions being taken. Problems and needs of minority areas can be shrugged aside. The main theme of the tax song has always been "Suck the other fellow, but leave me be!" If you have the controlling hand of the majority, you have the authority to say where the blow will fall.

AND — CITY INCOME TAXES

Legislative action taken on income taxes has already discriminated against rural areas to favor urban areas. The Legislature has passed a law permitting Michigan cities to levy income taxes, aimed at relieving urban property taxes. The original proposal was to tax non-residents who worked in the city with the same tax rate as for residents. Farm Bureau efforts succeeded in reducing the non-resident tax rate to half the resident rate.

There are numerous reasons why this is tax discrimination against people outside of the cities. The non-residents being taxed are forced to support both the city government and their own community government. The cities already enjoy the taxes from the factory and business property—which the outlying areas lack. No share of the taxes from this city property helps the surrounding areas with their growing problems.

But the most dangerous feature of this city income tax as it affects rural people is the COMPLETE MONOPOLY that cities can hold over this source of revenue. Cities can blanket the countryside with their income tax, block its use by other units of government, and stall this means of getting tax relief on property in rural areas.

With cities levying income taxes, a statewide, broad-based flat rate income tax stands little chance of passage. Almost 200 Michigan cities can qualify to set up their own income tax system. The monopoly effect has already developed in Ohio, Kentucky and Pennsylvania.

FREEZE-OUT OF RURAL AREAS

Farm Bureau delegates opposed the passage of the law permitting cities to tax in this way. They asked that such taxes be made county-wide if they were to be local taxes. Cities should not be allowed to freeze the rest of the county out of a source of tax revenue, and to take added revenues from the pockets of people living in surrounding areas and who have tax problems of their own.

Farm Bureau delegates had good reason to see more hope in a state-collected broad-based, flat rate income tax. Part of it could

be distributed to ALL units of local government to be used for property tax relief.

The term "broad-based" tax refers to the need for taxing a source of wealth that can provide enough revenue to meet the needs of the problem. Income taxes would have a broad base, being paid by many people. Where local "nuisance taxes" have been levied to meet the need (tobacco, beer, admissions to entertainment, etc.) they have failed to deliver enough money to make much difference.

RELATED MEASURES SOUGHT

Farm Bureau delegates sought other means of relieving property tax pressures. They called for the repeal or the reduction of personal property taxes.

They asked for the repeal of the business activities tax and the intangibles tax. The use of improved methods of property valuation and tax equalization would be welcomed. They favored the placing of new construction on the tax rolls as soon as it is completed, rather than allowing it to remain tax-free until the following year. In many suburban areas property expansion worth more than a million dollars goes up each year.

The delegates called for more equitable distribution of state aid funds for schools. Hopefully, they requested that farm land be assessed only as agricultural land and not for its marketable value as residential or industrial property—for so long as no immediate change in its use was in the offing.

TAXES CAN DESTROY FARMS

Inconsiderate action by Michigan lawmakers can force farmers back to an era when tax sales on farms were a common event. Over thirty years ago, Farm Bureau was instrumental in reducing tax burdens on property by the removal of the State property tax.

Later, it worked to pass the 15 mill limitation of the old constitution, to remove local road taxes from property, and recently to reduce the assessment level from 100% to 50% of sale value in the new constitution.

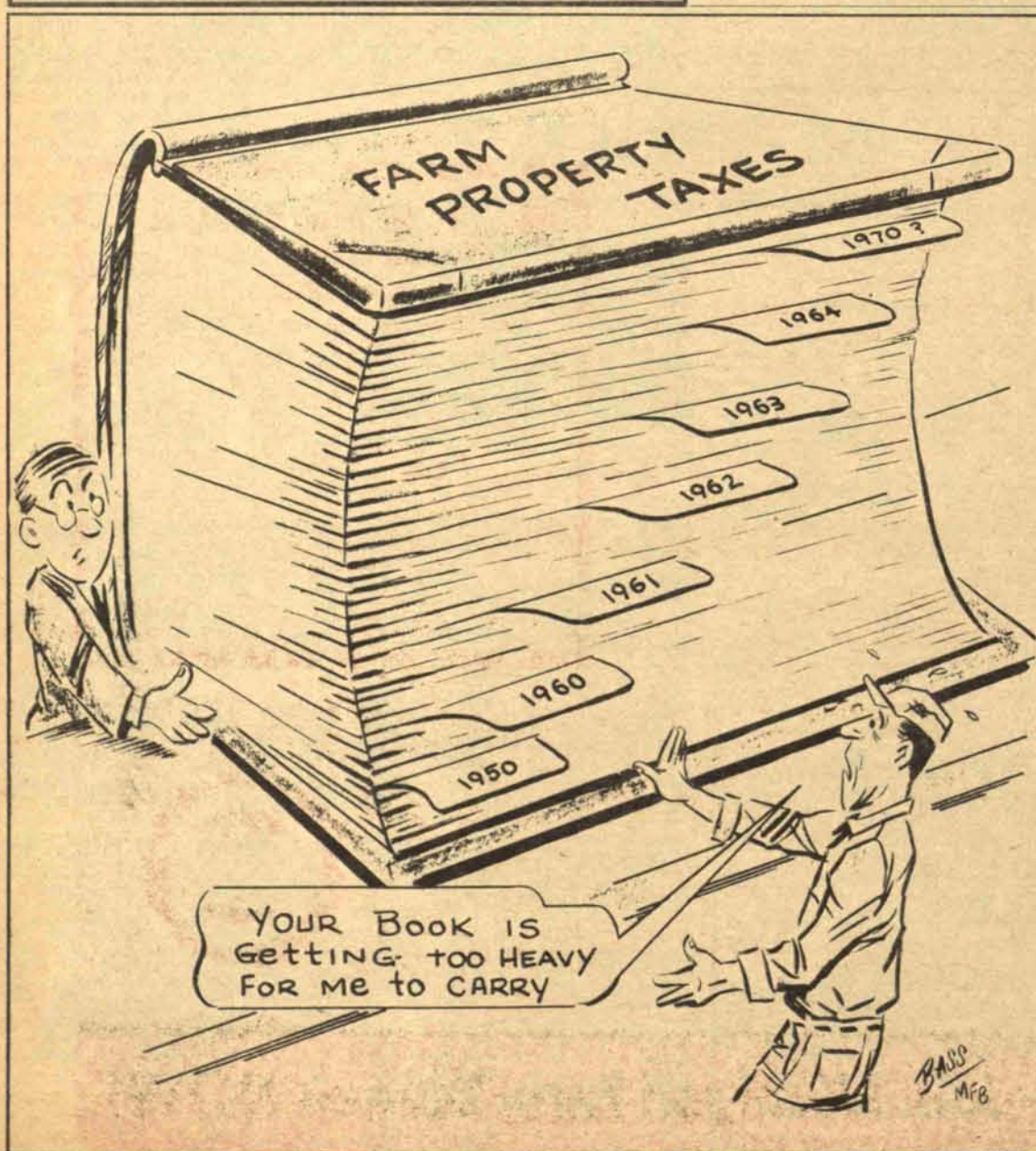
But the road ahead is banked with danger signs. Property will remain a major source of revenue. It is hoped that it will not require numerous farm tax confiscations to make the problem clear.

Farmers cannot rest secure in any tax issue. The seeking of new revenue goes on constantly in the Legislature. The idea of removing the farmers' sales tax exemption on farm machinery and production supplies is often suggested.

Many legislators do not look at the records of farm costs and farm incomes. The dropping farm parity ratio means nothing to them. They represent urban people. Their first concern is to meet the problems and create advantages for their own constituents.

DISCUSSION EXERCISE

It is suggested that your group put together a case to present to your State Legislators to show the need for relief in farm property taxes.





if your animals could talk,
they'd tell you the **FACTS....**

...the **BEST FEEDS** made come
from Farm Bureau **SERVICES**

**HERE ARE SOME OF THE
POPULAR FARM BUREAU FEEDS**

POULTRY

M. V. P.
Chick Starter Crumbles
Chick Starter Grower Supplement
Layer Supplement
Breeder Supplement
All Mash Layer 16%
Pullet Developer Crumbles

TURKEY

Turkey Pre-Starter Crumbles
Turkey Starter Crumbles
Turkey Balancer Supplement

HOG

Faraettes Pork 35
Creepettes Pork GF 100

DAIRY

Calf Starter Supplement
Milkmaid 34%
Dairy Supplement 55%

BEEF

Beef Cattle Supplement 55%
Beef Cattle Supplement 64%
Steer Supplement 34%
Special Beef 32% Pellets

*Many of the feeds can be ordered with antibiotics,
such as aureomycin, hygromycin, stilbestrol, etc., when-
ever you need them. Farm Bureau Services tailors your
feeds to meet your needs.

It would be difficult to find a phase of farm-
ing where there has been greater progress
than in poultry and livestock nutrition. Your
Farm Bureau research and manufacturing fa-
cilities have been the leaders in this field.
Working unceasingly, probing, checking and
rechecking, the men in the Farm Bureau re-
search farms have made it possible for you to
get the gains you want and the profits you
deserve.

This research pays off at Farm Bureau Serv-
ices' plants, where feed manufacturing is a
precise science of blending top quality grains,
vitamin supplements, minerals and minute
quantities of antibiotics in modern facilities
where quality control is the key word.

Two modern feed plants have Precision For-
mulators which are so accurate that as little as

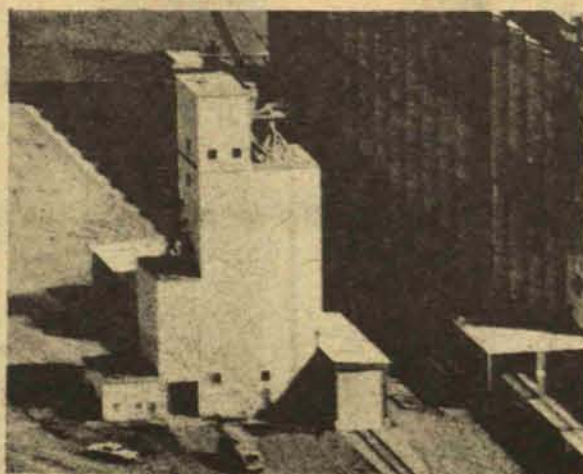
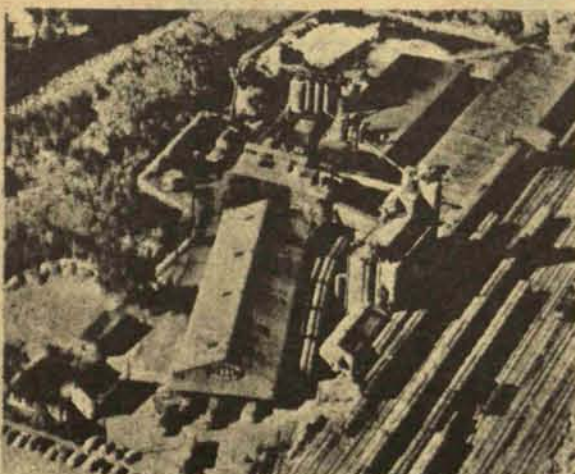
Typical of thousands
of satisfied farmers
is dairyman
Marvin Beld,
of Coopersville.



Mr. Beld says:

"We have been using Farm Bureau's
Milkmaid for four years now. It, along
with extra grain, helped us up our milk
by 1,000 lbs. and fat 72 lbs. per cow.
Farm Bureau Milkmaid is the supplement
we like."

6 ounces of an ingredient can be thoroughly
mixed into a ton of feed. Modern laboratories
maintain a continuous check on the quality
and mixture of all Farm Bureau feeds. It's no
wonder that farmers look to Farm Bureau
Services for the finest and most profitable
feeds.



These two modern feed manufacturing plants, at Hammond, Ind., and Zilwaukee, Mich., have adjacent rail and road access to ship Farm Bureau feeds "Feeding Fresh" as they are rushed to Michigan farmers. Both plants have built loading facilities for greater economy.



TO: FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.
4000 N. GRAND RIVER AVE.
LANSING, MICHIGAN

Please send me your free information on:

☐ Poultry ☐ Swine
☐ Beef ☐ Dairy ☐ _____

I am a: ☐ farmer ☐ student

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ ROUTE NO. _____

CITY OR TOWN _____ MICH. _____

FARM BUREAU *Services*
INC.
LANSING 4, MICHIGAN



It Makes Sense to Belong—Join Michigan Farm Bureau NOW!

MICHIGAN'S 1964 TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS*

Deaths	2,125
Injuries	145,000
Accidents	285,000

Total Cost **\$380,000,000**

*Estimated



will you help?

Will you help us curb the tragic death and destruction which haunt Michigan's highways? Will you help us slow or halt the staggering financial losses — which both you and I must bear?

Why should you be concerned? Because it is really you and me — the policyholders — who pay the constantly increasing costs of traffic accidents. Even though your insurance company pays the claims, it has to pass the expense right back to you — in the form of higher premiums. Here are some of the reasons why rates continue to climb:

1. Higher accident rates
2. Rising repair costs and medical expenses
3. Record number of cars on the roads
4. Padded repair bills and excessive liability awards

Farm Bureau's Auto rates are carefully determined for each driver classification with factors such as age, vehicle use, sex, geographical location and type of vehicle, according to the latest claims cost statistics. Presently, the accident rate in rural Michigan is increasing faster than in some urban areas.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION

I urge you to read and give serious consideration to the recommendations made by Governor Romney's Special Commission on Traffic Safety. These recommendations, developed by 219 Michigan residents representing a broad cross-section of occupational interests and geographical locations, deal with proposed improvements of our State's accident prevention programs through legislative and administrative action.

Discuss the importance of careful driving with your entire family. Surveys have determined that most people don't believe a serious accident can happen to them.

If you should be involved in an accident, insist on honesty for all parties concerned in the handling of damage bills. When a fraudulent claim is collected, policyholders pay the bill.

Thanks for your help.

N. L. Vermillion

Administrative Vice President
Farm Bureau Insurance Group

Farm Bureau
INSURANCE
Group

Farm Bureau Mutual • Farm Bureau Life • Community Service, LANSING

