

At Ag Committee hearing

Farmers speak on HB 4921

The first in a series of five public hearings on controversial farm labor legislation was held Oct. 20 in Benton Harbor in a crowded Holiday Inn meeting room. Under the direction of House Agriculture Committee co-chairmen Don Albosta and Paul Porter, the meeting drew nearly 300 farm people, many of them Farm Bureau members from the Southwestern part of the state.

The farm people were in attendance to voice opposition to House Bill 4921, a farm labor bill.

Under the terms of the farm labor bill the widely used piece rate method of computing farm laborers' wages would be outlawed. If enacted, farmers would have to pay farm laborers over the age of 16 \$2.20 an hour with time-and-a-half (\$3.30) after 46 hours a week.

The bill also provides a scale for increased hourly wages and decreased hours per week to qualify for overtime in succeeding years. For example, the bill provides that beginning May 1, 1977, and employer of farm labor would have to pay his employees \$2.30 an hour for the first forty hours in a work week and time-and-a-half (\$3.45) for all hours over forty.

Representative Porter acknowledged at the beginning of

the hearing that it was letters from farmers that caused the committee to look at the bill and schedule hearings. Representative Albosta noted that the House Agriculture Committee had never experienced such a large attendance at a hearing. "It is important to get crowds such as this to these hearings," he added.

The hearing carried such weight that even Speaker of the House Bobby Crim made an appearance.

All during the meeting farmer after farmer took the stand to explain why H.B. 4921 was inappropriate for a farm operation. While there was some support for the bill from several "spokesmen" for farm workers, the only actual farm worker who testified while the Farm News was at the meeting opposed the bill as strongly as any farmer. He did not want to lose the increased earning opportunities of the piece rate.

Four more hearings are scheduled on H.B. 4921 in November at the following times and locations: Monday, Nov. 3, 3 p.m., Alpine Township Offices, Comstock Park; Tuesday, Nov. 11, 10 a.m., Holiday Inn, Traverse City; Monday, Nov. 17, 2 p.m., 4-H Building Coldwater; and Monday Nov. 24, 2 p.m., Saginaw County Court Jury Assembly Room, Saginaw.



Hundreds of farmers attended the House Ag Committee's hearing on H.B. 4921 in Benton Harbor Oct. 20.

At Annual Meeting

Farm Bureau women will elect new officers



Claudine Jackson



Ruth Rigg



Martha Thuemmel

A highlight of the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's annual meeting, being held during the MFB annual meeting in December, will be the election of new officers of the Women's Committee.

A new chairman and vice chairman will be chosen by the assembled MFB Women's Committee delegates. Two women have become candidates for the Chairman's position. They are Claudine (Mrs. Andrew) Jackson and Ruth (Mrs. Remus) Rigg.

Mrs. Jackson is currently Women's Committee Vice Chairman, having served in that position for four years. She has held numerous Farm Bureau leadership positions at the state, county and community group

level. Her family operates a 720 acre dairy farm near Howell.

Mrs. Rigg is a former district 2 Women's chairman. She has served on the State Women's Executive Committee and has been State safety chairman for three years. The Riggs operate an 840 acre dairy farm in Branch County.

At this time there is one candidate for the Vice Chairman position. She is Martha (Mrs. Robert Jr.) Thuemmel of Port Austin. Mrs. Thuemmel is District 6 Women's Chairman and a member of the State Women's Committee Executive Committee. She has been county women's chairman and is active in her community group as a discussion leader. The Thuemmel's run a 420 acre dairy farm.

Special Program of December Annual Meeting

See pages 8 & 9

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



HB 4921

Attend the hearings

A crucial battle in the fight to defeat House Bill 4921 has just gotten underway around the state and Farm Bureau members have an important part to play.

As you will recall, H.B. 4921 is the "big labor" pushed bill which would require farmers to pay overtime to farm workers, making Michigan the only state calling for overtime payment in agriculture. It would also seriously limit the use of incentive-producing piece rates in agriculture.

This bill has been supported mostly by those who have little or no understanding of the unique conditions of agriculture.

The bill is now in the hands of the House Agriculture Committee which has just started to hold hearings around the state. These hearings are an opportunity for farm people to make a real, personal impression on that important committee. A chance to let the committee know just how serious this bill could stifle agriculture in Michigan, making us less competitive with neighboring states.

The results are already in on the first hearing held October 20 in Benton Harbor. Farm Bureau members and other farmers showed up by the hundreds and one after another presented reasonable, unemotional testimony based on facts and figures, educating the committee to the

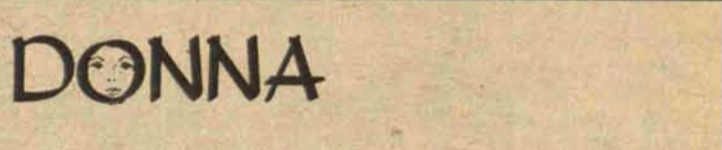
uniqueness of the agricultural labor situation. Reports from the hearing tell me that the committee appeared impressed with the turnout and testimony of farm people. Several of the Committee members stated that the Benton Harbor hearing was the largest they had ever seen.

The challenge to farmers now is to prove to the House Agriculture Committee that the Benton Harbor meeting was no accident. We need to show the Committee that farmers all over the state have the same concern, as those in the Southwest.

Big turnouts of informed farm people are needed at the hearings to be held at Comstock Park, Traverse City, Coldwater and Saginaw. Check the front page article in this issue of the Farm News for places and dates of those hearings and be there.

These hearings are the farmers chance to be heard by those men who can determine the fate of H.B. 4921.

Agriculture needs to defeat the ill-conceived H.B. 4921 and our only chance to do so is through using the great American democratic process to the fullest. That means Farm Bureau members need to be concerned, get informed and take action on H.B. 4921 by attending and testifying at the House Agriculture Committee hearings.



Once upon a time there was a family who lived in a beautiful tri-level home in the suburbs. It was equipped with all the latest gadgets to ease the chores of a working wife. There were three snowmobiles in the garage, a camper in the drive packed and ready to go for the weekend—in addition to cars for Mom, Dad and son.

Mom was an executive secretary at General Electric, Dad was an engineer at U. S. Steel, and son was a technician at Kodak. It was a good life.

Like so many other American families, they complained about the cost of food. They cheered the longshoremen who refused to load grain sold to Russia and hailed the administration's moratorium on grain sales. They looked at George Meany as a national hero protecting their best interests. Plentiful, cheap food was one of their inalienable rights. Yes, it was a good life.

Then, one day Mom came home and announced that she would only be working three days a week. Three days later son reported a drastic cut in pay. A month later Dad came home unemployed, a

victim of a staff cutback. Moratoriums had been put on exports of the products their respective companies produced so they could be stockpiled to assure cheap prices here at home. Just like cheap food

The "good things" rapidly faded from the scene—the camper, the snowmobiles, the tri-level home, all the comforts they had come to take for granted. And they contemplated: where did it go wrong? What had happened to the good life?

Just a "once upon a time" tale to show what could happen if all industries were treated like agriculture has been. That's not likely to happen because most people don't really believe that what's "good" for the goose is also good for the gander.

Farmers are sick of being the "goose". They're asking why their industry should be singled out for manipulation by politicians and labor leaders. The manipulators better remember that a strangled agriculture in any nation, even the great United States of America, cannot feed its own people, let alone the hungry of the world.

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
(Signature of Editor) James L. Phillips

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Notice of Annual Meeting

The 56th Annual Meeting of Michigan Farm Bureau will be held December 10, 11, and 12, 1975 at the Civic Auditorium - Pantlind Hotel Complex in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The meeting will be called to order at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10.

The Annual Meetings of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative Inc. will also be held at the same location on Tuesday, December 9. Again this year there will be a Product Show in the Exhibit Hall of the Auditorium.

The Annual Banquet will be held Thursday evening, December 11. The purposes of the meeting include:

- (1) Election of Members of the Board of Directors. Odd numbered Districts will elect Directors for two-year terms. Also to be elected for a two-year term will be one Director-at-Large. One Director representing the Farm Bureau Young Farmers' Committee, and one director, representing the Farm Bureau Women's Committee will also be elected.
 - (2) Reports of Officers.
 - (3) Consideration and action on the recommendations of the Policy Development Committee to determine action policies of Michigan Farm Bureau for the coming year.
 - (4) Consideration of proposed amendments to the Bylaws, if any.
- The Bylaws of Michigan Farm Bureau provide that each county Farm Bureau is entitled to at least two voting delegates, plus an additional delegate for each 100 members or major portion thereof in excess of the first 200 members of record August 31, 1975 not including Associate members.

Robert E. Braden
Administrative Director

William S. Wilkinson
Secretary

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Around the counties

Brisk annual meeting pace in Oct.



AFBF President William Kuhfuss was guest speaker at Saginaw County's annual meeting. Kuhfuss strongly criticized Ford administration interference in agricultural export markets.



John Whitmer, Gladwin County Membership Chairman, was recognized at the recent Gladwin County Annual Meeting with a certificate noting his 28 year contribution to 4-H. Whitmer served three years on the State 4-H Council, was chairman of his county 4-H program for 12 years. Presenting the award is Gladwin County Farm Bureau President Tom McKimmy.



A new award being given by counties this year is the "Ag Communicator of the Year Award". Gratiot County information chairman, Lorna Dershem presents Gratiot's first "Ag Communicator" award to Tim Powers, associate editor of the Gratiot County Herald.



District 5 Young Farmer discussion meet contestants discussed the role of the American Farm Bureau Federation in international trade. Winners were Gary Haynes, Ingham County [far left] and Mike Borton, Clinton County [third from left].

Mrs. Tompkins is on U.S.D.A. committee

Northwest Michigan Farm Bureau member Mrs. Rebecca Tompkins of Traverse City appointed to the Public Advisory Committee on Soil and Water Conservation by Agriculture Secretary Butz.

The committee of 18 citizens from throughout the country met Oct. 1-3 to consider programs needed to provide adequate protection of the natural resource base and recommend ways to strengthen soil and water conservation activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Wilbur Smith dies

Michigan Farm Bureau notes with sadness the recent passing of Wilbur Smith, long-time Farm Bureau member and leader.

Wilbur Smith's record of service is as long as Michigan Farm Bureau is old. Over the years he participated in all phases of local, county and state programs, including six years on the state board of directors representing district 2.

In 1965 Smith brought back an "Iron Curtain Agricultural Report" from a trip to Poland, Czechoslovakia and Russia. He and his late wife, Ruth, acted as agricultural ambassadors on a tour along with a group of Michigan farm people.

farmers of the week

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Clinton Peterson
350 acre Ottawa County dairy and field crops operation * Vice Pres. Grand Rapids PCA * Past Pres. Ottawa County Farm Bureau



Stanley Poet
400 head Washtenaw County beef feeding operation * Pres. Washtenaw livestock council * Michigan JC's outstanding farmer of 1974 * Active in Manchester JC's



William White
923 acre Cass County hog farm * Pres. Cass County Pork Producers * Past member of Cass County Co-op board

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CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith

Regulation grows



The Michigan Legislature convened the fall session under a serious fiscal cloud. After having approved the state budget early in August, which was presumed to be balanced, they now find that nearly every day the expected state deficit continues to rise. The projected shortage leaped from \$100 million to nearly \$300 million in less than two weeks. Soaring welfare costs account for about one-third of the budget gap.

Governor Milliken and the Legislature are now faced with making cuts in state spending in order to bring about a balanced budget as required by the state constitution. Part of the cuts may be in the welfare area of as much as \$50-60 million. Should this happen, it would cut the average ADC family welfare check \$10 to \$15 a month. General assistance checks might be cut \$5 to \$8 a month. It is estimated that there will be nearly 18,000 more families on welfare than was anticipated when the budget was being considered.

All state government agencies, with the exception of Corrections, may be cut more than three percent. Further cutbacks probably will be made on state aid to K-12 schools, colleges and universities. Several so-called bookkeeping gimmicks may be used such as liquidating the \$70 million veterans trust fund and the motor vehicle accident claims fund. As much as \$90 million may be shifted through a bookkeeping extension of the fiscal year. Many of the ideas are known as "one-time" actions.

Legislators in both parties have stated they oppose any increase in taxes. However, some nuisance taxes might be increased. One organization MEA, is calling for an immediate increase in the income tax from 4.6% to 6.1%. This despite the fact that the income tax was just raised from 3.9% to 4.6%. Another group known as the "Citizen's Lobby" which engineered the elimination of the sales tax on food and drugs last year, is now proposing to change the constitution to in effect provide

for a heavily graduated income tax. Their campaign to repeal the sales tax on food and drugs was considered quite irresponsible as they insisted at the time that the state could absorb the more than \$200 million loss of tax revenues without replacement. This was, of course, impossible, and has since been proved to be true. The increase in the income tax was primarily to offset the loss of sales tax revenues.

Any cuts in state spending will be bipartisan as the constitution requires the Governor to issue an executive order to balance the state budget. However, it will be up to the democratic controlled Senate and House Appropriations Committees to accept or reject the Governor's order.

GOVERNOR'S SPECIAL MESSAGE

Governor Milliken issued a special message to the Legislature on the major items that he is recommending action on during the fall session. They included:

Construction bonding . . . he pointed out that the state needs nearly a quarter of a billion dollars to meet state construction needs. Such a proposal is in H.B. 4871 and S.B. 558. The Governor pointed out the need for constructing additional prison facilities. Housing bonding is another issue with a recommendation of action on H.B. 5266 which will increase the bonding limit of the Housing Development Authority by nearly \$400 million and create a secondary mortgage program. A Job Development Authority would be created by S.B. 243 which has passed the Senate and would allow the sale of bonds to raise funds to be used in promoting new industry and new jobs. It would not require any additional taxes.

Worker's Compensation is considered to be a priority item. This issue is also of great concern to agriculture as well as other employers. (See special article in this issue).

The Governor's special message mentioned Transportation, especially S.B. 931 which is mostly concerned with rapid transit in populous southeastern Michigan, and would put additional registration fees on automobiles and other vehicles in the counties of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb. These revenues would help provide matching funds for federal aid. It is possible to receive nearly three-fourths of a billion in federal funding within three years for this purpose.

The Governor's message further urged the legislators to implement recommendations of the "short-term" report of the Michigan Economic Action Council. This is a 29-member council, three of whom are representatives of agriculture. The others are industrial, labor and public leaders. Farm Bureau was requested to submit suggestions to the Council, many of which were incorporated in the transportation section of the "short-term" report. Farm Bureau has also submitted additional information on agricultural economic problems to be considered for the "long-range" report.

The message included a recommendation to pass H.B. 5635 creating a State Department of Community Affairs, presumably to assist local communities in using available assistance from state government sources. The Governor also supported further action on consumer protection bills H.B. 4623 and S.B. 1. One would govern unfair trade practices in the insurance industry and the other an overall control of so-called unfair and deceptive trade practices in the retail industry.

The message contained several recommendations to amend the new political reform act passed early in the session. This broad and comprehensive act is beginning to receive a great deal of criticism from the public now that they recognize what it really contains. (See special article)

Other recommendations in the message urged action on the teacher strike issue, passage of the land use legislation, H.B. 4234, legislation on criminal justice such as H.B. 4562, creating a commission on investigations, and H.B. 5073, requiring mandatory sentences for crimes committed with a handgun. Weapon related offenses are increasing. For example, armed robbery in-

creased 11 percent in the first half of 1975.

WORKER'S COMPENSATION
One of the most controversial issues during the fall session will be the rewrite of the Worker's Compensation Act.

Michigan has the dubious distinction of being one of the highest cost states in such compensation. In a recent series of articles in the DETROIT NEWS, many of the abuses were exposed. One article heading said "it's yielding big profits for a few lawyers and doctors." It was shown that there is widespread and illegal solicitation of WC cases by unethical attorneys and that payments or kickbacks were being made to many workers for the names of potential cases. It was mentioned that the State Bureau of Workmen's Compensation lacks the personnel to actually know the real cost of WC in Michigan. Another point that was made is that the definition of work-related injuries is so broad that most anyone can win a case if a doctor can be found who will say that the injury is work-related. One example was a 70-year-old man who suffered a heart attack five years after retirement. Under the present law, he is covered by WC if a doctor would say that the heart attack might have been brought by the pressure of his old job.

Seventy percent of the retirees in one union local filed WC claims and many unions have a statewide campaign to persuade retirees to submit claims. Attorneys, by law, receive a 15 percent fee for any case settled out of court, and 30 percent if the case goes to trial. Most employers settle cases out of court because the present Michigan law is so liberally interpreted that it is useless to contest most claims.

Another dramatic example is that in 1970 a worker in Detroit was acquitted, by reason of temporary insanity, in the slaying of three co-workers. He has since been declared to be entitled to WC benefits because his behavior, resulting in the slaying, was affected by the plant working conditions. The company was ordered to pay him \$5,000 in back pay and \$75 a month for the rest of his life. The case is currently under appeal.

Such reports about Michigan have given the state the image of being anti-business and also as having extremely high premium costs.

Additional costs are also loaded on agriculture which unlike industry or others, cannot pass the cost of WC on in the price of products. Very often the premium cost of WC for agriculture erodes the farm family's income by 15 to 20 percent thus becoming a burden. Agriculture had some exemptions on WC until the Supreme Court ruled in 1972 that agriculture employers were covered the same as any other employers. In a Farm Bureau study it was found that agriculture was totally exempted in six states, elective or voluntary in twenty-five, and required in ten. The average rate per \$100 of payroll was \$5.38 compared to Michigan's rate of \$7.62.

To indicate how controversial this issue is expected to be, it is interesting to note that a special WC Advisory Committee was at work for some time to try to reach a mutual agreement on the needed reforms. The committee failed to get any agreement.

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January 4-8, 1976

It bills itself as Surprising St. Louis, and if you haven't been to the Gateway of the West, you'll be surprised to discover a wealth of national treasures in St. Louis; the Old Courthouse, scene of the Dred Scott trial prior to the Civil War; the Old Cathedral, officially designated the Basilica of St. Louis, King of France, and the oldest cathedral west of the Mississippi; the Goldenrod Showboat, lone surviving showboat from the turn of the century and designated a national historic landmark; Eads Bridge, the world's first steel bridge; and the Jefferson Memorial, with exhibits of the Lewis and Clark Expedition memorabilia and Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh's trophies.

The 630-foot Gateway Arch, a recent addition to St. Louis' attractions, is the tallest national monument in the U.S., and the fourth most visited in the world.

Who hasn't heard strains of "Meet Me In St. Lo-oe-y, Lo-oe-y".

reminiscent of the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair - the greatest gathering of all where Americans first tasted an ice cream cone, ate a hot dog and drank iced tea.

Special arrangements are being made for Michigan Farm Bureau members to journey to St. Louis for the 1976 American Farm Bureau Federation annual convention by Amtrak. Enroute the group will visit the sights of Chicago and enjoy a leisure train trip. In addition to the many activities of the convention (which will be AFBF's salute to our nation's bicentennial celebration) Michiganders will partake at the usual Michigan breakfast and tour the sights of St. Louis.

Sooo, plan now to board the Amtrak train at the station of your choice and join your fellow Farm Bureau members in surprising St. Louis. Space is limited. Deadline for firm reservations is November 30, 1975. For more detailed information submit the coupon below.

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NATIONAL NOTES

Albert A. Almy

Pesticides, beef & gas

During the month of October the 94th Congress considered several legislative items of interest to agriculture. These items included certification of private pesticide applicators, beef research and promotion, natural gas deregulation and minimum wage. The following is a brief review of the status of each of these issues.

PESTICIDES

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (F.I.F.R.A.) has, for many years, regulated the marketing of pesticides. In 1972 Congress amended F.I.F.R.A. to include provisions regulating the actual use of pesticides. Two major provisions were added by these amendments.

First, the Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.) must classify all pesticide products for either general or restricted use. General use pesticides are those that will not cause unreasonable effects on the environment when used in accordance with label instructions. Restricted use pesticides are those which may cause adverse effects on the environment unless applied by competent persons.

Second, after October 21, 1976, restricted pesticides may be legally applied only by persons, including farmers, who are certified. The amended F.I.F.R.A. delegates responsibility for certification of private applicators to the states.

E.P.A. regulations have been published requiring that a private pesticide applicator must show he possesses a practical knowledge of pest problems associated with his agricultural operation, plus the proper storage, use, handling and disposal procedures for the pesticides he needs. Competence of private pesticide applicators is to be determined by a written, oral or other equivalent system.

Since publication of the E.P.A. regulations, there has been a great deal of controversy between farmers, Congress and the E.P.A. regarding the requirement for farmers to pass a test in order to prove their competence in the use of restricted pesticides. Farm Bureau and many members of Congress have cited the past record of farmers in pesticide use. This excellent record demonstrates that farmers are able to read and follow label instructions and that they use pesticides judiciously and only in the amounts necessary to control a broad range of insects, diseases and weeds affecting agricultural production.

Farm Bureau and several congressmen maintained that it was not the intent of Congress, when F.I.F.R.A. was amended, to prohibit a self-certification program for private users of restricted pesticides. A self-certification program would allow a farmer, for example, to sign a statement when purchasing restricted pesticides certifying that he was familiar with the product, pests to be controlled and would follow label instructions in its application.

Early in October, the House approved a one-year extension of funding authorization for E.P.A. to administer F.I.F.R.A. Included in this authorization was an amendment to permit states to administer a self-certification program for private pesticide applicators. The amendment would, however, allow E.P.A. to require private applicators to participate in training programs

which do not include the examinations for certification. Farm Bureau is strongly supporting the authorization for a self-certification program. The House-passed bill must now be approved by the Senate and signed into law by the President before states may utilize a self-certification requirement in lieu of formal testing programs for private applicators.

BEEF PROMOTION

During October, the House also passed H.R. 7656, the Beef Research and Information Act. This Act would enable beef and dairy cattle producers to decide whether they wanted to establish, finance and carry out a program of

research, producer and consumer information, and promotion to improve markets for beef and beef products.

The bill requires that, before assessments from cattle producers could be collected for the national promotion program, a referendum must be held. If approved by producers voting in the referendum, the program would become effective. In order to vote in the referendum, a producer would be required to register at least ten days prior to the date of the referendum. Advance registration would be conducted by the A.S.C.S.

The bill provides for the appointment of a National Beef Board to formulate and provide basic administration of the

promotion program. During the floor debate on this bill, an amendment was offered but not approved to require that membership of the Board be made up of 50% consumers or representatives of consumer organizations. Farm Bureau strongly opposed this amendment on the basis that only those persons who contribute monies to the respective promotion program should be eligible to serve on the Board which administers such program.

The Senate Agricultural Subcommittee on agricultural research and general legislation has considered H.R. 7656. Farm Bureau supports the bill as passed by the House.

NATURAL GAS

Adequate natural gas supplies are necessary in the production and distribution of food and fibre. A recent study by the Federal Energy Administration indicates that 38% of all energy inputs on the farm is derived from natural gas. Most of this is processed gas in the form of fertilizer, propane, chemicals and plastics. This compares to a 27% share for gasoline and 15% for diesel fuel. Farmers use about 30% of all propane consumed in this country -- 18% for such production operations as crop drying, broiler and farrowing house heating and greenhouse operations.

Because of this heavy dependence (Continued on page 12)

1975 DAIRY BREEDING SEMINAR

(IN COOPERATION WITH M.S.U. EXTENSION SERVICE)



Dr. Robert W. Everett
Associate Professor
Animal Science Extension
Cornell University



Dr. Ivan L. Mao
Ass't Professor &
Dairy Ext. Specialist
Dept. of Dairy Science
Mich. State University



Dr. John H. Luchsinger
Staff Veterinarian
Tuco Division of Upjohn Co.



Dr. Clinton E. Meadows
Professor & Dairy Ext. Specialist
Dept. of Dairy Science
Mich. State University



John Hecker, Jr.
Dairy Sire Analyst
Select Sires, Inc.

PROGRAM

- 10:00 A.M.— Registration & Refreshments
Opening Comments
- 10:30 A.M.— "Selectivity Through Select"
John Hecker, Jr.
- 11:00 A.M.— "Economics of Sire Selection"
Dr. Robert W. Everett
- 11:45 A.M.— Questions
- 12:00 Noon— Lunch
- 1:00 P.M.— "Drug Abuse in the Parlor"
Dr. John H. Luchsinger
- 1:20 P.M.— "How's & Why's of Sire Proving"
Dr. Ivan L. Mao
- 1:50 P.M.— "Genetic Inventory . . . Herd Management Tool"
Dr. Clinton E. Meadows
- 2:15 P.M.— Questions
- 2:30 P.M.— Adjournment

LOCATIONS

- *POWERS—Dec. 1—Monday—
St. Francis Xavier Church
10:00 A.M. Central Time
11:00 A.M. Eastern Time
- GAYLORD—Dec. 2—Tuesday—
Chalet Motor Lodge
M-32 & I-75
- MARION—Dec. 4—Thursday—
4-H Kettunen Center (Tustin)
- LANSING—Dec. 8—Monday—
Long's Ban. & Conf. Center
- GRAND RAPIDS—Dec. 3—Wednesday—
Lincoln Country Club
- KALAMAZOO—Dec. 9—Tuesday—
Holiday Inn-Expressway
- GOSHEN, IND.—Dec. 10—Wednesday—
Elkhart Co. Fairgrounds
4-H Community Bldg.
- CASS CITY—Dec. 5—Friday—
Colony House, M-53

*There will be a small Registration Fee to help us help you.

FOR RESERVATIONS
PLEASE CONTACT
YOUR EXTENSION
OFFICE OR MABC

MEMBER



MICHIGAN
ANIMAL BREEDERS
COOPERATIVE, INC.

3655 Forest Road,
East Lansing, Michigan 48823



Owned by those we serve

You Are Invited To A Birthday Party



Bicentennial Ball

Wednesday, December 10, 9:00 p.m.

Black and Silver Room, Grand Rapids Civic Auditorium

- ★ Big Band Music
- ★ Floor Show - History of Dance
- ★ Queen's Procession
- ★ It's A Costume Ball - Colonial, Wild West,
Roaring 20's or Soaring 70's -
You Make The Choice

Come and Celebrate Your
Nation's 200th Birthday



1975-1976 membership chairmen

Building horizons



Dorin Cordes
Alcona County



Dan Wieland
Antrim County



Frank Henderson
Arenac County



Gerhardt Kernstock
Bay County



Mr. and Mrs. Gary Lathwell
Benzie County



Leo Berg
Charlevoix County



Franklin Schwiderson
Chippewa County



Francis Motz
Clinton County



Henry Eberhart
Clare County



Leonard Ollila
Copper Country



Arlene Weaver
Eaton County



Tom Atherton
Genesee County



John Whitmer
Gladwin County



Wilson Lauer
Gratiot County



Waino Rajala
Hiawathaland



Eugene Baker
Hillsdale County



Delbert Roberts
Huron County



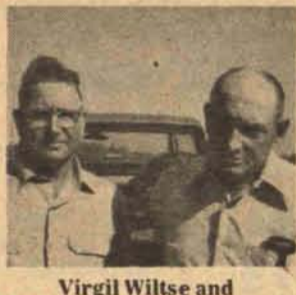
Alan Awalt
Ingham County



Donald Goodman
Iosco County



Eleanor Honkala
Iron Range



Virgil Wiltse and
Leon Young
Isabella County



Phyliss Haven
Jackson County



K. McCool
Kalkaska County



Otto Flatt
Mackinac-Luce



Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Lamont
Manistee County



Ron Wood
Mason County



Dave Robison
Mecosta County



Gunter Kusig
Menominee County



Erna Varner
Midland County



Bill Schripsema
Missaukee County



Alvin Gaertner
Monroe County



Bud Beeler
Newaygo County



Mr. and Mrs. Don Gregory
N.W. Michigan



Adrian Hammerle
Oceana County



Richard Nelson
Ogemaw County



Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Michell
Osceola County



Ralph Freil
Preque Isle County



Stuart Reinbold
Saginaw County



Ken Fierke
Sanilac County



Bill Semans
Shiawassee County



Rouster Ellery
Washtenaw County



Shirley Guernsey
Wexford County

Program -- MFB, FBS, FPC annual meetings

TUESDAY, DEC. 9

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, FARMERS PETROLEUM COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETINGS

8:30 A.M.

Registration, Lobby, Civic Auditorium

10:00 A.M.

F.B.S. Annual, Black and Silver Room, Civic Auditorium

11:30 A.M.

Complimentary Luncheon, Main Auditorium, Civic Auditorium

1:30 P.M.

F.P.C. Annual, Black and Silver Room, Civic Auditorium

PRODUCT SHOW

3:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

Show Place '75, Exhibition Hall, Civic Auditorium

5:30 P.M.

Complimentary Buffet Dinner, Exhibition Hall
Entertainment The Conti Family

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN MANAGERS BANQUET

6:00 P.M.

Dinner, Kent State Room, Pantlind Hotel
Address, Building Horizons On Our Heritage
Mike Pridgeon, President Branch County Farm Bureau

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10

8:00 to 12:00 Noon

Main Lobby, Civic Auditorium

**Registration for County Voting
Delegates, Chairmen Only**

KICK-OFF LUNCHEON AND OFFICIAL OPENING OF MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

12:00 Noon

Main Auditorium,
Civic Auditorium

**President's Address,
Elton R. Smith, President,
Michigan Farm Bureau**

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU WOMEN'S ANNUAL MEETING

8:00 A.M.

Black and Silver Room,
Civic Auditorium

Registration of voting delegates
Call to Order - Mrs. Richard Wieland, Chairman, MFB
Women's Committee
Entertainment - Folk Music Group
Speaker - Mrs. George [Lenore] Romney, "Building
Horizons On Our Heritage"
Election of State Chairman and Vice Chairman
Report of Retiring Chairman - Mrs. Richard Wieland
Recognition to Counties

FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMER PROGRAM

2:00 P.M.

Discussion Meet Finals, Black and Silver Room, Civic Auditorium

5:45 P.M.

Young Farmer Banquet, Main Auditorium, Civic Auditorium

Speaker
Dr. Carl S. Winter,
"What's Right With America"

9:00 P.M.

Bicentennial Ball, Black and Silver Room, Civic Auditorium

PRODUCT SHOW - SHOW PLACE '75

3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Exhibition Hall,
Civic Auditorium

PRESIDENT'S BANQUET

5:30 P.M.

Kent State Room, Pantlind Hotel

COMMODITY SESSIONS

Fruit and Vegetables

8:30 A.M.

Grand Ballroom,
Pantlind Hotel

Labor Issues,
M. J. Buschlen, Manager
MASA

Livestock

8:30 A.M.

Continental Room

Packer Bonding and Assured Payment
Sam P. Tuggle, Jr., Area Supervisor
Packer and Stockyards Administration

Middleman Margins
Fred J. Meijer
President, Meijer Stores

Dairy

10:15 A.M.

Grand Ballroom

How a Dairy Farmer Views the Dairy Industry
Don Haldeman, President
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Field Crops

10:15 A.M.

Continental Room

Price Later Agreements
Ed Powell
Michigan Elevator Exchange

THURSDAY, DEC. 11

7:30 A.M.

Awards Breakfast, Main Auditorium, Civic Auditorium

Presentation of One-Star and Two-Star County Awards
Elton R. Smith, President, Michigan Farm Bureau

To speak at
annual meetings



Armstrong



Braden

ings -- Dec. 9, 10, 11, 12 -- Grand Rapids

GENERAL SESSION

8:30 A.M.

Main Auditorium,
Civic Auditorium

- Call to Order
- Committee Reports - Credentials, Rules
- Minutes of 1974 Annual Meeting
- Annual Report of Administrative Director Robert Braden, Administrative Director Michigan Farm Bureau
- Introduction of Policy Development Committee
- Consideration of Resolutions

GOVERNORS LUNCHEON

11:30 A.M.

Main Auditorium,
Civic Auditorium

Remarks
The Honorable William G. Milliken
Governor of Michigan

GENERAL SESSION

2:00 P.M.

Main Auditorium
Civic Auditorium

- Call to Order
- Consideration of Resolutions
- 4:00 P.M. Recess of Caucuses to Nominate Michigan Farm Bureau Directors
- District 1 Kent State Room, Pantlind
- District 3 East Vandenberg, Pantlind
- District 5 West Vandenberg, Pantlind
- District 7 Black & Silver, Civic Auditorium
- District 9 Red Room, Civic Auditorium
- District 11 Room G, Civic Auditorium

NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE

1:00P.M.

Black and Silver Room,
Civic Auditorium

"Certification of Private Pesticide Applicators-What It Means For Farmers"

Dean Lovitt, Chief
Plant Industry Division
USDA

Donald Cress
Department of Entomology
Michigan State University

Questions and Answers

FRIDAY, DEC. 12

GENERAL SESSION

8:30 A.M.

Main Auditorium,
Civic Auditorium

- Call to Order
- Invocation
- Consideration of Resolutions
- Entertainment
- Report of Nominations from Caucuses
- Nomination and Election of Two Directors At-Large
- Nomination and Election of Young Farmer Representative

11:45 A.M.

Recess for Lunch -
Lunch on your own.

1:30 P.M.

Main Auditorium,
Civic Auditorium

- Consideration of Resolutions
- Election of President
- Consideration of Resolutions
- New Business
- Benediction

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

6:30 P.M.

Main Auditorium,
Civic Auditorium

- Awards Program
- Address
Dr. Tom Haggai
- 200 Years of Agriculture



Smith



Tuggle



Romney



Haldeman



Meijer



Powell



Buschlen



Cress



Dean



Haggai



Milliken



Your invitation to

PATRONS OF FARM BUREAU DEALERS:

You're invited to a banquet-lunch at the Grand Rapids Civic Auditorium as part of the combined Farmers Petroleum and Farm Bureau Services Annual Meetings. A buffet supper will also be served free at Show Place '75. Lots of Great Entertainment too . . . The Conti Family, Jarkey the Funny Auctioneer, PRIZES, PRIZES, PRIZES.

TWO BIG EVENTS

ANNUAL MEETING - Starts 10 AM



1

SHOW PLACE '75

Dec. 9th 3PM-10PM
Dec. 10th 3PM-5PM
EXHIBITION HALL
CIVIC AUDITORIUM
Learn about Product Supply

SHOW PLACE - Starts 3 PM



Come with your Bus-orama group or Car-orama . . . the first 300 people to be seated in the auditorium before 10 a.m. will get an earlybird gift.

2

FARMERS PETROLEUM • FARM BUREAU SERVICES
ANNUAL MEETINGS DEC. 9th, 10 a.m. 'til 3 p.m.
Black & Silver Room • Civic Auditorium
Find out what your companies are doing now and how you'll stand next year.

WELCOME. SEE YOU IN GRAND RAPIDS.

The FARM BUREAU PEOPLE

Where Your Farm Comes First

Farm Bureau
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC
FARMERS PETROLEUM

In Huron County

A Vietnamese family finds home

Nguyen Van Tot is a 48-year-old Vietnamese with a wife and eight children ranging in age from 24 to seven. Because he worked for an American company (Pan American Airlines) he felt it necessary to escape from his homeland when the communist takeover of Vietnam was about complete.

If there is such a thing as the oriental concept of good fortune it

certainly did shine on the Nguyen family, as they were able to get out of Vietnam last April as an entire family. Many were not so fortunate.

After three months of crowded camp life the Nguyens found themselves on the way to the Michigan thumb region under the sponsorship of Sebewaing's Immanuel Lutheran Church. The Church, under the direction of

Pastor Elmer Scheck, pulled together the resources of the various auxiliary organizations to provide clothing, housing, toys, bicycles. According to Rev. Scheck, "It didn't cost much since most of the goods were used and donated, but they did the job."

Volunteers helped the family get acquainted with America by escorting them to food stores and arranging for English classes. Soon jobs were found for Mr. Nguyen and his two eldest sons, Mui and Tong. Rev. Scheck states that the Nguyen family became self-sufficient in September, less than two months after their July 27 arrival in Sebewaing.

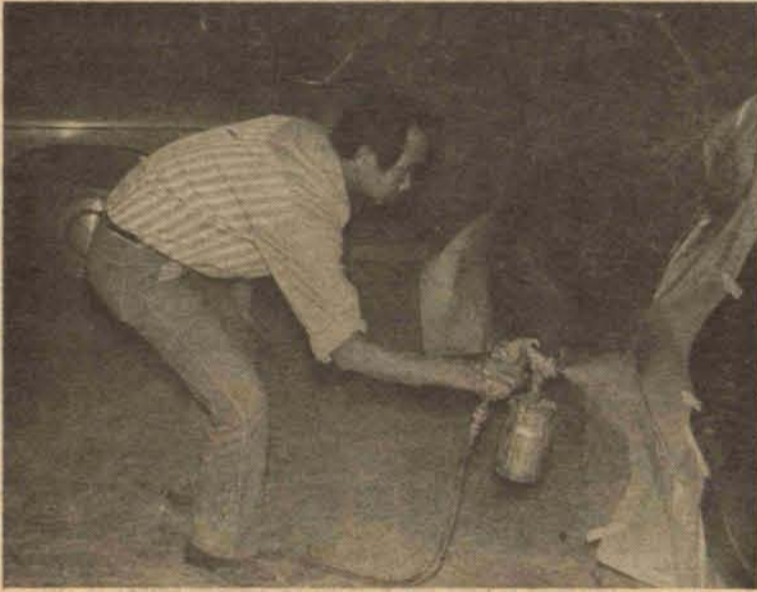
A success story certainly. Mr. Nguyen is skilled and was able to find work at his old trade, spray painting. His family is educated and his sons had skills that enabled them to find work also. Yet according to officials of Michigan's Social Services Department this is true of most of the Vietnamese refugees. They, for the most part, are not peasants. They generally have skills or professions and are an extremely hard working group of people.

There are problems to be sure. The Nguyen's have no fellow countrymen to speak to in their native language. They have been totally removed from their culture and climate. Familiar food is hard to find.

Yet there is a two-sided success story here. Rev. Scheck claims that sponsoring the Nguyen's has done

more to bring unity and togetherness and love than anything his congregation has ever done.

For the Nguyen Van Tot family, eldest son Mui said it simply when asked what he thought of America. "We are free," he replied.



Nguyen Van Tot, father of eight children, continues his life-long trade as an auto painter in Sebewaing. Nguyen's Vietnamese family of 10 was sponsored by the local Lutheran Church. With Nguyen and elder sons Mui and Tong all working, the family became self sufficient less than two months after their arrival in Michigan.

A sponsor? What's involved?

Sponsorship can take the form of an offer of support, employment or both. However, the sponsor must also be ready to help the refugee with some of the less tangible aspects of resettlement such as adjustment to a new culture and a new way of life. Sponsorship is not a formal, legal commitment. However, the sponsor undertakes a clear moral commitment to help the refugee to the best of his ability.

A sponsor, working through an appropriate Voluntary Agency, state, or local government unit will be expected to:

- a. Receive the refugee and his family;
- b. Provide shelter and food, until the refugee becomes self-sufficient. Shelter need not be in the residence of the sponsor but must be adequate;
- c. Provide clothing and pocket money, initially;
- d. Provide assistance in finding employment and in school enrollment for children;
- e. Cover ordinary medical costs or medical insurance. In order to meet emergency needs and avoid a breakdown in sponsorship, medical assistance under a Federally reimbursed program similar to the state's Medicaid programs will be provided when major medical needs arise which a sponsor is unable to meet even though he can continue his other efforts on behalf of a refugee family. This assistance, however, in no way abrogates a sponsor's moral obligation to provide normal health assistance for refugee families; and
- f. Once employment is obtained, the sponsor will assist the refugee to locate permanent housing, acquire minimal furniture and arrange for other necessities.

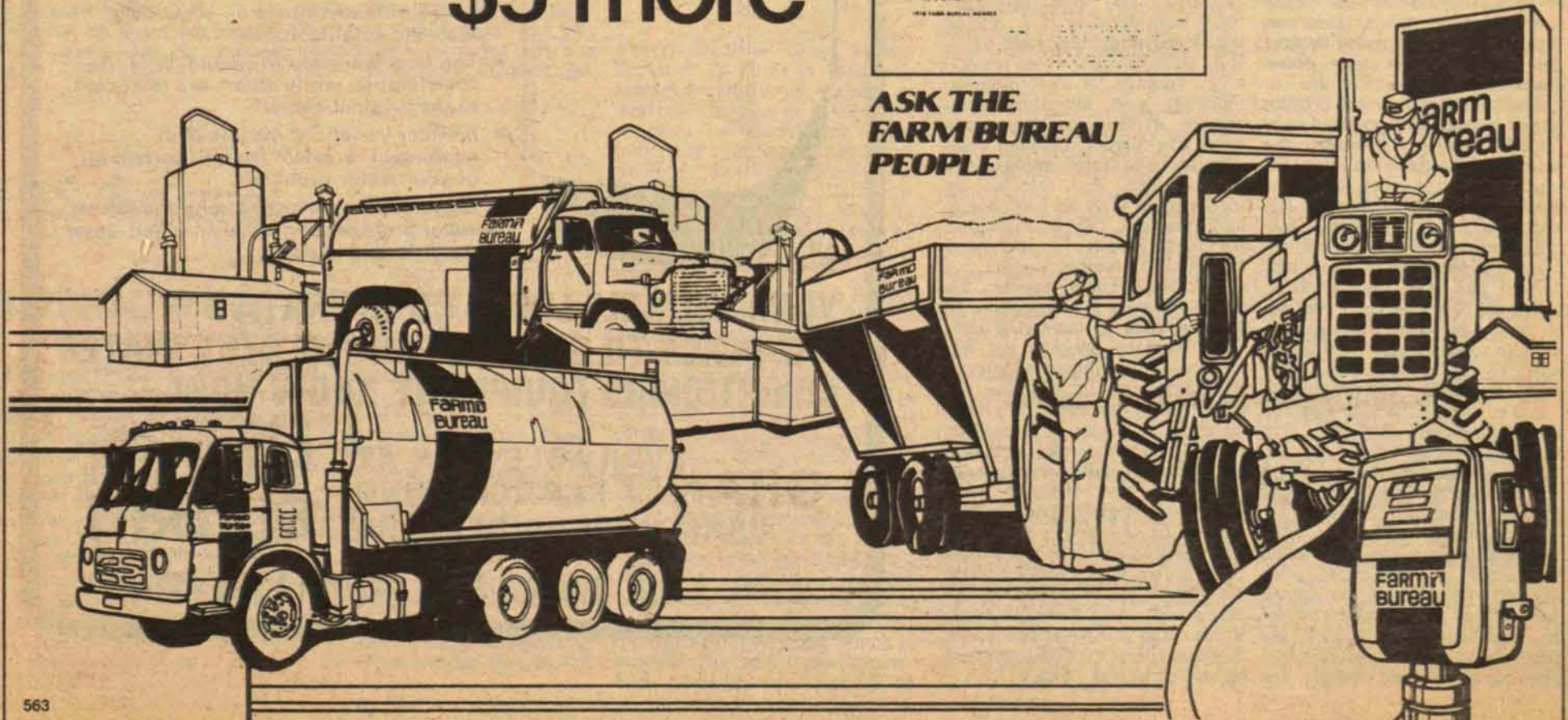
YOUR Farm Bureau MEMBERSHIP IS WORTH \$5 more

Sign-up now for your 1976 Farm Bureau membership and we'll give you a \$5 certificate good toward the purchase of \$50 worth of merchandise at either a Farm Bureau Services or Farmers Petroleum dealer.

This \$5 certificate is one more way your Farm Bureau membership's worth even more today. Stop at your Farm Bureau office and sign-up.



**ASK THE
FARM BUREAU
PEOPLE**



FBIG seeks rate relief

With inflation and rising numbers of automobile accidents highlighting severe underwriting losses in the automobile insurance industry, Farm Bureau Mutual (FBM) and Community Service Insurance (CSI) companies have joined the growing number of companies seeking rate relief from the state Insurance Bureau.

Effective with all new and renewal business processed on or after November 3, 1975, aggregate rate increases averaging 2.79% for Farm Bureau Mutual and 7.46% for Community Service insureds will occur. The companies' last automobile rate change occurred in April 1974.

The filing also reflected some major changes in FBIG's corporate rate setting philosophy. "In the past," states Don Jolliff, CP-CU, Vice President and General Manager of the two companies, "rates were established in large measure by our respective loss experiences in the seven territories we've established for underwriting

purposes in Michigan. As a result we've been more competitive in some territories than in others."

After a lengthy comparison of FBIG's position with the respective rate structures of six major competitors, two additional territories have been created and rate adjustments made to equalize FBIG's competitive position across the state.

While aggregate rates are up for both Farm Bureau Mutual and Community Service Insurance, many different aspects of the rating structure have been revised and — depending on the particular policy coverages, limits and rating territory — individual policies may experience rate increases, rate decreases or no change at all.

Generally speaking, rates for adult pleasure use vehicles have been reduced in both FBM and CSI. Rates have increased for both young females and young males in both FBM and CSI. Business use rates have also increased.

Collectively the rate increases for Farm Bureau Mutual incorporate a .16% reduction in basic No-Fault coverages and an overall increase of 6.05% in Physical Damage (Comp. & Collision). The same figures for CSI are 2.85% and 13.07% respectively. As a general statement, adult pleasure use drivers carrying basic limits, with

no Comp. and Collision, will experience the greatest rate decrease. Because of the complexity of the changes, however, it is impossible to categorize any particular policy as to whether rates will increase, decrease, or remain constant.

"In view of the current chaos in the Property/Casualty Insurance

Industry," states Jolliff, "We believe these modest rate increases, combined with our revised territorial rating structure, will enhance our underwriting opportunity while putting our agents on a firm competitive footing with other companies in all areas of Michigan."

FBS and FPC offer \$5 certificate

The "\$5 Off" membership incentive that was introduced last year by Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. and Farm Bureau Services, Inc. is again being repeated for all farm people who join Farm Bureau in 1976. All members will receive a \$5.00 certificate along with their 1976 membership identification card. Each certificate will be good for a \$5.00 price reduction on a \$50.00 or more purchase from either a Farm Bureau Services or a Farmers Petroleum Cooperative store.

Both Farmers Petroleum Cooperative and Farm Bureau Services are affiliates of Michigan Farm Bureau and are the major

distributors of farm supplies in the state as well as major marketers of grain and beans.

"We want to get better acquainted with Farm Bureau members," states Donald R. Armstrong, Executive Vice President of both of these Farm Bureau Cooperatives, "and also it is our way of saying thank you to the hundreds who already are good and loyal users of our supplies and services."

This Farm Bureau membership incentive was first offered in 1975 and was accepted with much enthusiasm in all areas. The \$5.00 certificates are good until May 31, 1976.

National notes

(Continued from page 5)

dence of agriculture upon adequate supplies of natural gas, Farm Bureau has been leading a strong effort to obtain decontrol of natural gas pricing at the wellhead. Since 1952, the Federal Power Commission has controlled the wellhead price of natural gas at unrealistically low levels. These artificially low prices have increased consumer use of natural gas while, at the same time, destroying the incentive for increased exploration and production of new natural gas supplies.

Earlier this year, Farm Bureau-supported legislation was introduced by several senators, including Senator Griffin (R-Michigan). This legislation contained provisions that would immediately decontrol prices of new natural gas from onshore sites, phase out over five years controls on new gas found offshore and provide an agricultural priority for natural gas used in farm production and food processing.

On October 24, the Senate passed a modified version of the Farm Bureau-supported natural gas bill. The Senate-passed version would limit decontrol of new natural gas production only to new wells. Industrial users would pay for the higher priced new gas which would no longer be subject to price controls. Residential and small commercial users would continue to pay for lower priced gas produced by old wells which would continue under price controls. The

legislation will now go before a House committee where attempts to substantially modify the Senate version are expected.

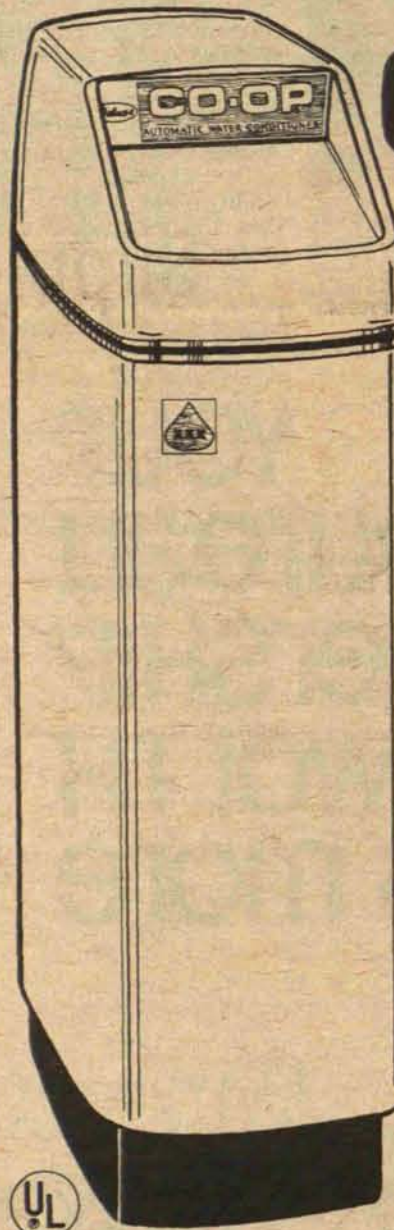
MINIMUM WAGE

On October 24, the House Education and Labor Subcommittee on labor standards began consideration of a quickly introduced minimum wage bill — H.R. 10130. This bill would provide a new formula for increasing the minimum wage according to increases in the consumer price index. The current minimum wage rate for agricultural employees is \$1.80 an hour. This rate will be increased to \$2.00 an hour beginning January 1, 1976; \$2.20 an hour beginning January 1, 1977; and \$2.30 after December 31, 1977.

H.R. 10130 would increase the minimum wage for agriculture to \$3.00 per hour by the end of 1977. This would be preceded by two increases amounting to 30% during 1976. Beginning in 1978, the bill provides that the federal minimum wage for agricultural employees would be automatically increased every three months based on increases in the consumer price index. Michigan congressmen serving on the House Education and Labor Committee are James O'Hara (D-Utica), William Ford (D-Taylor), and Marvin Esch (R-Ann Arbor). Both Michigan Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation have expressed opposition to H.R. 10130.

BUYERS BEWARE!

High pressure door-to-door salesmen are selling water softeners at inflated prices. Before you buy, see your local **CO-OP** dealer for the **LOWEST PRICES** on a quality automatic water conditioner!



CO-OP

AUTOMATIC WATER CONDITIONER

Model UC-XXX, 210,000
Weekly Grain Capacity

\$ 299.00

REGULAR \$339.00 VALUE

YOU SAVE \$40.00

WHY GET STUNG

ON FLY-BY-NIGHT DEALS WHEN YOUR RELIABLE LOCAL COOPERATIVE OFFERS YOU:

- The best quality water conditioning products for almost ONE-HALF THE COST of many others — lower even than the catalog stores.
- The best warranty available. And, its transferable, while others are restricted to the original owner.
- A wider variety of models and equipment to select from to correct all of your water problems.
- Dependable service and consultation on water problems by factory-trained water conditioning experts.



YOUR RELIABLE LOCAL CO-OPERATIVE — THE PLACE TO GO NOW FOR THE BEST WATER CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT KNOW-HOW

AVAILABLE NOW AT PARTICIPATING FARM BUREAU DEALERS

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

ASK THE FARM BUREAU PEOPLE

Michigan Marketing Outlook

DAIRY

Class I utilization, Southern Michigan Milk Market area #40, for the month of September stood at 64.5 percent. Class I utilization is more favorable than has been for the past couple of months due, in part, to the beginning of the school year. The other favorable factor is the price increases received for product which was influenced by the upper trend in the Minnesota/Wisconsin series.

An additional factor which has shortrun, favorable aspects for the dairyman involves the drop in price for feed grains which will result in a more favorable milk/feed ratio.

Ron Nelson, Marketing Specialist
Market Development Division

HAY

Michigan hay price and supply seems to be spotty; the two working in, as expected, reverse order. Hay prices appear to range forty to eighty dollars—depending on quality and distance, with \$80 hay top quality, second and third cutting alfalfa being sold out of the field.

Surrounding states are in much the same situation, with some states such as Wisconsin and Indiana experiencing some localized areas with fairly severe shortages. As of this writing, hay supply nationwide appears to be adequate with some spot shortages and other areas having adequate hay.

Ron Nelson, Marketing Specialist
Market Development Division

DRY BEANS

October has been an unusual dry bean trading month with no bid for navies most of the time. This unique procedure has been brought about by the high grower sales requiring vast sums of capital by the elevators until the beans are physically shipped and invoiced to the trade. Grower sales already have been of sufficient magnitude to cover industry needs through the balance of 1975.

From a production point of view, beans should not be in surplus if we look at the entire marketing year but will continue to show dramatic price changes each time the supply/demand trend gets out of balance.

The USDA did not change the October crop report from the September report even though the industry generally anticipated some decline from the 960# per acre. Defect variance as well as moisture of harvested beans could cause some adjustments in the November or December reports.

Best possibilities for stronger values will likely have to be

postponed until after the turn of the calendar year.

Ron Nelson, Market Specialist
Market Development Division

CORN

The October USDA crop report forecasts an additional one percent supply over the September estimate. This year's harvest is now expected to be 5,737 million bushels in the U. S.; a substantial increase over 1974 production. With continued cooperation from the weatherman, corn harvest will proceed rapidly and ahead of normal. Thus, supplies will pile up rapidly both on the farm and at country elevators.

Demand for this year's crop is still heavily dependent upon export conditions. With the continuation of the grain sales moratorium to Russia past the mid-October deadline, prices have softened in recent weeks. Soviet demand has switched to countries ready and able to sell grain NOW. Despite reductions in the USSR crop production estimates, some doubt exists over the size of future purchases by the Soviets. Even though the ban on grain sales to Poland and Russia has finally been lifted, producers must take a wait-and-see attitude. When Russia re-enters the U. S. market, prices should firm some. Thus, caution in marketing your corn is advised. If possible, explore alternatives to selling at harvest. With the prospect of some price improvement later this fall and winter, storage looks like a good bet at this time. It may also be worth your time to explore hedging part of your crop, as the basis is quite favorable now.

Paul Kindinger, Director
Market Development Division

WHEAT

U. S. production estimates for wheat in the October crop report issued by the USDA were unchanged from those issued in September. However, estimates of worldwide carry-in stocks were revised upward. Included in this world supply report are substantial surpluses of wheat in the EEC. Thus, with large stocks at home, late removal of the grain moratorium, and larger than expected stocks worldwide, prices have softened in recent weeks. The above combination of factors, especially the EEC carry-in supply, may also temper further price improvements. While Russia will now be allowed to re-enter the U. S. market, there is no question the extended moratorium was detrimental to U. S. producers. This year should prove just how inescapably involved the U. S. is in the world markets. Furthermore,

this interdependence will continue to play an important role in U. S. prices and price policy in the months and years to come.

Some price improvement may come as the Russians start buying U. S. grain again. This may be a good opportunity to unload some of your crop. Watch for rallies and use them to sell wheat in the weeks ahead.

Paul Kindinger, Director
Market Development Division

SOYBEANS

With soybean harvest nearing completion, outlook for price improvement appears bleak. Poor export demand for meal and oil have depressed prices in recent weeks. To further add gloom to the picture, USDA October production estimates were up two percent over September which is 19 percent above a year ago. Futures traders have also kept a watchful eye on Brazilian planting intentions.

One bright spot on the horizon may be the limited Peruvian anchovy catch experienced to date. This could spur demand for soybean oil in months ahead, providing some recovery and improvement in future prices. It will pay to watch this development closely and consider selling on a rally if and when it should occur.

Paul Kindinger, Director
Market Development Division

MICHIGAN PROCESSING APPLES DIVISION

Hard sauce apple prices established at \$3.00 per cwt. 2½" up basis. Straight loads of juice apples at \$1.75 per cwt. Michigan's harvest time processing apple prices are the highest in any area in Eastern United States.

GRAPES

Processing grapes harvest in Michigan finished up about 25% below earlier official estimates. Grower prices have been below cost of production this year. Short crop will likely translate to higher grape product prices.

PURPLE PLUMS

The United States Department of Agricultural, at the request of the Michigan Plum Growers and others, purchased almost 100,000 cases of canned purple plums for a special domestic feeding program. This sale should definitely help the inventory position of plums for next year.

RED TART CHERRIES

The Federal Marketing order Cherry Administrative Board will offer the 15% set aside reserve pool of frozen cherries to the processors on November 1-11 at 25½ cents grade A and 24½ cents grade B. The 25 cents average price should return to the grower about 11½ to 12 cents per pound on a raw

producer basis. It is anticipated that a portion of the reserve pool will not be sold at this time. The next offering of reserve pool can be made between March 15 and June 1, 1976.

ASPARAGUS

1975 Asparagus canned pack is down by approximately 50% from last year. A good measure of movement is not available yet. Michigan Asparagus Growers staff presented testimony before the U.S. International Trade Commission regarding the imports of foreign asparagus into the United States.

SWINE

Prices have declined somewhat in recent weeks. The softening of butcher prices may have been precipitated by several factors. However, one factor to keep your eye on was reported in a recent Wall Street Journal. Some backlog at the Packer-Processor level has been experienced in recent weeks as a result of some slowdown or decline in consumer demand. Consumers are now becoming more reluctant to buy pork at retail. This is probably a result of price but also the recent cancer scare relative to chemicals used in curing some pork products. These factors may further play on pork prices in days to come.

Paul Kindinger, Director
Market Development Division

Supply



Report

By Greg Sheffield, Marketing Manager FBS

GENERAL — With the harvest season finishing up we find that most Farm Bureau Services' patrons not only got the supplies they needed, but they got them on time. Farm Bureau Services did well in distributing supplies on allocation through periods of shortages. Earnings for the company have been good and the return of patronage to the local supply cooperatives will be gratifying. Presently we are in a period of transition from shortages to a much better balance of supplies.

FERTILIZER — Farm Bureau Services is closely following market conditions and keeping its dealers informed. Adequate supplies of fertilizers competitively priced reflect the present market conditions. Weather permitting, fall fertilization possibilities such as potash, plowed down may be worthwhile to save time and trouble in the spring.

It looks as though Farm Bureau Services again will be able to garner adequate fertilizer for its farmer patrons, but a problem in spring may be a breakdown in the ability of the railroads to provide adequate transportation. Thus, rather than a supply shortage, we may have a transportation shortage. As always, farmers are advised to order their fertilizers early so as to receive the best service and assurance of a supply of fertilizer when they need it.

With the natural gas shortage becoming a real threat now, there will be problems in the manufacture of nitrogen which is dependent on natural gas supplies. Such a shortage would tend to keep

the prices of nitrogen fertilizers from dropping, especially during the heavy spring demand.

PESTICIDES — Farm Bureau Services' people have been attending all the major chemical supply manufacturing meetings where programs for 1976 are discussed. We will soon be able to come out with the 1976 programs and be in contact with local Farm Bureau dealers showing what best buys and strategies should be.

FEEDS — The production of feed at the Battle Creek Feed Plant has been excellent maintaining output equal to or more than that of last year to date. Livestock farmers will be pleased to hear from their dealers that they can save on Farm Bureau feeds with cash rebates. This offer, which ends December 31, 1975, is available through participating dealers only. The way it works is that a cash rebate certificate will be offered on all livestock feeds. The certificate is redeemable for cash or feed between January 1, 1976 and February 1, 1976. Dealers will rebate \$1.00 per ton of complete feed and \$4.00 per ton of supplement purchased by dealer customers. The minimum order must be one ton of a feed between October 1, 1975 and December 31, 1975. Farmers should inquire at their dealers as soon as possible.

ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCTS — With winter setting in, animals are often subject to stress that results in illness. It is a good idea to check out all livestock carefully and discuss with your dealer what animal health products and sanitation products are best for fall and winter conditions. Farm

Bureau Services dealers have a complete stock of all materials generally at more than competitive prices for fresh products.

HARDWARE — Farmers considering storing their grain on their own farms should contact their dealer at once for modern storage bins and handling equipment. Delivery, however, may take time, so hurry.

There is still adequate aluminum and steel for buildings. Now is the best time to put up farm buildings before winter weather sets in and opportunities for erection are lost. Farm Bureau Services building centers have been putting up buildings at a rapid pace now that building supplies materials have come down in price. Contact them for a free survey of your needs.

FARMERS PETROLEUM COOPERATIVE — The liquid fuel supply is still adequate. Radio and TV advertising for fuel oil is finished but you can still sign up to be sure of an adequate supply of fuel oil if you are not already a Farmers Petroleum oil patron.

The anti-freeze supply is good with the major manufacturers promising substantial raises of \$.67 per gallon on November 1. Farmers Petroleum dealers have an adequate supply of anti-freeze so stock up.

Tire movement is very good which causes supply shortages. Cooperative sales have been as much as 84% above projected forecasts in some of the passenger tire lines and only time will get enough production to keep pace with demand. Get snow tires fast and avoid delays later when the snow flies.

FBS Board nominees named

Frederick L. Halbert, Chairman of Farm Bureau Services Annual Meeting Nominating Committee, will be reporting the following individuals as nominees for the election of Board of Directors.

Present Incumbents —
Harvey Leuenberger — Cash Crop Farmer — Saginaw County

Lawrence Metzger — Manager, Marlette Farmers Co-op — Sanilac County

Gerald Geiger — Manager, Uth Farmers Co-op — Huron County

In addition —

Clare Harrington — Certified Seed Grower — Tuscola County
Harry Herbruck — Egg Producer — Ionia County
Harold Borgman — Apple and Cherry Farmer — Newaygo County

Elton R. Smith, President of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. will also call for additional nominations for the floor following the reporting of the Nominating Committee report.

All about water

Without it there can be no life, and down through the ages man has accepted the water around him as a gift from God—a birthright to be squandered or saved according to the demands of circumstance. Confident of an unending supply from earth's mighty rivers and timeless seas, man has wasted water and polluted it. Parched by unpredictable droughts, he has migrated thousands of miles to stake his thirst. He has fought over it since ancient times.

Man's current concerns over water reflects a serious, worldwide shortage in the midst of plenty. For while it is a fact of nature that water swamps nearly three-fourths of the earth's surface, it is also an ironic truth that it cannot always be found where it is needed, when it is needed, in the amounts that are required.

THE WATER SUPPLY

There is just so much water. Except for negligible amounts newly created or destroyed by chemical changes, the earth's water supply remains constant.

But that supply of water is always on the move. From clouds in the sky to land and ocean, and back to the sky again—it goes round and round in the water cycle, and we use the same water again and again. Variations of the water's movement through the cycle—uneven distribution and irregular timing—give rise to most problems of local water shortages or excess.

Records show that the average annual precipitation (rain, hail, snow, sleet) in the United States if spread evenly over the surface would be about 30 inches. This amounts to about 4,300 billion gallons a day. That is our total water supply.

What happens to the 4,300 billion gallons a day of precipitation that must replenish our water supply is greatly influenced by the surface on which it falls. Whether water enters the ground or runs off overland depends largely upon the nature and condition of the soil and its vegetative cover. The farmers who control our farmland, rangeland, and woodland also control to an important degree the movement of water that falls on their land.

USE OF WATER BY PLANTS

Plants generally take their share of water as it comes to us in the water cycle even before man and animals have an opportunity to use it for drinking.

Water is essential to photosynthesis, the process by which plants make food that supports all animal life. The amount of water used by a plant varies widely with kind of plant and variations in weather, availability of moisture, and other conditions. Succulent plants like cabbage and lettuce are more than 80 percent water. A growing tree is at least 50 percent water. And a single plant of winter wheat requires 25 gallons of water during its growing season.

WATER FOR LIVESTOCK

Water has always been a major item in locating farms. The pioneer settler cleared his farmstead beside a spring or stream to provide drinking water for his family and livestock. Plainsmen depended upon finding water for a well, and in the far west stockmen feuded over the scattered waterholes.

Livestock water needs are figured at 20 gallons per animal per day for milk cows; 10 gallons for other cattle, however, and mules; 3 gallons for hogs; 2 gallons for sheep and goats; and 0.06 gallons for poultry.

WATER FOR IRRIGATION

Farmers withdraw for irrigation about 60 percent as much water as industries use, and four times as much as municipalities. However, about 60 percent of irrigation water is evaporated or transpired by crops, whereas industries return 98 percent and municipalities 83 percent of their water to sources from which it can be used again.

As a result, irrigation accounts for the disappearance of several times as much water as all other uses combined. Prevailing methods of irrigation require much more water to be withdrawn than is actually needed by crops. Part of the water is lost by evaporation, seepage, runoff, or deep percolation in soil.

One of the most promising ways to conserve water in irrigation farming is to improve efficiency in irrigation designs and operations.

WATER FOR INDUSTRY

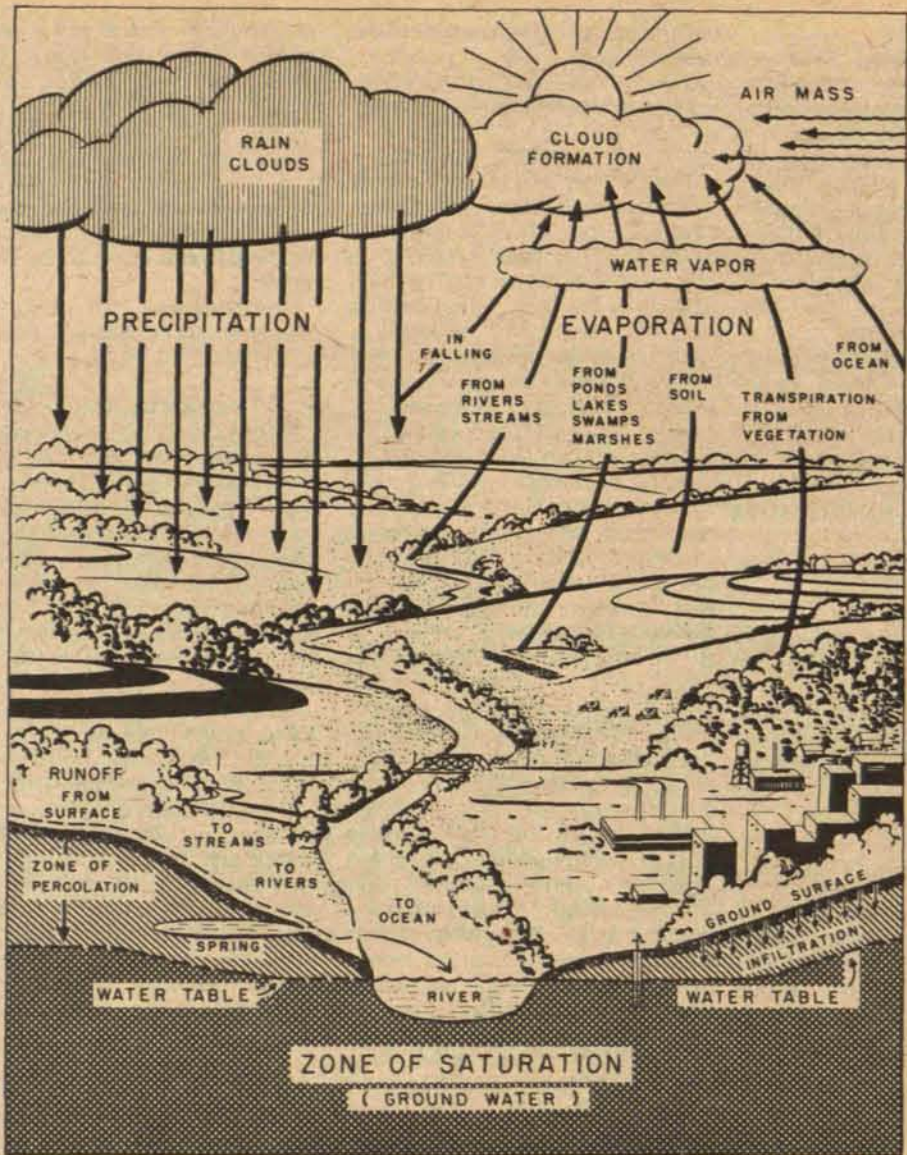
Water is industry's number one raw material. Manufacturing uses tremendous volumes of water. As much as 300 pounds of water may be required for each pound of finished product. It takes some 770 gallons of water to refine a barrel of petroleum, up to 65,000 gallons to turn out a ton of steel, and 600,000 gallons to make a ton of synthetic rubber.

Many industrial plants reduce their water intake by using other types of cooling systems or by recirculating and reusing water. Local abundance or scarcity of water and the economics of installing and operating water-conserving equipment determine the practices used at each plant.

Availability of adequate water is a deciding factor in the location of new industrial plants. More and more, location of water supplies guides industrial development of the country. Demand is so high that the search for fresh water and for the means of putting it to work economically has become an expanding challenge to ingenuity. Dowsers, who used to roam the land with their witch-hazel driving rods, are no longer adequate.

WATER RIGHTS

Precisely, because the vast but limited supply is in-



DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**
Manager Member Relations

dispensable, water has inevitably aroused bitter disputes. The very word "rival" was used in Roman law as a term for those who shared the water of a river, or irrigation channel.

In pioneer days supply exceeded need for water in the humid east. A person's right to use water where he found it was taken for granted, like his right to breathe the air. Water uses at that time were primarily for domestic, navigation, and other "in the stream" activities.

As more people sought to make use of streams, conflicts sometimes arose and were settled by courts in accordance with common-law doctrine of riparian rights.

This doctrine emphasizes the riparian principle that owners of land touching the same stream have equal rights to make reasonable use of it, each being subject to rights of other owners—the share-and-share alike ideal.

In the arid west, on the other hand, miners and settlers from the first competed for the limited water supply. They established the principle that the water user "first in time is first in right." This became recognized by the territorial courts, and later became part of the legislative acts providing for appropriation of water for beneficial use under suspension of a state water agency.

Now, in all states, needs for water have increased and competition raises many questions of water rights. Michigan has little in way of statutory water law to guide potential users. Most of the water "law" in Michigan has been created by court decision rather than by action of the Legislature. Each decision fits a certain condition and frequently offers little guidance in general.

RIPARIAN RIGHTS

A riparian proprietor or riparian is one who owns land which includes the shore or bank of a lake, stream or on the Great Lakes. Riparian rights have been defined by the Michigan Supreme Court as follows:

- The right to use the water for general purposes, such as bathing, domestic use, etc.
- The right to wharf out to navigable waters. (This right is not an absolute and unrestricted right as it is subject to regulatory concurrence of the state.)

- The right of access to the navigable waters.
- The right to accretions. (i.e. growth in size)

Riparian owners have a correlative right to make reasonable use of the entire surface of a body of water for such purposes as navigation, fishing and other purposes consistent with the public trust. On navigable waters, these rights are shared with the public. However, the public is not entitled to gain access over privately owned upland.

It has been determined by the courts that the state cannot destroy riparian rights without compensation. However, it is the usual rule that all riparian rights are subject to the public rights in the waters and when private rights conflict with public rights, they generally must give way to the superior public rights.

CONCLUSION

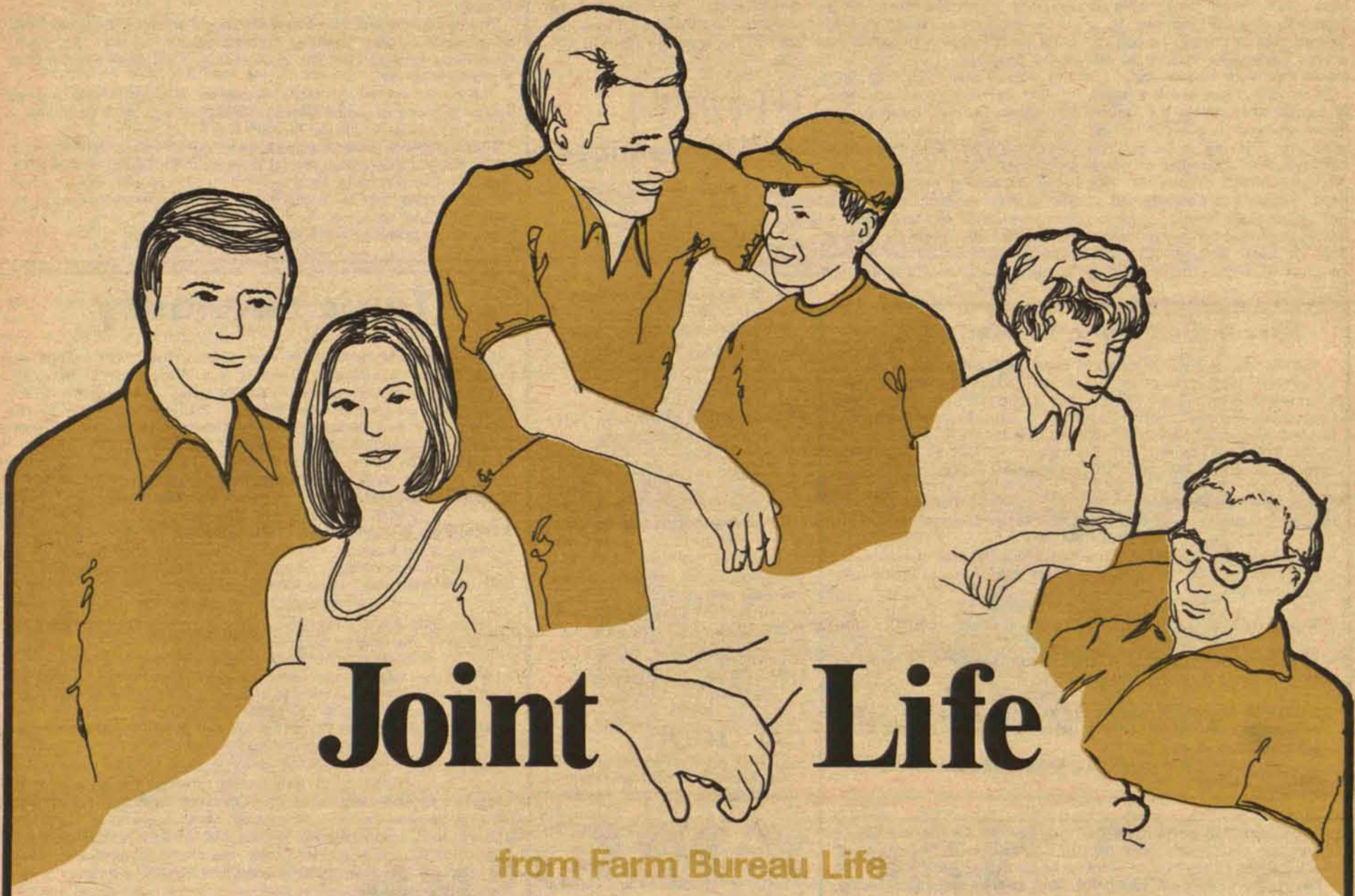
What's ahead? We can count on agriculture to continue as the nation's number one water user—at least for the foreseeable future. By 2000, some estimate we may be irrigating 50 million acres of cropland. Other water uses will also expand rapidly.

Development of water-based recreation is expected to get high priority in coming year, particularly in rural areas, where such facilities sometimes generate more economic activity than agriculture.

Already these "high valued" uses are competing with agriculture in areas short on water supplies. With such conflicts coming up in the future, wise management and development of water resources become an absolute must.

When a farmer uses a stream to irrigate, a city builds a dam for water storage, or a county diverts runoff to protect a county road, legal questions may be raised relating to rights to use, store, or divert the water, for liability for damages, or for both. In general, any activity connected with storing, retarding, diverting, discharging, collecting, pumping, or otherwise affecting flow or use of water could infringe upon rights of use or result in damage to property of others.

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