

State Wants More Farm Machine Safety Laws

Michigan may adopt farm machinery safety regulations that are more comprehensive and restrictive than the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards that will be implemented on October 25 of this year, the director of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association (MASA) warns.

"The Michigan Farm Bureau advocates verbatim acceptance of the federal regulations for tractor roll over protection and farm machinery guarding," Merrill J. Buschlen says. "Anyone who is for these federal regulations and against additional state rules should help us by presenting testimony at the September 13 public hearing for the proposed state laws."

The hearing will be held in Lansing at the Baker-Olin West Building, Michigan Department of Public Health, 3423 North Logan at 10:00 a.m.

Here is what the Michigan OSHA would require in addition to the federal regulations on field and farmstead equipment. Basically the state would

have more authority than it would have under federal law. The state laws will place more burden and responsibility on the farm employer than the federal statutes would," Buschlen says.

- Headlights and a backing light if a tractor is operated in the field or a highway between dusk and dawn.

- A second seat for riders providing operating instructions to the employee.

- Additional guarding on field and farmstead machinery. The areas to be protected are "any hot surface on equipment which is likely to cause injury on contact."

- Mechanical "lock-out provisions" in addition to a means of disconnecting the power on material handling equipment located in a bulk storage area.

- Require field and farmstead equipment manufactured prior to October 25, 1976 to also meet the more detailed Michigan guarding specifications one year after rules on the new machinery go into effect, or October 25, 1977. The federal law pertains only to new equipment.

- Additional responsibility on the employer for employee training in such areas as

- enforcement of rules that an authorized employee must test brakes and operating equipment on tractors before each day's use and the wearing of "personal protective equipment."

- Instruction that employees are to hitch only to the draw bar or to hitch points approved by the Director of Labor. The federal OSHA rules respect the instruction provided by the manufacturers, while the state does not, Buschlen says.

"These are just synopses of the Michigan proposals", Buschlen points out. "The actual wording is much broader as to encompass virtually every safety element encountered in farm and farmstead equipment."

The Michigan Farm Bureau considers the additional state standards to be less effective than the federal standards, Buschlen emphasizes.

"The additional regulations are unnecessary and dangerously vague in a legal sense due to poor and confusing wording of the rules.

The Michigan law shows that it was not written by persons who are familiar with agriculture. The federal legislation was painstakingly put together over a number of years with the counsel of farm equipment manufacturers, university agricultural engineers and experts from many other agricultural associations."

Some of the vagueness can be seen in the rule 1503, paragraph III, Buschlen says. It reads "hazardous means a condition or procedure which could result in an injury."

"The wording leaves the farm employer vulnerable to just about any situation" Buschlen points out. The federal regulations define much more carefully what the employer is responsible for." Under the "Operating Rules" section, paragraph II of rule 5351 reads that "before servicing, adjusting, cleaning, or unclogging farm field equipment, the motor or engine shall be shut off, the energy source disconnected and all movement stopped."

"This rule conflicts with the law's own rule 5311, paragraph II," says Richard Pfister, Michigan State University agricultural safety engineer. "This rule also says that the motor must be shut off, except where power is needed for proper servicing. Farmers will not know which rule they must comply with."

It also is impossible to comply with paragraph II of Rule 5351 because some equipment maintenance practices, such as the sharpening of cutting bars on choppers, requires that the bars be rotating under power.

The state regulation is an edited version of the Federal Standard, Pfister points out. "The editing makes the state version read in a way that puts the burden of interpretation solely on the farm employer. The employer must then instruct his employees in the way he believes the law reads. If he in any way misinterprets the law, he is potentially subject to legal action.

"The Michigan law is not comprised of language that promotes understanding and

voluntary compliance, Pfister emphasizes.

"Because of the high number of potential farm employers in Michigan, MIOSHA would have to depend on voluntary compliance. Farm employers may resent compliance with the law as it is written now."

"We want to have safety standards that are practical and effective enough to make them a part of good farm management practices," Pfister summed up.

The Michigan OSHA regulation could also be unconstitutional, a legal counsel for the Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute points out.

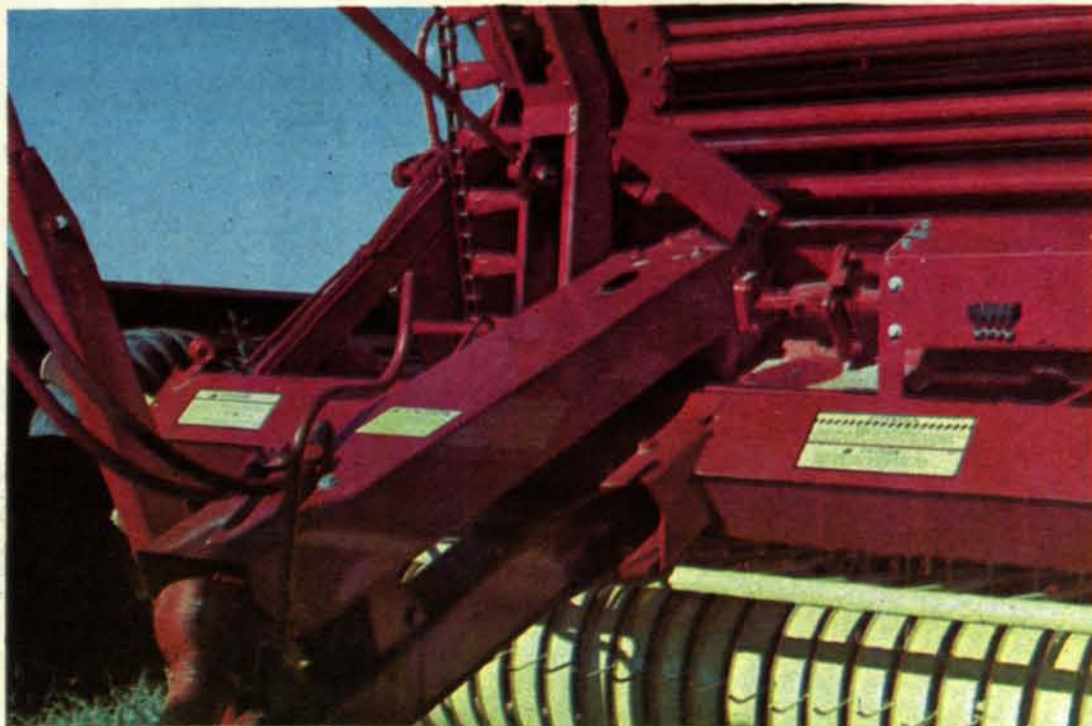
"The Federal OSHA regulation reads that states may introduce additional legislation only if their regulations will not interfere with interstate commerce, and that the states must show that there is a compelling need for more stringent controls in their state," the counsel points out.

"Also the Michigan rule would prevent national farm equipment manufacturers from shipping their machinery into the state because of the different machinery shielding standards," he continues. "This is clearly in violation of interstate commerce."

State laws differing from the federal rules would also prohibit proper distribution of manufacturer's hazard warning labels, called for in both the Michigan and federal laws, Pfister adds. It has also not been determined whether MIOSHA will waive the clause in federal regulations that exempts farm employers with less than ten employees from implementing the regulations for the first year.

Any farmer who is not concerned with either the state or federal farm machinery safety rules because he has less than ten employees, should pay heed to what can happen," Buschlen points out.

"The state could waive the ten employee exemption before the rules go into effect," the farm law expert stresses. "Also the federal exemption applies only for one year."



MORE GUARDS, DIFFERENT OPERATION HAZARD WARNING LABELS are only two problems farmers will face if the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration can enforce machinery safety regulations that are more restrictive than the federal OSHA standards. The federal rules become effective October 25. Shieldings would have to be around hot surfaces and sharp edges, among other places. Labels would be a problem because manufacturers could supply only those properly worded for the national standards.

From the Desk of



The President

Let's Keep Telling Our Story

Throughout the state this past month, hundreds of Farm Bureau members have been telling the story of agriculture to urbanites at county and state fairs. I'm proud of these farmers who take time from their busy schedules to get involved in this vitally important communications exercise.

In recent years, as more and more of our population relate to the supermarket as the source of their food supply rather than the farm, we have increased our efforts to keep in touch with consumers through the public news media. We have made great strides in this area as farmers became aware that they had a story to tell and news people realized that agriculture made good copy.

But communications through the news media, as important as it is to our industry, will never surpass the effectiveness of person-to-person exchanges of information and philosophy, with the opportunity to question and respond, to build understanding through honest, open conversation on a one-to-one basis. . . farmer to consumer, consumer-to-farmer.

There are points we can get across in situations like this that we have failed to project to consumers through other methods. Take, for example, the recent canneries strike in California which left millions of dollars of fruit and vegetables rotting on the ground. How will Michigan consumers relate to that California tragedy unless we tell them how it affects them? You will note that the usually vocal consumer groups did not tell them. These groups were very quiet during this strike, as they are about other labor actions that boost consumer costs of food. It makes you wonder just who they are protecting.

We cannot depend upon the so-called consumer protection groups to tell them that the strike in California, at the peak of harvest time, will hurt consumers, both in less food available and in the cost of food. Who will tell them that, during a time when there is mounting concern about the availability of food to feed the hungry of the world, over 60,000 tons of food rotted in the fields while union workers used the walkout weapon at harvest time to achieve their ends?

Who will tell them -- if not farmers -- that it is in the public interest for Congress to enact legislation that would prohibit a strike which stops the flow of raw or processed food products to markets?

Who but a farmer can explain to a factory worker that the uncompleted automobile on the assembly line which he left during a strike will not rot like a tomato does while union and management haggle over wage increases? Although he knows the difference between a car and a tomato, it's very likely he isn't aware that when a labor dispute halts the harvest of perishable food commodities, a producer is faced not only with the loss of a whole year's work, but his capital investment in planting, fertilizer, and chemicals. And the consumer will have to wait one full year for that food to be replaced.

This is just one of many issues which farmers discussed with city consumers during personal contacts this summer at fairs and other functions that bring us together. Let's never underestimate the effectiveness of this "avenue of communication" and the understanding

Farmer Involvement In Election Urged

Farm Bureau members should first consider whether a political candidate is a friend of agriculture rather than a Republican or a Democrat before voting for him in the 1976 election, Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton R. Smith advises.

Smith addressed his remarks to the Farm Bureau members attending the "Opportunities and Public Affairs" conference held recently at the Farm Bureau Center in Lansing.

"Such politicians should understand the needs of the farmer and listen to the matters that concern him", Smith pointed out. "Good laws for agriculture begin with good men who are attuned to rural problems."

To make sure that such candidates are elected, Smith advocated the formation of farm support committees to assist in these politician's campaigns.

"Farm Bureau members can be influential in the establishment of an operation of these committees," Smith explained. "Agriculture can't afford to sit out the 1976 election. Members can increase the impact of the farm vote by providing leadership in campaign support of these politicians who would be best for agriculture."

Jerry Klymer, director of Congressional affairs for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, also stressed the importance of farmers involvement in the coming election.

"Agriculture is reaching a new importance in the political arena," he explained. Now virtually all members of Congress are wanting to get involved with agricultural issues. They are starting to pay more attention to the voice of rural constituents."

1977 will be a critical year for agriculture Klymer adds. Most major farm legislation will be coming up for review, including the Agricultural and Consumer Protection act of 1973, federal and grain inspection programs, the state taxes and food export legislation.

"What is decided by Congress next year will decide whether American agriculture will rely on government controls or the free market system. It has been noted that the free enterprise system works out the best. Also vital will be the reorganization of the USDA" he adds.

"Every major presidential candidate has promised some sort of government restructuring. If such change takes place, virtually every USDA program will be affected."

Klymer urged Farm Bureau members to get involved so that the farmer's voice would be heard and the legislation enacted in his best interests.

"If you want to be influential you must be involved and you must be heard," Klymer concluded "Letters can make a tremendous impact on Congressmen."

DONNA

Power Packed Pens

Even though I am among their numbers, I never cease to be amazed by the power of women! When they're angry, they don't just mumble in their teacups; they DO something about righting what they believe is wrong.

Such was the case when McCall's Patterns printed a glowing tribute to the woman who organized the beef boycott back in 1973 in their recent "Carefree Patterns" magazine. The article was written by "That Girl," Marlo Thomas, who serves as McCall's director of women's interests. Glorification of the meat boycott hit a sore spot with farm wives, especially those who are still suffering from the disastrous effects of price controls on beef that were imposed as a result of the boycotts.

Out in Montana, the Farm Bureau Women decided that two could play the boycott game. In protest of the article, they decided to boycott McCall's Patterns. Alone with letters of protest, they enclosed flaps from previously purchased patterns to prove they HAD BEEN regular customers. Now you may think this would be no big deal to a company like McCall's . . . would the loss of a few ranch wife customers even make a dent in their business? Well, I used to live "next door" in South Dakota and can vouch for the fact that out there on the range, with the closest town 30 miles away or more,

sewing their families' clothes is not just a hobby for ranch women.

Besides, the Montana women didn't "do their thing" quietly. They got on television talk shows to share with the public the reasons for their wrath. And when they shared their concerns with Farm Bureau Women throughout the nation, action spread like a prairie fire.

Evidently, most of the farm and ranch women didn't sit and ponder too long about what they should say in their letters to McCall's. No sooner had word gotten out that there was a united action underway to rectify misinformation, when the American Farm Bureau Federation received a call from "that girl" apologizing for her lack of knowledge and understanding, and offering to highlight some outstanding Farm Bureau Women in future issues of "Carefree Patterns."

Personally, I'm glad our women chose the letter-writing approach rather than the boycott method of protest. Somehow, it doesn't seem fitting to resort to the very methods we profess to abhor in order to get our message across.

This personal observation is not meant as criticism of the Montana women, but rather a pat on the back for Michigan women. If the Montana Women hadn't first hit the mule over the head to gain his attention, perhaps he wouldn't be listening yet.

and support we can reap from it. And it doesn't need to be confined to fair season. Seldom does a day go by that we don't come in contact with someone who knows little or nothing about agriculture -- and these are the people who are involved in making decisions which effect OUR industry.

We have a story to tell. Let's keep telling it!

Elton R. Smith

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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Farm Bureau

All Farm Worker Housing May Be Under OSHA Rule

Where does legitimate legislation for agricultural employee health and safety requirements end and governmental intrusion into the private lives of the workers begin?

Top officials of the Michigan Farm Bureau feel that such intrusion begins with Federal Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) standards that could be imposed on permanent employee dwellings on the farm.

Such a rule is possible if farmers do not object, says Merrill J. Buschlen, operations manager of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association (MASA). This organization is an affiliate of the Michigan Farm Bureau. Buschlen presented testimony opposing the establishment of new OSHA standards fact-finding hearing held recently by that agency.

MASA and a group of Ohio farmers were influential in having OSHA withdraw the original proposal to Part 1910.142, the federal standards pertaining to temporary farm labor housing on May 4, 1976. Now OSHA is attempting once again to write a new proposal to broaden the scope of its regulations.

"The addition of permanent agricultural housing under OSHA rule is an attempt to broaden OSHA's jurisdiction of the employee workplace to employee-related housing as well," Buschlen explains. "The agency is being pressured to come up with tighter temporary housing rules to further protect migrant workers. In so doing, the agency feels it should expand its regulations to cover all agricultural housing."

Along with permanent and temporary housing, OSHA wants to cover the new category pertaining to "housing occupied year-round by a succession of different persons in a transient status."

"MASA objects to permanent housing regulations by OSHA because the agency was created to provide a safe workplace for employees," Buschlen points out. "Since no agricultural work is performed in employee housing, the farm organization and others feel that OSHA is overstepping its bounds."

Various problems crop up immediately when one tries to decide on how OSHA would regulate permanent housing already covered by local building and health codes in Michigan. An obvious and unnecessary duplication of rules is bound to present itself in all areas, Buschlen emphasizes.

We would have some esthetic problems as well, he adds. "One is that the farmer



Merrill J. Buschlen, operations manager for the Michigan Agricultural Services Association (MASA) testified before a Federal OSHA hearing that employees' homes on the farm would be subjected to governmental scrutiny.

cannot be responsible for the living habits of an employee once that person has permanently moved into a house on the farmer's property. Another is that the worker who lives on the farmer's land would be subjected to close scrutiny of his living habits, while the employee who lives elsewhere would not be inconvenienced in this manner. The resident worker could feel that he is being discriminated against."

Temporary housing is now being regulated by one state and two federal health and safety regulations. Michigan Public Act 289 requires that a license be obtained to operate a temporary labor camp, when five or more migratory workers are housed on the farm. Those farmers who use the Michigan Employment Service (formerly Rural Manpower) to assist them in recruiting farm workers must comply with Federal Department of Labor regulations Part 620 (housing for agricultural workers). Present OSHA regulations (Part 1910.142) regulate all sites used for temporary labor camps. Farmers meeting either these rules or Part 620 are considered to have satisfied OSHA requirements.

"Michigan had a good temporary labor camp housing law before anyone ever heard of OSHA," Buschlen points out. These health and safety standards went into effect in 1965. The regulations have been revised since then, based on sound experience. They are now practical, reasonable, well understood by employer and employees, and do provide for the health and safety of the occupants."

Additional regulations would be confusing, Buschlen says. Farmers are already caught between conflicting rules. Employees also lose because of such bureaucratic overkill, Buschlen adds.

"Michigan employers used to send interstate clearance orders to other states advising their migrant service personnel when and where temporary work was available," the labor safety

expert points out. "With this system, workers could plan a full summer employment schedule. Now the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration requires inspection of the camps where the workers would stay before interstate clearance orders can be sent out. Since the inspections would have to be made in winter and early spring, weather makes such inspections impossible in Michigan."

increasing the size of individual living space at temporary camps is put into effect, Buschlen continues. "Most temporary worker quarters would have to be rebuilt to meet the new specifications," Buschlen points out. "The expense of constructing these new quarters could prove to be too high for most seasonal crop growers who use temporary help over short periods of time. Some owners of temporary labor camps testified at the recent OSHA hearing that they would be forced to discontinue providing housing for migrants if costs became prohibitive."

These operators might stop raising the short season crops that require migrant help or switch to mechanical harvesting. Regardless of how they handle the situation, there will be both less work and less housing in Michigan for migrant workers if the new OSHA regulations go into effect, Buschlen emphasizes.

The Farm Bureau spokesman said that the number of migrant workers entering Michigan has declined from 93,348 in 1964 to 21,000 in 1975. By the same token, the number of farm labor camps in Michigan has

declined from 2,610 with a capacity of 91,865 in 1966 to 1,086 with a capacity of 31,492 in 1975.

"Certainly not all of this decrease can be blamed on the lack of interstate clearance orders, but the figures do show that farmers are switching to mechanical harvesting. They have found it is less expensive to use machines than to hire and house temporary workers," Buschlen says.

Housing "occupied year-round by a succession of different persons in a transient status," as OSHA's third categorization reads, could refer to such facilities for mushroom workers, Buschlen says. "These employees do come and go, but a work force is needed throughout the year."

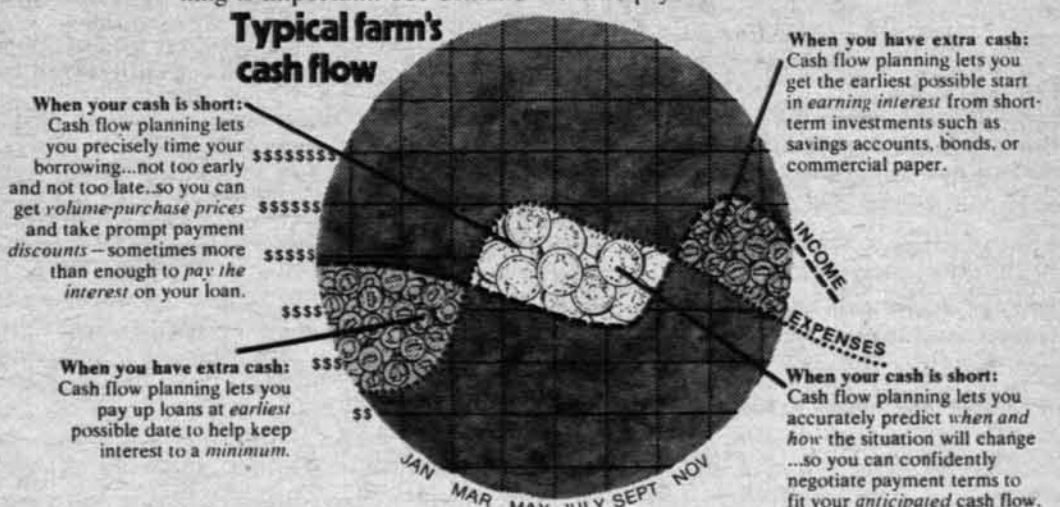
Once the new OSHA proposal is published in the Federal Register, agency officials expect to finalize the housing rules by December 1976 and have them go into effect by April 1977.

"The only way to stop this needless overregulation is for the farmer to make his voice heard," Buschlen says. "The best way is to express your opinions through MASA."



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CAPITOL REPORT

BALLOT ISSUE UPDATE

Robert E. Smith



It appears there will be at least four issues on the November ballot for decision by the voters of the state.

The Legislature approved one Constitutional issue for voter consideration in November. It would permit 18 year olds to run for election to the House and Senate. This comes at a time when many people are questioning the wisdom of lowering adult age from 21 to 18. In fact, bills have been introduced to raise

the drinking age above the present age of 18.

The Bottle and Can Control Issue which was strongly supported by Farm Bureau through the petition drive has been challenged in the Courts on technical points. The Court of Appeals ruled that the petitions were valid. The challengers took the issue to the Supreme Court which upheld the lower court.

An estimated 380,000 petition signatures were

gathered on this issue. Only 212,000 signatures are needed on an initiative proposal.

Once the Board of Cancellers certifies the petitions, the Legislature has 40 days to adopt or reject the initiative proposal or can put another version of the Bottle issue on the ballot. If the initiative proposal is adopted by a vote of the people, it can be amended or repealed only by a three-quarters vote of the Legislature.

The third proposal results from the petition circulated by the Michigan Citizens Lobby. This is the same organization that petitioned to eliminate sales tax on food which resulted in some \$200 million of revenue lost to the State.

This resulted in having to raise the income tax from 3.9 percent to 4.6 percent. In this petition they proposed to amend the Constitution by requiring the income tax be

reduced from 4.6 percent to 3.9 percent for those persons making less than \$20,000 a year. In order to make up for lost revenue, those making over \$20,000 a year would be placed in a higher income tax bracket. It is estimated that the income tax may be as high as 9 percent for many people. This is not a guarantee that the lower tax for those with incomes below \$20,000 would remain. The proposal permits the Legislature to increase the rates. This is an effort to eliminate the present constitutional ban on a graduated income tax in Michigan. In previous years, there have been several attempts to permit a graduated income tax. However, the voters have always strongly opposed such proposals.

It is interesting to note that a recent study conducted by the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations shows that the Michigan income tax is considered to be "highly progressive" even though it is a "flat rate" system. Progressivity is accomplished by the use of exemptions. The effective income tax rate in Michigan at the \$25,000 level is at least three times that imposed at the \$7,500 level.

Farm Bureau policy, as interpreted by the Board of Directors, has been opposed to this newest Citizens Lobby effort.

The fourth ballot proposal is a Constitutional Amendment that results from a petition drive by "Taxpayers United" which includes several different organizations along with many Legislators. This Constitutional proposal would restrict State spending to no more than 8.3 percent of the State personal income in the prior fiscal year. Farm Bureau was involved in the circulation of the petitions by making them available to all County Farm Bureau offices, community groups, at numerous meetings and other methods of distribution.

If tax rates under the new proposal produce too much revenue, it would be required that the additional taxes be refunded. Spending limits by the State could be exceeded only by an emergency declaration by the Governor and agreed to by two-thirds vote of the Legislature. It would prohibit the State from ordering local governments to increase services or initiate new programs unless totally funded by the State.

Help The Single Business Tax Task Force

The S.B.T. was introduced in March of 1975 and signed into law in August of 1975 as P.A. 228.

During that period of time and since there have been several articles and reports on the S.B.T. in the Michigan Farm News, Minuteman Letter, in meetings, etc. It applies to all business activity. While it proved to be impossible to exempt agriculture, several Farm Bureau supported amendments were made to the legislation which had the effect of excluding most farmers from the tax. However, some larger farmers will have some tax to pay. Companion legislation strongly supported by Farm Bureau increased the property tax refund from \$500 to \$1200.

All farmers with sales of \$34,000 or more will have to file a S.B.T. tax return for 1976 at the same time as their State and Federal Income Tax. In most cases this will be March 1, 1977.

There are obvious problems in the S.B.T. law. Farm Bureau is represented on a 37-member Task Force to study the S.B.T. and recommend necessary changes to the Legislature. The Task Force is conducting an official random sample survey of 4,000 business firms (200 in each of 20 categories including agriculture). Should you receive an official survey form, be sure to fill it out and return it promptly.

However, in such a random sample, it is not likely that there will be adequate information on the effect of the S.B.T. on agriculture. The following questionnaire is designed to do two things (1) help farmers understand the S.B.T. and (2) provide information to be used in making recommendations to the Task Force. This survey is general in nature but should be adequate for most farming operations.

Please take the time to fill out the questionnaire and return it to the Michigan Farm Bureau, Public Affairs Division, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Michigan 48909. The years of 1973 and 1975

were chosen to provide a cross section of S.B.T.'s effect. The information can be taken from your 1040 F income tax form.

SPECIAL NOTES

- Investment in depreciable property includes depreciable real estate as well as personal property.

- One of two special reductions may be used to reduce the adjusted tax base:

(a) 50 percent of gross receipts may be used if it is advantageous, or

(b) If labor costs exceed 65 percent of the total tax base, it may be reduced by the percentage above 65 percent, not to exceed 35 percent. For example: If labor costs were 75 percent of the total tax base, 10 percent of the adjusted tax base could be deducted.

- The law provides for averaging income the same as in the Federal Income Tax law. The current year and the previous four years. As of now, the rules do not permit using this provision this year.

- Individuals are eligible for a credit against their state income tax for a portion of the SBT. If the business income is \$20,000 or less, the credit is 20 percent of the SBT; more than \$20,000, but less than \$40,000, the credit is 15 percent; more than \$40,000, the credit is 10 percent.

- The SBT is a deductible item for federal income tax returns. Savings on your federal taxes will depend on your income bracket.

- Several taxes were repealed with passage of S.B.T. Incorporated farms would no longer pay the corporation income tax, franchise fees, or intangible tax.

- It should be stressed that this is a general outline of the major provisions of the S.B.T. There are other provisions that may effect some taxpayers depending on individual circumstances.

(1) Kind of farm (underline one or more): Dairy, Cash Crop, Fruit, Poultry, Livestock, Vegetable, Other _____

(2) How many persons do you normally employ full and part-time? _____

(3) Who prepares your tax returns? Yourself, C.P.A., Attorney, Independent Tax Preparer, Other _____

(4) Is your farm a single ownership? Partnership? (If so, how many partners? _____) Incorporated? Number of Owners _____

Subchapter S Corporation? Number of Owners _____ Leased or rented? _____

(5) What are the gross receipts? (Cash farm income and capital gains, if any, from the farm business) _____ (If less than \$34,000, not necessary to file S.B.T. form.)

HOW TO FIGURE THE S.B.T.

Take information from 1040 F federal return and other schedules as indicated.

BUSINESS INCOME	1973	1975
Net farm income or (loss) line 54, 1040 F	_____	_____
Net rental income, if any, or (loss) (Schedule E)	_____	_____
Farm business capital gains or (losses) (Schedule D) to the extent included in federal taxable income.	_____	_____
TOTAL	_____	_____
ADDITIONS		
(a) All labor costs, line 29, 1040 F (Include Social Security payments, worker's compensation, health insurance, profit sharing, etc.)	_____	_____
(b) Depreciation, line 59, 1040 F	_____	_____
(c) Interest Expense, line 31, 1040 F	_____	_____
(d) Excluded farm business capital gains, Schedule D	_____	_____
(e) Previous year S.B.T. (Not applicable first year)	_____	_____
TOTAL ADDITIONS	_____	_____
TOTAL TAX BASE (Business Income plus Additions)	_____	_____
SUBTRACT		
28 percent of depreciation on assets purchased prior to 1976 (increases to 50 percent in 1977 and 60 percent in 1978 and thereafter) (estimate for 1973 and 1975.)	_____	_____

Dividends (patronage, etc.) _____

Total cost of depreciable capital assets purchased in 1976 (estimate for 1973 and 1975) _____

TAX BASE BEFORE EXEMPTIONS

EXEMPTIONS:

Statutory exemption - \$34,000 (\$36,000 in 1977) _____

Additional exemption for partners or subchapter S corporations (See Note) _____

(Note: The exemption is increased by \$10,000 (up to \$40,000) for each partner or share holder in a subchapter S corporation if they meet certain requirements (e.g. must own 10 percent and receive \$10,000 minimum from the business.)

This exemption phases out at the rate of \$2.00 for every \$1.00 that net income exceeds the exemption. For example, if net income were \$40,000, the exemption would be reduced by \$12,000 (\$40,000 - \$34,000 x 2 = \$12,000). In this case, the exemption would be \$22,000 (\$34,000 - \$12,000).

TOTAL EXEMPTIONS

S.B.T. COMPUTATION:

ADJUSTED TAX BASE (Tax base before exemptions less exemptions) _____

Farmers will be eligible for the \$700 increase in the homestead property tax refund (was \$500 now \$1200 maximum) which is 60 percent of the difference between 3 1/2 percent of the household income and the property tax. For example: If the household income is \$20,000 and the property tax is \$3,000, 3 1/2 percent of \$20,000 is \$700. \$3,000 - \$700 = \$2,300 x 60 percent = \$1,380. In this example, the taxpayer would qualify for the limit of \$1,200 which cuts his property tax by 40 percent. The rebate is more liberal for those over 65, certain veterans, blind and handicapped. What would the property tax rebate be on your farm?

NATIONAL NOTES

ESTATE TAX REFORM

Albert A. Almy

Once again, new developments have occurred in efforts to reform the federal estate tax. Since the beginning of the 1975 Session of the 94th Congress, this column has reported nearly every month on the status of estate tax reform. For those who have been following the issue, it is becoming obvious that if estate tax reform is to be enacted by the 94th Congress, action must come soon. Farm Bureau is continuing to give this issue priority and is working hard to obtain estate tax reform before this Congress adjourns.

On July 17, the House Ways and Means Committee voted 31 - 4 to report H.R. 14844 which would restructure both the federal estate and gift tax laws. To summarize briefly, H.R. 14844 would:

1. Provide a unified set of progressive tax rates for both the estate and gift taxes. The unified tax rate would range from 30 percent to 70 percent depending upon the value of the estate or gift.

2. In place of the existing exemptions of \$60,000 for estate taxes and \$30,000 for gift taxes, establish a combined tax credit which would be phased in over a 3-year period. In 1977, the credit would be \$30,000 which is the equivalent of a \$120,677 exemption. In 1978, the credit would rise to \$35,000 which is equal to a \$137,333 exemption. In 1979, the credit would rise to \$40,000 which is equivalent to a \$153,750 exemption.

3. Revise the marital deduction which the surviving spouse of an estate is entitled to claim. The marital deduction would be \$250,000 or one-half the value of the estate, whichever is larger.

4. Provide for appraisal of family farms or small businesses based upon their value for existing use rather than potential use.

5. Extend the time for payment of estate taxes from the present 9 months to 15 years. All taxes could be deferred for as long as 5 years. The interest rate on unpaid taxes would also be lowered from the existing level of 7 percent to 4 percent for taxes based on the first \$1 million of property value.

The bill was reported by the House Ways and Means Committee with a request that it be granted a closed rule. If given a closed rule by the Rules Committee, the bill would not be subject to any amendments when considered on the House floor. However, on August 10, the House Democratic Caucus voted to direct the Rules Committee to bring H.R. 14844 to the House floor under a modified closed rule. This would enable the House to vote on specific proposed amendments.

This action by the House Democratic Caucus is expected to delay House consideration of H.R. 14844 until early September. While the delay does not preclude House consideration of the bill during the remaining

weeks of the current session, it does create yet another road-block to the enactment of meaningful estate tax reform legislation in 1976.

As this column is being written, it appears as if the best chance for estate tax reform is offered in the Tax Reform Act of 1976 - H.R. 10612. On August 9, the Senate passed with amendments the previously approved House version. One of the amendments attached to the House version provides for estate tax reform. This amendment includes the following provisions:

1. A tax credit equal to a \$131,000 exemption effective in 1977. This credit would increase in subsequent years reaching a top in 1981 when it would be equal to an exemption of \$197,000.

2. A marital deduction of \$250,000 or one-half of the taxable estate, whichever is larger.

3. Appraisal of agricultural land at its use value rather than potential value.

4. An extension of the time to pay estate taxes from the present nine months to 15 years.

Since the House and Senate passed versions of the Estate Tax Reform Act of 1976 contained different provisions, it has been sent to a Conference Committee to resolve the differences. Farm Bureau has contacted all of the conferees urging them to maintain the Senate passed estate tax provisions in the final bill. The 94th Congress is

expected to approve overall tax reform as provided by H.R. 10612 before adjournment. If the estate tax provisions can be maintained in the bill, it will provide estate tax reform.

OSHA Exemption

Since becoming effective in 1971, the Occupational Safety and Health Act has been subject to much criticism by farmers and businessmen. Numerous bills have been introduced to exempt certain employers from the act. However, these measures have never been successful.

However, this year an amendment was attached to legislation which would provide appropriations to the Departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare. The amendment exempts farmers with 10 or fewer employees from OSHA requirements. This exemption will become effective October 1, 1976, and expire September 30, 1977. Michigan farmers should note that this exemption applies to the federal law. Michigan has its own OSHA law which may be more restrictive than the federal standard. Therefore, Michigan farmers will continue to be subject to the state OSHA requirements

irregardless of the federal amendments. In this case, the Michigan law does not exempt farmers; therefore, the federal exemption from OSHA requirements does not apply.

Food Stamps

The House Agriculture Committee has reported H.R. 13613 to the House floor which would amend the Food Stamp Act. The vote to report the bill was 21 to 19. It is estimated that H.R. 13613 would disqualify approximately 460,000 families now receiving food stamps. Strikers and most students would be banned from the program under the legislation.

H.R. 13613 does provide for an estimated \$80 million reduction in the federal food stamp budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1976. However, it is estimated that state costs under the measure would go up by approximately \$121 million. The present food stamp program is expected to cost taxpayers over \$6 billion in the next fiscal year.

The House is not expected to consider H.R. 13613 until after the Labor Day recess. The outcome of this bill in an election year is uncertain.

PBB Team Checks Like Symptoms

A team of animal health specialists has been formed to investigate symptoms in animal herds that may have some relation to animal feed contamination with PBB. New Michigan PBB standards now declare adulterated any commercial feed which contains in excess of 10 parts per billion of PBB. The federal action level is 50 parts per billion.

The investigative team will include two veterinarians, one from the Michigan

Department of Agriculture and one from the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine. An animal nutrition scientist from MSU will also work with the group.

B. Dale Ball, Michigan Department of Agriculture director, said the diagnostic team will work with herd owners and their private veterinarians in tracking down cases of abnormal health problems in animals, especially those with known or suspected history of PBB exposure.

Phase I of the program is a survey of all "low-level" herds and a simple herd history questionnaire on each herd will be completed by the initial survey team.

If in the first questionnaire, the farmer requests diagnostic assistance, phase II of the program will be implemented. Michigan Department of Agriculture Veterinarians in cooperation with the herd owner's veterinarian will examine the herd. If no definite diagnosis can be determined, the case will be referred to the veterinary diagnostic team at the request of the owner and his veterinarian.

The veterinary team will

act as the investigative program's third phase. If the team is unable to make a positive diagnosis or offer corrective recommendations on a problem herd, it will then seek additional professional expertise in its efforts to resolve the problems.

The cooperative MDA-MSU program will be a no cost to the State Ball noted. "We will just adjust work priorities to use existing manpower to accomplish this need as speedily as possible." He noted that MDA laboratories at MSU animal diagnostic facilities would contribute analytical support to the field team's diagnostic efforts.

"This will be a completely voluntary approach, as far as herd owners are concerned, said Director Ball. "We will assist only at the request of the farm owner and his veterinarian."

Agrifacts . . .

In 1886, thought was given to establishing a national storm warning system for farmers. Cannons would be fired at federal locations, such as post offices, to warn of approaching storms, flood or frost.

Ballot Issue

(Cont. from page 4)

The proposal is quite complex and will be a controversial issue. Some maintain that should this Constitutional Amendment prevail it would tie the hands of the State and as time goes on could result in less state sharing with local government and as costs go up for education or other local uses there would be a burden on local people to vote additional property tax.

Farm Bureau will analyze all ballot proposals and make complete information available to members prior to the November election.

mfrn farmers of the week

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Remus Rigg
840 acre Branch County dairy and cash crop farmer - member MMPA Local Affairs and Market Committees - member county Agri-Business Council - past president of County Farm Bureau and policy development committee.



Ronald Anderson
345 acre Kent County dairy farmer - member of Kent City Farm Bureau - former director of Kent Soil Conservation District - past church councilman of Mamrelund Lutheran Church.



Ronald Marschke
290 acre Berrien County fruit and vegetable farmer - chairman of county Young Farmers Committee - member Berrien Springs Jaycees.

Leon Rau
700 acre Ogemaw County dairy and cash crop farmer - county Farm Bureau president - member Holstein Friesian Association and DHIA milk testing association - 4-H dairy leader.

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MSU Farm Tour Features Farm Bureau Members

PEOPLE



Tour attendees check out Shiawassee County Farm Bureau member Bob Braid's harvesting equipment. All of the six farms on the 28th Michigan State University Farm Management Tour were Farm Bureau members. The farms were selected by MSU advisors because they were the most progressive and used the soundest management practices.



Robert Braid tells about his 1,120 acre dairy operation with the help of MSU dairy science professor Russ Erickson. Braid's acreage supports 900 head of cattle, including 384 grade and registered Holsteins. His herd's rolling average is 13,423 pounds of milk and 487 pounds of butterfat with a 3.63 per cent test.



Dick Gilna and his family greet farm tour participants in front of their 320 acre dairy farm. Wife Maureen and children Michele, Cheryl, Mike and Cris work together as a team to make the farm a real family operation. Their herd of 130 all-purebred Holsteins has a rolling average of 18,063 pounds of milk and 711 pounds of butterfat. The herd ranked 28th in the top 185 best dairy herds in the 1975 Michigan Production Testing Program.



Bruce Conklin's dairy operation started in 1943 with his father. Today he operates 470 acres in partnership with his oldest son, David. Another son, Kurt, is working into the business. Their 85 Holsteins have a rolling herd average of 14,364 pounds of milk and 523 pounds of butterfat with a 3.64 per cent average. The Conklins addressed the farm management tour group with MSU ag economist S.B. Nott.



Ward Perry and son Doug point out how they replaced a hydraulic line to a farm management touree. The two and wife Irene manage 475 cash crop acres. Their 1975 major crops were 154 acres of corn, 77 of soybeans, 60 of navy beans, 61 of wheat and 25 of barley. Perry does not hedge a crop but has contracted wheat and soybeans to local elevators. He is chairman of the Shiawassee County ASCS and is an active Farm Bureau member.



Robert De Clerg's 750 acre cash crop farm was the last stop for the management tour group. Wife Bernice, Bob and son Bert fielded questions spurred by discussion leader Gerald Schwab. Schwab is a MSU ag economist. Field production includes 270 acres of corn, 150 of soybeans, 75 in oats, and 200 acres of wheat. The De Clergs also own 55 Charolais - cross steers and a 7,500 laying hen operation.

Farm Exports Useless As Weapon

Those people who hope that the United States can use its food export policy as a political weapon like the Middle East Countries use oil are not being realistic, an agricultural trade expert said recently.

Lauren Soth, a member of the Board for the Overseas Development Council and former member of the National Advisory Commission on Food and Fiber, made his comments at the 28th Annual Michigan State University Farm Management Tour held recently in Shiawassee County.

"Foreign trade in food makes up only a marginal part of the total amount of food that is consumed," Soth pointed out. "About 90 percent of the food grown in the world is consumed in the country where it is produced. Also, crops are renewable, unlike oil supplies."

The assumption that food can be used as a weapon is a natural one, though, Soth explained.

"It's natural for foreign policy makers to try to solve foreign relations problems with agricultural maneuvers," the export advisor points out. "It also has been traditional for farmers to want to solve their problems with foreign maneuvers. These stands have led to mutual scorn between farmers and politicians."

Both problem-solving methods have proven not to be the best way to approach a situation concerning exports, Soth emphasized.

"The grain sales to Russia proved to be the salvation of agriculture during the 1975

crop season, though some members of the public became concerned with the ideology of providing food for a Communist country," he said.

Embargoes placed in the summer of 1975 on shipments to Russia in response to this public outcry did not interrupt the flow of grain, since Russian ports were already handling all the grain that they possibly could, Soth explained. Instead the move incensed farmers and caused more mistrust, especially since the Ford Administration had promised not to interfere with international trade, he continued.

Now once again farmers are encouraged to put all land in total production for the expanding export market this year.

Such policies of "full-tilt" export programs began as a Washington effort to solve the surplus grain problem, Soth says. He was a member of the first agricultural contingent to visit Russia in 1955 with an eye on possible trade.

"Now Russian grain sales make up more than half our total grain exports," Soth points out. "Trade with that country has increased our agricultural exports to their highest level."

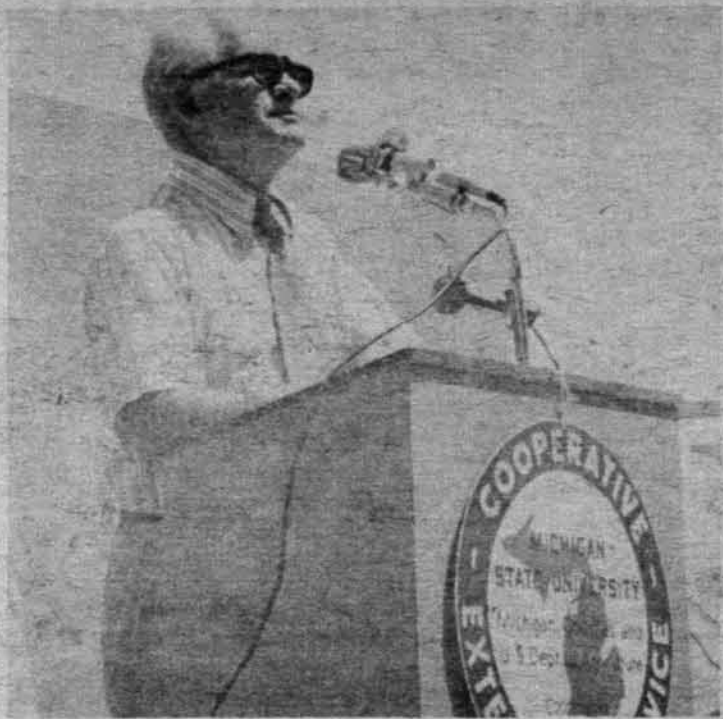
Farmers are totally in favor of the increased trade,

Soth says. Surplus problems have been eliminated, plus the increased market has provided an incentive to produce.

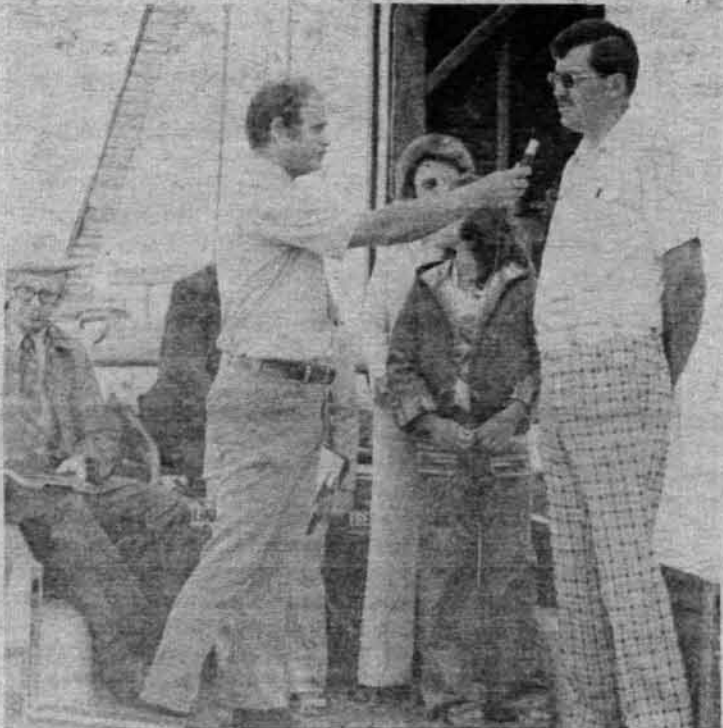
"However, it's an illusion to think we can dump our farm problem overseas," he declared. "We must ask ourselves if the current Russian buying trend will continue. My estimation is that it will not. We must remember that in the 1960's, Russia was a net grain exporter. I don't anticipate this happening again, but certainly in ten years Russian agriculture will stabilize so that they do not need our grain crops. It is also possible that the Russians may stop buying next year. We can not expect them to look out for our best interests."

Instead of operating on a "bare shelf" principle, where all grain production that is not used domestically is exported, Soth advocates the return to some sort of grain stabilization program.

"We need grain to have on hand in case of a short crop year and to provide price stabilization. To do so, we would have to set upper and lower limits on grain prices under the stabilization system. There would be a wide variance in these prices so that the market could operate freely within these ranges."



Lauren Soth, member of the Overseas Development Council and agricultural export advisor, stresses that the United States cannot depend on Russian grain sales to solve its food export problems. He addressed the noon gathering of Michigan State University farm management tour attendees at the Shiawassee County fairgrounds.



Steve Harsh, MSU ag economist, interviewed Farm Bureau member Frank Vyskocil before a morning gathering at his 780 acre cash crop farm. Vyskocil and his wife Susan manage 160 acres of corn, 90 acres of oats, 130 acres of wheat, 277 acres of soybeans 38 acres of sugarbeets and 55 acres of cucumbers. He advises that diversified farming is not for beginning farmers.



FFA State Officers met at Farm Bureau Center with management and board members of the Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives on July 15, 1976. Jim Licht, Michigan FFA President, opens the afternoon session.

Farmland Values To Rise 8-10 Percent

Farm land values are expected to rise from 8-10 percent between March 1, 1976 and February 1, 1977. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports.

During the past five years, values throughout the country have doubled. The value per acre rose 14 percent, or \$49, to \$403 during the time from March 1, 1975 to February 1, 1976. An acre of Michigan farm land increased 10 percent, or \$51 to \$582 during the same time period.

Corn belt and Northern Plains states have led the advance in land values. The highest increases during the past year were in Iowa and Nebraska - both up 26 percent. Land values in the Far West, Northeast and Southeast increased the least. In the Western states, the rate per acre value increases for grazing land fell below gains for irrigated and dry crop land for the second consecutive year.

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Michigan Marketing Outlook

FIELD CROPS

CORN production is still expected to set a record despite a 6 percent or 366 million bushel cut in the August 12th USDA estimate. Prospects are now for a 6.19 billion bushel corn crop in the U.S. compared with the 6.55 billion bushels being forecast in the July estimate. This would still be 7 percent above the 1975 record crop.

USDA forecasters are suggesting that corn prices for 1976-77 will average around \$2.55 per bushel compared with the all-time high of \$3.03 in 1974-75. But price levels still depend heavily on world grain conditions and the domestic livestock markets. Grain exports could decline in the coming year due to prospects of a larger world grain crop, particularly in the Soviet Union. This may be offset to some extent by larger exports to drought plagued Western Europe and the increased use of corn in domestic livestock rations, especially hogs. It now appears likely however, that 1976-77 ending stocks could be somewhat larger than 1975-76, thus holding prices below the 1975-76 average. Watch closely for changes in any of the major factors affecting corn useage.

SOYBEANS are still setting the pace in major grain markets. Production estimates now place the U.S. soybean crop at 1.34 billion bushels, 12 percent less than the 1975 crop. High export demand during the current year continues, especially in light of recent buying from the Soviets. In addition, U.S.D.A. assistant secretary Richard Bell announced recently that the Soviet Union has given "signals" of possible long-term purchases of U.S. soybeans. Domestic crush has also been setting an active pace.

Price prospects appear favorable at this time for the new crop soybeans. Several factors may combine however, to depress prices slightly in the second half of the 1976-77 marketing year. The heavier use of corn for domestic livestock feeding; more competition from Brazilian soybeans and higher domestic soybean prices may cause disappearance to slip a little as the new marketing year develops. The higher U.S. price is also expected to bring increased plantings next spring. If these factors materialize, prices may trail off later in 1977. For the time being, tight supplies should eventually bring renewed strength to soybean prices.

Dr. Paul E. Kindinger,
Director
Market Development
Division

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

TART CHERRIES

Some processors are scrambling to meet earlier commitments at agreed on prices. A recent Food Institute Report is quoted as saying, "One packer has sold out in New York State. Prices before the withdrawal of offerings were made at 54-55 cents per pound f.o.b. the plant." Deliveries to Michigan processors are 46 percent below last year. Some reports indicate that nearly all of the pack has been sold.

CELERY acreage this year was about the same as 1975 with a total of 1,850 acres planted in 1976. Harvest is proceeding steadily with lower yields being reported for early crop celery. Late planted celery is in excellent condition at the time of this writing.

Most major producing areas outside Michigan are reporting slightly increased plantings in 1976. Yields however, are down somewhat in nearly all areas.

If moderate increases in supplies materialize, look for prices to be below those this spring's level, probably settling near 1975 levels.

CARROT supplies continue abundant thus keeping grower prices below 1975 levels. California, the major supply source, is reported to have 7,000 acres, 3 percent less this season. Michigan and Wisconsin however, are reporting increases in summer acreage of 7 and 29 percent respectively. Total U.S. summer acreage is 1 percent more than last year.

With prospects of increased production in the summer producing areas, prices will probably continue below 1975 levels.

APPLES

Some of the early varieties are being harvested in Michigan. Overall, the state's apple crop will be considerably smaller than last year. According to U.S.D.A. estimates, production in this state is pegged at 11.9 million bushels compared to 16.6 million bushels last year. Michigan is not the only state likely to experience a short crop this year. Virtually all of the eastern states are reporting severe losses in production during 1976. Only the western U.S. apple states are reporting expected increases or only slight losses.

The western states are likely to have plentiful supplies through the coming marketing year; thus, they will provide heavy supplies for the fresh market. Meanwhile, with short crops in Michigan and eastern states, expect processors to be more cooperative and prices to be firm. In some instances, processors are

already advancing prices on current inventory in expectation of this fall.

The Michigan Processing Apple Growers Committee has submitted their recommended prices to processors. Northern Spy recommended price of \$10 per hundred led the list with preferred slicing varieties at \$8.75, and sauce apples at \$8.00 per hundred. With the exception of Jonathons, prices are for 2½ inch and up. Under 2½ and juice apples would go for \$4.00 per hundred if the committee recommendations are accepted.

It appears to be shaping up as a good year for apple producers!

Dr. Paul E. Kindinger,
Director
Market Development
Division

DAIRY

The Federal Milk Marketing Orders are designed to regulate milk pricing within geographic marketing areas. However they do not, in most cases, prevent the movement of milk from one state to another.

It is interesting to look at the flow of milk into and out of Michigan. There are five Federal Orders areas and four states from which milk flows into or out of Michigan.

According to the U.S.D.A. report, "Sources of Milk for Federal Order Markets by State and County" approximately 96 percent of the milk regulated under the southern Michigan Order is produced in Michigan. The other 4 percent comes from Wisconsin, Indiana, and Ohio. About 88 percent of the milk regulated under the Michigan Upper Peninsula Order is produced in Michigan with the remaining 11 percent coming from Wisconsin. In 1974 the milk produced outside of Michigan and regulated by the two Michigan Federal Orders amounted to 154,183,000 pounds.

A portion of the milk produced in Michigan is marketed in other Federal Order areas. The Eastern Ohio - Western Pennsylvania Order, the Indiana Order and the Ohio Valley Order all receive some Michigan produced milk. In fact, in 1974 producer deliveries to these three Orders amounted to 303,926,000 million pounds.

More milk moved from Michigan producers to out-of-state plants in 1974 than came into the southern Michigan Order and the Michigan Upper Peninsula Order from producers outside of Michigan.

Bernie Bishop,
Marketing Specialist
Market Development
Division

BEEF

Prices for fed cattle during the first half of 1976 averaged near \$40 per cwt. That's the lowest first half level since 1972.

Most cattle feeders have been operating in the red since January and recent sharp increases in feed costs could cloud the profit picture for the remainder of 1976.

Since February, most agricultural forecasters have been predicting higher beef prices at the farm level by July. Their predictions were based primarily on the cattle on-feed reports which indicate a substantial reduction in the number of cattle placed on-feed thus less supply available this summer.

What went wrong? A lower demand for choice beef coupled with a record first half cow slaughter in addition to a 17 percent increase in the fed beef supply raised the first half production 11 percent above a year ago.

The assumption that the non-fed beef would stop coming to market in large quantities was totally wrong. After nearly three years of disastrous prices, our ranchers have been forced to continue selling cows at record numbers.

The low prices and financial losses are not new to the farming community and I doubt that you will hear many farmers cry for help. What they will do is adjust to the situation and that's just what they have been doing these past two years.

I predict that the prices to the farmer for his beef are as low as they will be for several years to come.

The liquidation phase of the cycle is nearly complete and prices will start their inevitable climb to a profitable level before the next 30 days go by, so if the consumer wants a bargain on beef she had better hurry to her local market!

Tom Reed,
Marketing Specialist
Market Development
Division

BEANS

Additional moisture in late July and the first ten days of August could have contributed to a larger yield than that which will exist but we are reminded of the last few years by the lack of stability in the August weather pattern. In the crop year of 1973 we lost about 1.0 million cwt. of navy beans in the hot, dry weather. Last year we may very well have lost more than 1.0 million in the continues monsoon type wet weather.

We are really alluding to the fact that a bean crop is never made until it gets into a storage facility. The 1976 crop may very well pose even a greater risk position as the

spread in maturity of the crop is at least six weeks. As of the 5th of August we saw the exceptional field of navies and pintos nearly ready to pull but could see the instances of late planted beans that haven't even been through the soil for more than a week.

The anticipated long harvest is certainly going to contribute to the probability that some damage either to the quality or to the quantity will take place as Michigan can rarely go six weeks that time of year without some adverse weather patterns.

As of mid-September we are looking at the prospects of carrying over 400,000 to 500,000 cwt. as an industry, which will be added to the 1976 crop supply. While we do not make a business of predicting the size of the crop prior to an official U.S.D.A. crop report, we do feel the statisticians are having some sleepless nights in trying to make decisions on whether to adjust the acreage down somewhat with all the blank spots in the fields and with the dramatic variance in plant size and maturity. At the Summer M.B.S.A. meeting we estimated that the acreage of dry beans is not over 500,000 acres, "the U.S.D.A. July report had 525,000 for harvest," and that we would produce a crop of about 5.5 million of all varieties.

Ontario is thinking they will harvest 1.8 million cwt. and Minnesota, North Dakota should be in 300,000 bags, giving North America a supply of approximately 6.5 million cwt. plus the carryover.

Canners around the world are exhibiting the virtues of needing a "pricing stability" in order to promote more pork and beans. We support the concept as long as supplies are reasonably satisfactory to satisfy all markets foreign and domestic.

OTHER CROP PROSPECTS

(Based on the August 12th, U.S.D.A. Report)

SUGARBEET production in the U.S. is forecast at 25.9 million metric tons, down 4 percent from last year.

WHEAT production is 2,096 million bushels, 2 percent less than last year's record crop.

GRAPES - The initial forecast is a record 4.6 million tons in 1976. This is 7 percent more than last year and 10 percent above 1974.

Dr. Paul E. Kindinger,
Director
Market Development
Division

Supply Report



By Greg Sheffield

Preparations are being made at Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum for excellent fall movement in all areas of agricultural supplies. With the outlook for greater stability of grain and livestock prices, and the lower fertilizer prices this last spring likely to continue, farmers are encouraged to look ahead with greater confidence.

FERTILIZER - Lower fertilizer prices make the planting of wheat a good bet this fall. Fertilizers, including Farm Bureau's Hurry Up Wheat Starter, are in excellent supply. Buying of wheat seeds for fall planting has been picking up. Supplies remain good at Farm Bureau dealer locations, but orders should be placed as soon as possible to be sure you get the variety of Certified Seed you know is best for your conditions.

FEE - Star Spangled Dairy Deals are now available at your farm Bureau Feeds dealer and will be through December 31. Farmers feeding Farm Bureau Dairy Feeds will find they can get free Bovadine teat dip with their purchase. Your dealer can show you the number of tons of feeds or liquid supplements to buy to receive free Bovadine. For one example a ton of supplement will get you a gallon of Bovadine. The demand for LSA, liquid silage additive, and LPS, liquid protein supplement, has been growing rapidly as farmers look to economical ways to supply high quality proteins and minerals. Ask your dealer about these simple effective feeding systems.

HARDWARE - The great surge of interest in buildings for farms has kept the buildings crews busy throughout the state. Building weather has been excellent and even though orders have increased, crews have been able to maintain schedules. Building supplies at Farm Bureau dealers have been drawn down repeatedly, but supply replacements have been made quickly to satisfy demand. If you have put off that building, perhaps, you better get some estimates now while fine building weather persists. Too much rain this fall, of course, may slow down the fortunate conditions we have enjoyed so far.

CO-OP Water conditioners remove rust, odor and bad taste from your water supply. You'll enjoy life more without lime deposits, spotted and streaked dishes, scale-clogged pipes and poor laundering results.

Twine is now very

economical at Farm Bureau dealers. Premium baler twine is a good buy, too, because it's a full 9,000 feet long with a tested tensile strength of 332 pounds. This all helps to avoid time

consuming stops.

There are excellent buys in power equipment, fencing gates and livestock hardware. Prices are moderate.

PESTICIDES - The sale of herbicides and insecticides

were excellent in field crops this past summer, but fruit fungicides and insecticides were not used as much because of the severe, damaging weather that seriously reduced tree fruit

crops. Western corn rootworm adults were present in great numbers this August and alert farmers following Michigan Department of Agriculture's recommendations sprayed Sevin insecticide and oil and other quality Sevin insecticide formulations. Growers should plan on spraying Sevin insecticide at planting next spring. The western corn rootworm is affecting large areas of midwest corn land.



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Bicentennial Highlights

Early Farmers Fortitude



BY LLOYD AND ELLA TICE

(Editor's Note: Mr. and Mrs. Tice are active members of the Barryton Community Farm Bureau Group in Mecosta County.)

As we older ones pass through this Bicentennial year we are reminded of the spirit that made it possible for us to be here.

Pioneer farm life formed the base of a large part of our American Heritage. The homespun, rural ways produced rugged, freedom loving individuals who survived only by their ingenuity and tough constitutions.

Michigan can lay claim to a large part of this development. Made a state only 139 years ago, it was hewed out of the pine and hardwood forests by the tough early settlers. Until a few years ago the stumps stood as silent and aggravating memorials to those days. Half a century or so ago pioneer life was still emerging. For many of us there were times to remember and times to forget. How nostalgic it is to view one of the old pine stump fences (if you can find one) but not so pleasant to recall when you were plowing with horse power to get a bone rattling smack in the ribs when the plow struck a pine root. Rural farm life was

plain, rough and rugged. But, sandwiched between were many times of solid joy and pleasure. But the few pleasures were enjoyed to a depth and in a way that cannot be understood in these times.

On cold wintery nights it was heavenly to sit around the old cast iron kitchen stove and eat all you could hold of white, fluffy popcorn dripping with butter. But forget how you wallowed through waste deep snow with wet feet and cold hands to carry in a quarter cord of wood to keep that fire going.

The soft glow of the old kerosene lamp had a sedative effect and all went well until you started to clean the smokey chimney and dropped it on the hardwood floor and it was the last one. However, a few strips of comfort magazine with flour and water for paste and again "there was light."

Recall being lulled to sleep under four heavy thick comforters in the old upstairs bedroom while the snowy blizzard whistled around the house. Forget crawling out at 5:30 a.m. with ten below zero and nearly having a stroke as your bare feet hit the frosty hemlock floor.

How pleasant on bitter cold nights to do chores in a cozy

warm stable surrounded by sleek round cows. But it was hard to forget that what made them round was the fifteen gallons of water you pumped per cow at ten below zero with a frosty pump handle.

Remember the fun of milking the cows and squirting the nice white milk into the shiny tin pail to the tune of "Yankee Doodle?" Forget the smack in the face from a big juicy tail that nearly knocked an eye out.

It was a joy and challenge to feed the innocent little calves. The calf was backed into a corner, you got straddle of its neck, set the pail of milk in front, grabbed the calf by both ears and sank his stubborn little head into the milk. It was a mistake to keep him in more than a few moments above its eyeballs. Without warning he would rear his head out and up, blow the milk out of his lungs and into your face and down your shirt collar.

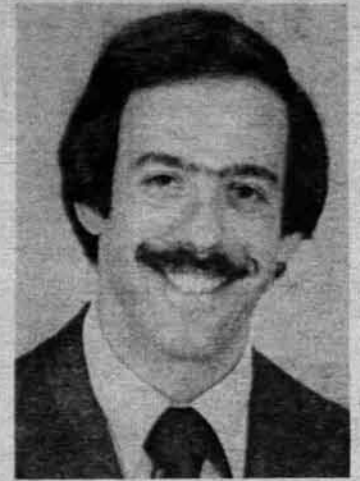
In winter the unlimited joy of riding the bobsleds at break neck speeds down the steep hills was marred only by lugging them back up until our tongues hung out.

The rugged country school was a part of American Heritage. The 9 o'clock bell spoke authority. In winter the kids wallowed to school. There were no snow plows. Studies were lots of work and no frills but there was still room for fun. Friday saw either a spell down or arithmetic match. It was the survival of the fittest. Winter snows brought such games as fox and geese, follow the leader and capture the snow fort. Deep snow banks were a perfect place for making angel impressions. After school the kids walked home with wet mittens, soaked feet and runny noses. Then followed a week of horrible tasting sulphur and molasses with doses of turpentine and gallons of catnip tea.

The family doctor with his horse and buggy and the black satchel of pills was a vital part of pioneer country life. He was not called unless you were mortally sick with something special. A person

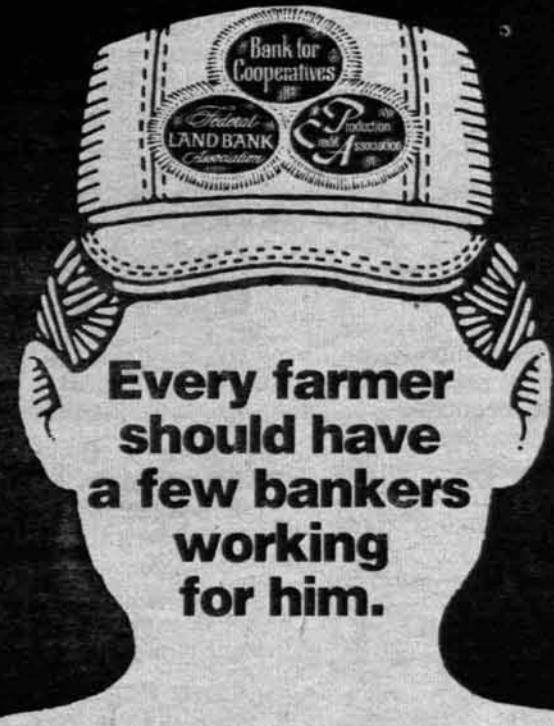
would start to feel better as soon as he was called even if it took two days for him to get there. Upon arrival he would visit for an hour or so with all members of the family and finally bring out that mystical thermometer. It did wonders. Doc would feel your pulse, you would open wide and say "AHH," he would ask about your bowels and leave a fist full of pills in a saucer. Then with a kindly pat on the head and "you will feel much better by morning" he was gone. Next morning you went to work.

Strange are the ways of progress. In those times we could drive several miles to church with sleighs or wagons but now it is punishment to walk two blocks. But of such experiences life was formed. Step by painful step this great nation took shape. Welded together by the sturdy generations of our fathers and mothers who lived by faith, and courage.



James M. Bernstein has been appointed Manager of Broadcast Services for the Michigan Farm Bureau. He will be responsible for expanding radio and TV activities of the organization. He will also develop closer contacts with radio and TV stations.

Bernstein is a native of Louisville, Kentucky, and graduated from Indiana University with a degree in Broadcast Journalism. He spent 18 months as a News Director for an Indiana radio station, and two years as Assistant Assignment Editor for a TV station in St. Joseph, Missouri.



The cooperative Farm Credit Banks of St. Paul are owned by the people they serve. So every person working for the Farm Credit System is working for you. From secretaries at your Production Credit Association or Federal Land Bank Association. To the Presidents of the Banks in St. Paul. All are working for member-owners—farmers and ranchers like you, in Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

Farm credit people have sound technical knowledge...in finance...in credit...in economics. But what really makes them valuable is their knowledge of agriculture. And their awareness of the capital requirements for keeping American agriculture the most efficient and productive in all the world.

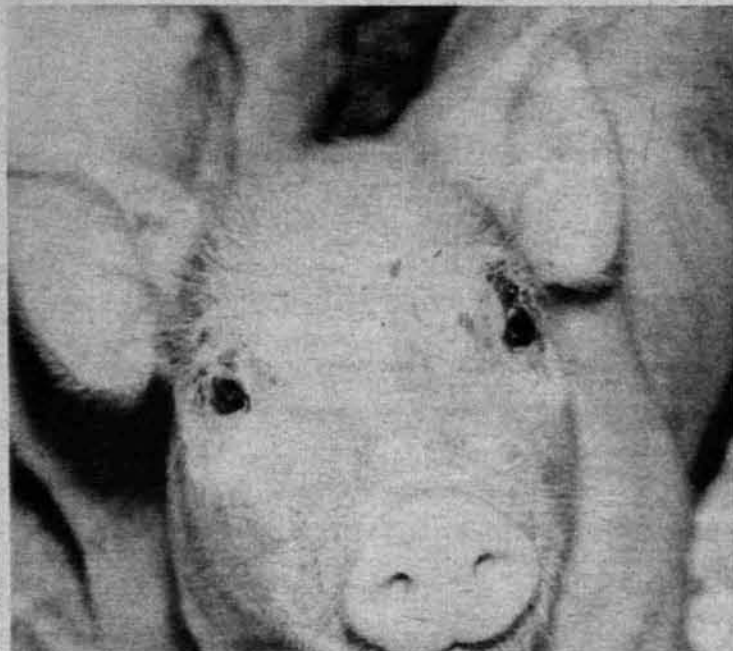
But farm credit people do more than hand out credit. They help you with long-range planning, record-keeping, management. They help you keep up to date on the latest in financial management and economic trends.

Every person working for the Farm Credit Banks of St. Paul has a commitment to agriculture. They're the kind of bankers every farmer needs on his "payroll."

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INQUISITIVE "BICENTENNIAL BABY" meets Farm News photographer. Starting his career as a "ham" early, he's a mere two weeks old and resides on the Centennial Farm of Richard Cheney in Ingham County.

Liquid Waste Tanks Breed Dangerous Gases

Animal liquid manure tanks, milk cow drainage pits, and other organic waste units on the farm improve management practices, but they're also potential death traps.

"Gases generated by the organic waste within these areas are harmful to humans and animals, and several deaths in Michigan have been attributed to these gases," says Dr. Richard G. Pfister, Michigan State University Extension safety engineer.

"Liquid waste traps small bubbles which are low in, or devoid of common oxygen. When the liquid is distributed by pumping, these gas bubbles are released," Pfister points out.

"Research indicates that as many as 27 gaseous compounds are generated in liquid manure as bacteria decomposition occurs. Some of these gases, such as methane, carbon dioxide, ammonia, and hydrogen sulfide, are extremely hazardous," Pfister says. "These four gases may create an environment without oxygen, one which may be highly explosive,

poisonous, or a combination of all three conditions," Pfister explains.

Methane is colorless, odorless, lighter than air and burns readily. In a concentration of 5 to 20 per cent it is explosive and can asphyxiate humans and animals when it reaches 35 per cent concentration.

"Hydrogen sulfide has a rotten egg smell," Pfister points out. "It is extremely poisonous and in concentrations of more than 1/10 of 1 per cent it can cause serious disability or death. It is heavier than air so it is always present in any pit containing decomposing organic material," Pfister says.

The gas tends to paralyze the diaphragm and the victim usually collapses at once. Would-be rescuers are often overcome as they try to aid the victim.

Carbon dioxide is an undetectable, odorless gas which is one and one-half times heavier than air. Ammonia is colorless, lighter than air, and has a pungent odor. Both can suffocate a person.

"Any closed space can harbor dangerous gases. Underground tanks or pits, by which the manure can not be ventilated easily, are potentially most dangerous. Silo pits, septic tanks, even well pits can harbor deadly hydrogen sulfide," Pfister says.

However, poisonous gas and suffocation are only part of the danger associated with an open pit. Open pits with inadequate covering are potential traps for humans and animals, especially with the degree of the gases as they go near the edge. Safety fences should be built about the perimeter of these pits, Pfister advises.

When a tanks contents are agitated or pumped, large quantities of gas are released, so natural or mechanical ventilation are essential as work around the tank begins.

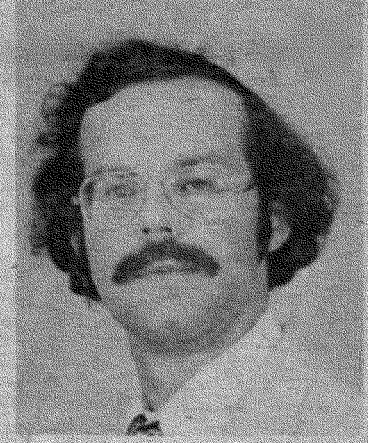
"All pits and tanks should be treated as if they contain explosive gases. They could be full of methane, petroleum vapors or even enough ammonia to create a violent explosion," Pfister says.

The safety expert espouses these safety tips:

Smoking, lighted matches, or open flames must be kept out of the area till the tank has been thoroughly ventilated. Pfister advises that farmers use portable fans to force air into the pit, removing heavier-than-air gases and blowing out poisonous gases. In confining housing barns where pits are beneath slotted floors, turn on every fan in the barn. It is much better to have livestock a little cold during the cleaning process, than to lose a life.

Do not enter a liquid manure tank that is being emptied unless a self-contained air breathing unit is worn. A rope should be tied around the waist of the person going into the tank. The other end should be held by someone outside the tank, so that if the person inside is overcome, he can be hauled to safety without endangering the rescuers. Workmen should always work in pairs, never alone.

If an operator feels faint, he must be moved into fresh air immediately. Be prepared to give artificial respiration. For use in an emergency, install ladders with safety rungs in all liquid manure tanks or other organic storage units.



Charles Weirauch, 29, formerly of Bloomington, Minnesota, has been named editor and business manager of the Michigan Farm News.

The new editor will assume his responsibilities with the September issue of the Michigan Farm News.

Following graduation with a B.A. in Journalism, Charles began his writing career with Michigan State University's Information Services where he was a science and agricultural writer. From 1970 to 1975, he worked as an information specialist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, covering the 11-state Midwest region. Most recently, he has been with Bill Dorn Associates of Minneapolis as a staff writer and photographer, specializing in feature stories on agricultural practices.

FB Insurance Series, Essay Contest Big Hits

After nearly 11 months on the air, a weekly radio series written and recorded by Farm Bureau Insurance Group (FBIG) is now being heard on 19 stations in the Michigan Farm Radio Network.

"We started with six stations on September 27, 1975 out of 22 prime network stations. Now we're heard on 19 stations," said Jack Stucko, FBIG's Advertising Manager. "The Michigan Farm Radio Network will expand to about 40 stations by the end of this year and we expect our show to penetrate accordingly. More and more stations on the Farm Network are picking up the show and that's quite a positive comment on the show's quality."

The show, which lasts about two minutes, is broadcast during a regular Saturday program produced by the Michigan Farm Radio Network and aimed at the farming community.

Called "Money", the show talks about sound money management for the farmer, with frequent emphasis on estate planning. Segments dealing with estate planning are especially popular with listeners.

"Normally there are about four or five requests a week for a show's script," explained Jack Stucko, "but requests jump to 10 to 20 a

week when we run a series of shows about estate planning."

The voice of the weekly show is Gordon Amendt, CLU, Manager of Sales for FBIG's Marketing Corporation, who was selected for his estate planning and insurance expertise and his excellent radio voice.

"There is no hard sell on the show," Jack said. "In fact, there is no sell at all. After Gordon is introduced as Farm Bureau Insurance Group's Manager of Sales, there is no further mention of FBIG. Our aim is to maintain credibility, so it's a very low key approach. Of course, if a listener requests specific help or information from FBIG, we'll certainly provide it."

Encouraged by the great success of the 1975-76 America & Me essay contest, Farm Bureau Insurance Group (FBIG) is preparing for the next contest, scheduled to run from October 11 to November 12.

Governor William Milliken has again agreed to head the distinguished panel of finalist judges for the 1976-77 contest, which is open to any eighth grade student in Michigan.

In early September, contest materials will be mailed to more than 1,100 schools in

Michigan, both public and parochial. Contest planners hope to surpass last year's record totals of 6,000 participating students from 318 schools.

As in past years, Home Office employees will be recruited to serve as judges in the contest, and agents will be given the opportunity to coordinate the contest with their local schools. More than 100 agents worked with local schools in promoting and coordinating last year's contest.

The top three essayists from each school will be awarded honor certificates, and each participating school will receive a plaque engraved with the name of the first place essayist.

Each school's first place essay will be entered into statewide competition from which the ten best essays in the state will be selected.

Prizes for this year's top ten winners will be savings bonds ranging in value from \$500 for the first place, to \$50.

FBIG started the America & Me essay contest in 1968 to encourage Michigan's young people to consider their part in America's future. As sponsor of the annual event, FBIG has received the George Washington Award medal from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge five years in a row.

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC. & FARMERS PETROLEUM CO-OPERATIVE, INC.

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9 1/2%	15 Year Maturity	\$5,000.00 Minimum Purchase

Interest paid annually on September 1st. The purchaser to be offered the option to receive their interest in quarterly payments on September 1st, December 1st, March 1st, and June 1st. Interest would start the date of purchase.

This is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation to buy these securities. The offering is made only by the prospectus.

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MARKETING, FARM SUPPLY NEEDS, CREDIT, and cooperative's role with the modern farm of today were discussed at the recent American Institute of Cooperation meeting in Virginia. This conference brings together over 2,500 adult cooperative leaders as well as leading young farmers and representatives of many farm youth organizations. Farm Bureau Services, Inc., sponsored Rick Batora of Elsie (left) and Thomas Semans of Ovid (right). Shown with them is Donald Armstrong, executive vice president of Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative.

Q and A

QUESTION

Recently, an individual introducing himself as a "surveyor" requested permission to enter my farm. Do I have to allow a surveyor on my farm?

ANSWER

According to Public Act 115 of 1976 entitled, "Right of Entry by Surveyors," you are required to, by law, allow an authorized surveyor to enter your farm for the purpose of surveying. The law is as follows:

Section 1. As used in this act, "surveyor" means any of the following:

(a) A surveyor employed by the government of the United States of America or this state.

(b) A person who is a land surveyor registered in this state.

(c) A person who is under the direct supervision of a person who is a surveyor under subdivision (a) or (b), and carrying on his person sufficient identification as to employer.

Section 2. (1) A surveyor may enter upon public or private lands or waters in this state except buildings, for the purpose of making a survey.

(2) A vehicle used for or during entry pursuant to this section shall be identified on the exterior by a proper and ethical sign listing name, address, and telephone number of the surveyor or firm.

Section 3. A surveyor making an entry pursuant to section 2 shall be liable only for actual damage to crops or other property, or for actual damage due to negligence of the surveyor during the entry.

Section 4. The surveyor by his entry shall forfeit any and all claim for damage or injury to his person and equipment while on the lands or waters, unless the damage or injury is caused by the intentional tortious conduct of another.

Inverted Power Rates Hurt Farmers

Flat or inverted electrical power rate structures would raise the farmer's cost of production even higher than the declining rates in use do now, says a Michigan Farm Bureau spokesman.

Robert E. Smith, Legislative Counsel for the state's largest farm organization, provided supporting testimony to the Michigan Public Service Commission for the declining rate concept. This concept was contained on the Cherryland Rural Electric Cooperative's application.

Smith also explained that farmers can hardly afford higher rate structures.

"Producers are caught in a cost-price squeeze resulting from spiraling production costs, like most businessmen," Smith added. "But unlike others, farmers have no control over the prices they receive for their products. Thus, they cannot raise their prices and pass increases production cost on the consumer."

New USDA Yearbook Out

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Bicentennial entry is "The Face of Rural America." It's the title for the department's 1976 yearbook.

Departing from its usual format, USDA decided to make this edition a photo book. It contains 335 pictures of American agriculture in action to depict country living as it is in the Bicentennial year.

Limited copies of the yearbook are available from respective Congressmen and Senators. If their supplies have run out, the books are available at federal government bookstores for \$7.30. They also can be obtained by sending a check or money order for the same amount to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

"Now that farms are totally dependent on electricity, we believe it is economically proper to continue a rating system whereby the cost per unit declines as the amount of electricity used increases," Smith pointed out. "Michigan farmers have a right to voice their views on rate changes."

Farmers Mean Age Down

"Old MacDonald's farm" is becoming more of a misconception than before. The average age of persons self-employed in agriculture has dropped from its peak of 53.1 years in 1970 to 50.4 years in 1975, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports.

"This downward trend is here to stay," says Calvin I. Beale of USDA's Economic Research Service. "It counteracts some of the traditional fear that farmers would get older and older, with no new blood entering the field."

The most significant event leading to the lower average age was the gain of 35 per cent more farm workers under age 35 between 1970 and 1975, Beale points out. At the same time, the number of farmers over 60 decreased 23 per cent.

"Economists realized all the time that the aging process could not go on forever," he adds.

Growers Oppose PBB Bill

The Michigan Vegetable Council has urged growers to oppose State Senate Bill 1542. This bill will lower the PBB tolerance levels in food below the current Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) levels of three parts per million. Recently the Michigan Agricultural Commission reached a decision to maintain this standard.

The Growers Council has sent a letter expressing its unanimous opposition to the bill to Governor William Milliken, B. Dale Ball, Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, members of the House Agricultural Committee.

Treat Cattle Parasites Early

Uncontrolled internal parasites retard calf growth and cause decreased milk yield in lactating cows, says Jeffery Williams, Michigan State University parasitologist.

"Though 80 per cent of cattle, calves and heifers are infected with worms, many cattle producers are unaware of parasite problems," Williams pointed out. "If preventive measures against parasites start at the heifer stage, the problem in lactating cows can be nearly eliminated," he explains.

Parasite problems begin

when young calves are first put out to graze. The animals pick up the worms that grow in manure and in the pasture. Since the signs of parasitism are not very obvious at this stage, producers usually do not start treating for worms until their animals are at the adult stage.

"Drugs administered at the first grazing stage will retard parasite injury," Williams explains. "Though the effects won't be visible and the long-term program will boost production costs, farmers will make gains in the long run."



THE LARGEST COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE held in the United States is the American Institute of Cooperation summer meeting held recently at the University of Virginia, Blacksburg. Attending were Charles Arsenmeier (left), state FFA advisor, and Bruce Foster, Niles, Michigan FFA vice president. Both were sponsored by Farmers Petroleum Cooperative.

MOVING?

Planning to move? Let us know 8 weeks in advance so you won't miss a single issue of the Michigan Farm News. Attach old label and print new address in space provided. Mail to: Michigan Farm News, P.O. Box 960, Lansing, Michigan 48904.

Name _____
 Address _____
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Pesticide User Training Program Set

All persons in Michigan intending to apply or use pesticides will have to go under an extensive testing program being launched this fall, and be certified to apply them.

The training effort is being conducted by the Michigan State University Extension Service and certification tests are being given by the Michigan Department of Agriculture under Environmental Protection Agency guidelines.

The EPA is classifying all pesticides including herbicides. Those classified as "general - use" may be applied according to the label instructions by anyone. Those classified as "restricted - use" materials are the more hazardous, and will require a presentation of a certificate when they are purchased.

"Training and testing of persons who apply restricted - use pesticides entails quite a bit of subject matter. Most of them have been applying those pesticides and are quite familiar with the manner in which they should be properly handled. These applicators should have little difficulty in becoming certified," says Dr. Robert F. Ruppel, Michigan State University Extension pesticide certification training coordinator.

"The primary intent of the program is to keep hazardous materials out of the hands of persons who do not know how to handle them. Restricted - use pesticides are highly toxic to man and animals when incorrectly used, and pose a threat to the environment," Ruppel says.

The testing and certification programs include two divisions -- commercial and private applicators. The commercial applicators include all persons who are not farmers and who either make applications on a fee basis or work for a governmental industrial, or private organization. Private applicators are farmers who use restricted pesticides to produce an agricultural crop, such as fruits, vegetables, etc., on their own lands or lands managed by them.

Only one person in a farm operation will have to be certified for application. Employees who are applying these restricted - use pesticides under the supervision of the certified applicator do not need to be certified.

After the farmer is certified, that person will be issued an identification card which must be shown when buying a restricted - use pesticide from a dealer.

Self - training materials will be available through the Extension service sometime this fall. The farmer may

study the material at his leisure. Included testing materials will allow progress self - evaluation. Training sessions will be coordinated by local county Extension offices. MDA will begin testing programs this winter.

All commercial applicators who apply pesticides for hire must be certified to use or supervise application of both general and restricted - use

pesticides.

This includes aerial and ground applicators, space fumigators, and any other operations involving pesticide applications for hire. Each location from which the operation is conducted will have to be licensed and provide liability insurance and bonding. All employees of the business, however, will not have to be

certified to apply the pesticides. Only the supervisory person at each business location needs to be certified.

Persons who apply or supervise the application or restricted - use pesticides for industrial, institutional, or public buildings or other non-farm use must be certified or have a supervisor who is certified.

Self - training and progress examination materials for commercial applications will be available through Michigan Department of Agriculture regional offices in Benton Harbor, Escanaba, Grand Rapids, Traverse City, Frankenmuth, Detroit and Lansing this fall.

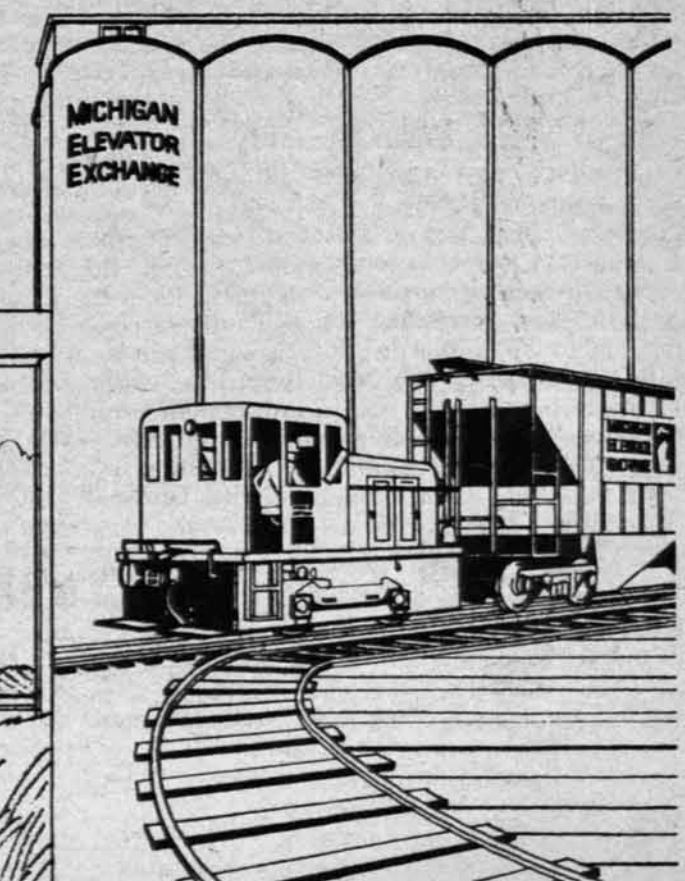
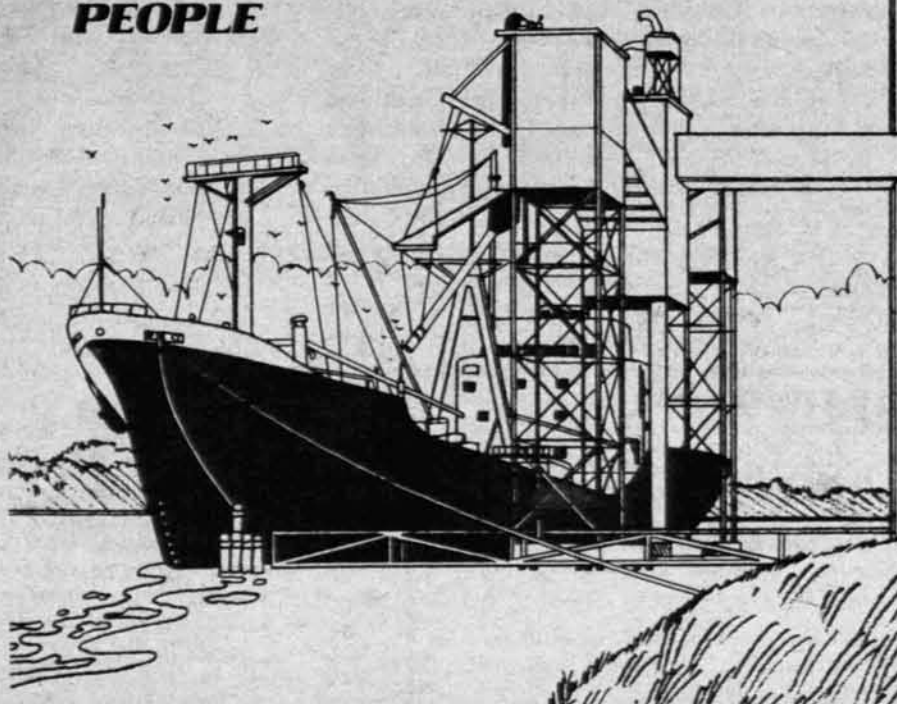
Certification will be given by appointment at each of the regional offices.

Where will you market your grain and Beans this year?

Fluctuations in today's market make this question more important than ever to farmers. The Michigan Elevator Exchange (MEE), a division of Farm Bureau Services, provides marketing services to over 100 country elevators. When you market your crops at a MEE member elevator, you'll benefit from the resources that provide marketing knowledge and locate the most advantageous prices anywhere in the world.

The country elevators that we represent are in the best position to help the farmer gain fair market prices. MEE can reduce marketing cost, since we are owned by and for Michigan Farmers. The larger the percentage of production that farmers control, the more respect they will have. This gains better prices in both the domestic and foreign markets. Stop in and see your local MEE member elevator today. He is working for you.

ASK THE FARM BUREAU PEOPLE



Farm Bureau: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

National Organization

On February 12, 1919, twelve organized Farm Bureau states met in Ithaca, New York, to consider a national organization. Michigan was one of those states.

A second meeting for further action took place the following November in Chicago, Illinois. A proposed constitution and by-laws were drafted and sent to the states for ratification. The final organization meeting was held in Chicago on March 1, 1920. Twenty-eight states had ratified the constitution and by-laws.

On July 15, 1920, application for incorporation was filed with the Secretary of State of Illinois. Thus, Farm Bureau emerged from the initiative of farm people to help themselves. It originated as, and remains, an organization in which membership is voluntary, with allegiance to no other body. Over the years it has battled for protection and advancement of a free agriculture and the welfare of farmers and their families.

The American Farm Bureau Federation is the largest farm organization in America. It is organized at local, state, and national levels with over 2.5 million member families in 2,812 counties in 49 states and Puerto Rico.

County Farm Bureaus

The original and basic unit of Farm Bureau is the county organization. A family joins the Farm Bureau in the county in which it resides. A basic membership fee is paid and approval of the county Farm Bureau board is required.

A portion of the dues is forwarded to the state and national organizations, and the family gains membership in the larger units by such payment.

The county Farm Bureau is the locally incorporated unit of the organization. It directs and initiates programs at the county and local level.

County Farm Bureaus become a part of the state organization by virtue of a working County Relationship Agreement, a set of by-laws.

Under the County Relationship Agreement, the county Farm Bureau accepts responsibility for promoting and maintaining its membership and carrying out an effective program in the interest of its members. It agrees to hold an annual meeting, where programs and policies are adopted by a vote of the members. Families holding regular memberships are authorized to vote at such meetings. Associate members have other privileges, but are not allowed to vote on policy matters, nor to hold office at the county, state or national level.

Under the County Relationship Agreement, the Michigan Farm Bureau is pledged to carry on education, legislative and business programs agreeable to the general membership. The state organization provides a field force (regional representatives) to give aid and counsel to county organizations.

Michigan Farm Bureau also agrees to conduct an annual convention, where reports are given and policy resolutions are voted upon by the member delegates. County Farm Bureaus are entitled to voting representation at the state annual meetings in proportion to the number of regular members in the county.

Board of Directors

Boards of Directors of the county, state and national organizations interpret and give directive action to policies as established by the voting delegates.

The Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors consists of one director elected from each of the eleven established districts in the state, three directors at-large, a representative from the Farm Bureau Women's Committee and a representative from the Farm Bureau Young Farmers' Committee.

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

Michigan Farm Bureau, organized in 1919, is a general farm organization comprised of over 61,000 member families, organized into 69 county or county-combination units encompassing 77 of Michigan's 83 counties.

Four divisions administer and carry out programs and services for members of Michigan's largest farm organization.

This division publishes the member publication of the organization, "The Michigan Farm News;" prepares, duplicates and distributes weekly radio programs to radio stations throughout the state; supplies TV stations with news clips; maintains audio visual equipment, films and slide presentations; prepares and distributes to news media releases on programs, statements and

DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**

Manager Member Relations

Public Affairs Division

Among the first departments established by the Farm Bureau was the Legislative Division, which later became the Public Affairs Division.

In the policy development process, this division provides assistance and information on probable issues to individual Farm Bureau members, Community Farm Bureau Groups, county Farm Bureaus, county PD Committees, Michigan Farm Bureau PD Committee, and voting delegates.

Personnel of the division work with the Michigan Legislature, State officials, and others in drafting, preparing, developing, and promoting legislation and regulations to carry out Farm Bureau policies on State Affairs. They work with the Michigan Congressional delegation, government officials, and other organizations in cooperation with AFBF and other State Farm Bureaus in support of Farm Bureau policies.

Members of the division assist county Farm Bureaus to develop action programs involving members to solve local problems.

Field Operations Division

The primary purpose of this division is to aid in building an effective organization by assisting county Farm Bureau officers in preparing for and discharging their responsibilities.

Regional representatives (field staff) of this Division provide advice and counsel on good organizational and administrative policies and procedures to county leaders to enable County Farm Bureaus to function effectively with the financial and human resources available to them. They also coordinate service to member programs provided by the affiliate companies and other organizations.

Programs for which the Field Operations Division is currently responsible are: membership campaign, women's activities, administration of county Farm Bureau offices, surfacing leaders and leadership training, young farmers' activities, maintenance of membership records and administration of the Blue-Cross Blue Shield program, coordination of all service to member programs, and administration of the Farm Bureau Center building.

Information Division

The Information Division acts as the voice of Michigan Farm Bureau. Its objective is to inform farmers, Farm Bureau members, and the general public about Farm Bureau programs and policies and to create understanding and support of these programs and policies.

speeches which are newsworthy; works with county information committees to assist them in telling their own story; prepares discussion material and discussion tapes for use by Community Farm Bureau Groups; serves in an advisory capacity to district and county Farm Bureau newspapers and newsletters; handles incoming and outgoing mail; purchases supplies and does printing for Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliate companies.

Market Development Division

The primary objectives and responsibilities of this division are to serve members' commodity interests, investigate marketing needs and to develop programs to meet these needs.

Commodity Advisory Committees for dairy, poultry, livestock, field crops, fruit and vegetables and soybeans meet regularly to advise the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors on commodity issues. Members learn about issues of vital concern to their commodity interests through special meetings, tours and newsletters.

Facts and figures are assembled, organized, and analyzed to support programs with emphasis on legislation, policy development, marketing and commodity problems. Considerable assistance with initial organizational efforts is provided affiliate companies which operate marketing activities.

Farm Bureau Family

To provide the multitude of products and services Farm Bureau members have requested, several affiliate companies have been formed. Members of the Farm Bureau Family are: *Farm Bureau Services, Inc., Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., Farm Bureau Insurance Group, Michigan Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Association, Michigan Agricultural Services Association, Michigan Farm Bureau Group Purchasing, Inc.,*

The Future

The basic philosophy which has given Farm Bureau strength will continue to keep it strong. Farm Bureau can face the future with confidence. Confidence based on faith in religious principles, faith in its members, and faith in their decisions.

The best way to prepare for the future is to do the present well. Through Farm Bureau, members can insure building a better agriculture and in realizing the practical idea of a world that lives in prosperity, in freedom, and in peace.

The future lies not in the hand of fate, but in the hands Farm Bureau members.

Exports Hit All-Time High in 1976

U.S. agricultural exports reached an all-time high of \$22.15 billion in fiscal year 1976, Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz has reported.

This was a gain of 3 per cent from last year's record of \$21.6 billion. It marked the sixth straight year of record farm exports, dating to fiscal year 1971, when \$7.8 billion eclipsed the previous high of \$6.8 billion reached in 1967.

The record export value came from an increase in volume of shipments of over 20 per cent, to about 103

million metric tons, which more than offset a decline of 11 per cent of the unit value of export commodities.

Wheat exports were valued at \$4.9 billion, virtually unchanged from last year, despite an increase of volume of 12 per cent to 31.5 million tons.

Feed grain exports rose in value to more than \$5.6 billion from about \$4.8 billion last year on a volume of 46.4 million tons, up from about 35 million tons last year. With this total, exports were up

about 21 per cent in value from \$4.8 billion and 39 per cent in volume to 39.7 million tons. Grain sorghum showed a 10 per cent gain to \$678 million while barley and oats exports dropped almost 50 per cent to \$84 million.

Exports of soybeans and products declined 3 per cent to \$4 billion as a decline in unit values and oil volume more than offset a 40 per cent increase in soybean volume to 566 million bushels from 404.5 million last year. Soybean export value was

just over \$3 billion, up 4 per cent.

Exports of livestock and meat products, sparked by value gains of more than double in pork exports and 90 per cent in beef and veal, increased by more than \$250 million, reaching 1.7 billion.

Fruits and vegetables that moved into export were valued at \$1.41 billion compared to \$1.12 billion in the fiscal year 1975. Sugar and tropical products shipments rose from a value of \$355.1 million to \$414.8 million.

U.S. President Will Be Farm Bureau Member

Whoever is elected President of the United States in November will be a Farm Bureau Member, that's for sure. President Ford has been a long time member of Michigan Farm Bureau. Jimmy Carter is a member of the Georgia Farm Bureau and Ronald Reagan belongs to California Farm Bureau. At least all the major candidates agree on which organization to belong to.

FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS: One free 25 word ad per month per membership, 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: 13th of Month. Mail classified ads to: Michigan Farm News, P. O. Box 960, Lansing, Mi. 48904 Publisher reserves right to reject any advertising copy submitted.

FARM EQUIPMENT

FOR SALE - International TD24 bulldozer, 1956 with 12 ft. blade - \$4,950.00. Phone Flushing 313-659-6535. (9-11-14p)

WE SELL, SERVICE AND ERECT NEW SMITH SILOS, rebuild used silos, install complete manure systems, including above ground storage, Silo-matic unloaders and complete feeding systems, free planning and estimates. Laursen's Inc., West Branch 517-345-1400. We have agents covering most of the state. Some areas are still open. Call if interested. (4-61-25p26b)

FARROWING STALLS - Complete \$86.50. 1" tubular steel construction. Dealerships available. Free literature. STARR NATIONAL, 219 Main, Colchester, Illinois 62326. (9-11-19p)

FARM BUILDING MAINTENANCE - We specialize in painting high buildings & roofing steep roofs. Work from boom truck with 65 ft. reach. For estimate call High-Boy Builders, Lansing 517-882-5869, Copemish 616-378-2375, Muskegon 616-773-2669. (6-61-30b)

HARLEY ROCK PICKERS. Rock Win drawers. Picks 1 to 16" dia. The World's Best. Phone 313-376-4791. Earl F. Reinelt, 4465 Reinelt, Deckerville, Mich. 48427. (5-11-23p)

SPRAY-TEC insulation for metal, wood and block buildings. UL Lab. as Class A building material. Gerald Oakley, 1420 M-52 North, Stockbridge, Mich. 49285. Phone 517-851-8062. (5-121-25p)

GRAIN DRYING AND STORAGE EQUIPMENT. Farm Fans Dryers, Brock Bins, Bucket Elevators, Sales, Installation, Service. Keith Otto. K & R Equipment, Inc., Charlotte 48813, 517-543-1350. (10-11-25p)

SURVIVE THE ENERGY CRUNCH Burn wood, famous Ashley Thermostatic wood burning circulators available now. Krader Enterprises, Rt. No. 1, Grand Junction, Mich. 49056. Phone 616-253-4332. (5-51-24p)

FOR SALE - "Flying L" horse & stock trailers, gooseneck & flatbeds in stock, 1 1/2 mi. west of Palo. Thomas Read, Fenwick, Mich. 48834. Phone 517-637-4772. (10-11-25p)

FOR SALE - 3000 Fox Chopper, 6 1/2 ft. heavy duty hay head. Two narrow row corn head, electric knife sharpener, hydraulic spout. Phone Clare 517-386-2360. (9-11-24p)

FOR SALE - New Idea Manure - Spreader Model 19, 125 Bu. capacity on rubber power take-off. Massey Ferguson 4-bottom plow, Shear pin trip 3-point hitch. Floyd Lang, 8923 Robb Road, Fowlerville 48836. (9-11-30p)

FOR SALE - Must sell 1941 Ford truck with grain box, runs. Also old grain drill. Make offer. Write Martha Liske, R No. 1, Hubbard Lake, Mich. 49747. (9-11-25p)

FOR SALE - Two Endgate wagons, unloading jack, one Allis - Chalmers blower with engine, one corn head Fox chopper. Phone Fenton 313-629-6703. (9-21-21p)

FOR SALE: Farmall C with mounted plow, 2-row planter, cultivator & side dress unit, \$1,400, takes all. Delivery available. Call evenings, Baroda, MI 616-422-1061. (9-11-22p)

FOR SALE: M.M. 2890 Combine w-2 - row corn head - good condition \$4,500. Kewanee 16 ft. Wing Disc w-20 in. Blades \$650. Phone Kalamazoo 517-765-2683. (9-11-22p)

NEW IDEA 700 Uni-tractor w-combine, Picker, sheller & corn chopper \$2400. Phone Kalamazoo 517-765-2683. (9-11-14p)

FARM EQUIPMENT

3 GATES 4' x 12' \$20.00 each, or 3 for \$50.00. 8 metal hen feeders \$1.00 each. Robert Trebesh, 7780 Challis Rd., Brighton, Mich. 48116. Phone 313-229-2277. (9-11-25p)

ROUND BALE FEEDERS for 1500 lb. round bales. Heavy duty 1" square tubing. Only \$86.95. Rectangular feeders also available. Free literature. Dealerships available. Starr National, 219 Main, Colchester, Ill. 62326. (9-11-29p)

FOR SALE: J.B. potato brusher and grader. Excellent cond. F. Bacigal, 3758 Wingar, Bancroft. Phone 517-634-5528. (9-11-17p)

FOR SALE: McCormick Corn Binder with conveyer. John Deere 4 Bar Rake on rubber, horse drawn type. Elmer Daenzer, 2130 S. Reimer Rd., Saginaw. (9-11-25p)

LIVESTOCK

REGISTERED Corriedale Sheep for sale. Rams, Ram lambs, ewes, good bloodlines. Also Hampshire Rams. Leo Eccles, Mendon 49072. Phone 616-496-7650. (7-11-21p)

FOR SALE - YORKSHIRE serviceage boars and open gilts top bloodlines tested at MSU test station. All registered stock. Richard Cook, 1/2 mile east Mulliken, M-43. Phone 517-649-8988. (3-11-24p)

FOR SALE - Registered Polled Hereford Bull 4 years old. Never in contact with PBB. Garth Hall, Box 2489, Old Horton Bay Rd., Boyne City 49712. (9-11-25p)

CORRIEDALE RAMS, purebred for breeding. Registration available if desired. Craig Adams, Jackson Rd., Tekonsha, Mich. 49092. Phone 517-767-4250. (8-31-18p)

11 HEAD BRED Holstein heifers, 5 reg., 6 grade, due Sept. on. Registered ave. on dams 15,450 Milk. Also, Reg. Holstein bulls, 15 mos. old, one whose dam has 23,000 M 900 F. All tested. George Robb, Fowlerville, Phone 517-223-9462. (9-11-25p13b)

REGISTERED Holstein Bulls for sale service age from classified dams with records to 27,000 M and 1027 F. Contact Roger Bloss, Swartz Creek, Mich. Phone 313-635-3788. (9-11-24p)

HAMPSHIRE and DUROC Boar and Gilt sale. September 18, 7:30 p.m., Orlo Roth farm, 5040 Bancroft Ave., Lowell 49331. (616-868-5425). John Brecheisen, RR 6, Coldwater 49036. (517-278-5264). (9-11-25p)

FOR SALE - New Zealand White Rabbits, bred for top meat production. "Rabbits are our only business." Deftmers Bunny Patch, Phone 517-584-3765, Caron City, Mich. (7-11-24p)

QUARTER HORSES - Disposition for 4-H, ability for cattle, conformation for show. Reasonable prices. Customer satisfaction a priority. Visitors welcome. Walton Farms, Rosebush. Phone 517-433-2925. (3-11-24p)

CHAROLAIS - For sale polled or horned bulls and bred cows, performance tested. R. J. Eldridge & Sons, 7911 Aiden Nash Rd., (M-50) Alto, Mich. (616) 868-6223. (3-11-25p)

COW TRIMMING makes your cows feel better, produce better and makes you more money. Call Bob Presson, RFD 3, Ewart, MI 49631. Phone (616) 734-5051. (10-11-14p)

LIVESTOCK

CORRIEDALE SHEEP - Purebred Breeding stock for sale. Paper optional. Waldo F. Dieterle, 7285 Textile Rd., Saline, Mich. 48176. Phone (313) 429-7874. (1-11-19p)

MILKING SHORTHORNS - Young bulls, yearlings and calves for sale. Write or visit Stanley M. Powell and Family, Ingleside Farm, R.R. 2, Box 238, Ionia, Mich. 48846. (6-11-25p)

CHAROLAIS - For sale polled or horned bulls and bred cows, performance tested. R.J. Eldridge & Sons, 7911 Aiden Nash Rd., (M-50) Alto, Mich. (616) 868-3081. (3-11-25p)

BEEFALO HEIFERS, Bulls from \$650.00. Pure blood Basolo Hybrid semen from \$7.00 ampule or straw. Free Beefalo story. American Beefalo, Mayville 21, Michigan. Phone 517-843-6811. (7-11-25p)

DOGS

FOR SALE - Brittany Spaniel puppies (AK-) C). Excellent hunting bloodlines. Puppies have been wormed and tails bobbed. Frank Morrison, 4247 Studor, Saginaw, 48601. Phone 517-777-7228. (9-11-24p)

GERMAN SHEPHERD puppies and growing dogs with and without AKC. Registration. Also New Crocks and Barrels all sizes. Krupp's Novelty Shop, corner of Old M-21 and M-13, Lennon, Mich. Open 7 days. (9-31-25p6b)

COCKER SPANIEL Puppies for sale. AKC registered. Red or black. Champion bloodlines. Phone 517-777-1532 Birch Run, Mich. (9-21-17p)

AKC Reg. Shetland sheep dogs (miniature collies) 2 sable male pups whelped June 1, 1976. Tom Eilers, Mears, phone 616-861-4696. (9-11-18p)

MISCELLANEOUS

SAUSAGE MAKERS, premixed spices, cures for ham, bacon, poultry, game. 40 recipes, casings, stuffers, smoker ideas. Catalog, National Home Products, Box 4397-17, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106. (4-91-25p)

AFRICAN VIOLETS - Start plants from leaves, over 80 varieties. Descriptive price list 35c. Gail's Violets, R No. 4, St. Johns, Mich. 48879. (6-11-20p)

KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT FARMING? Help get agriculture moving overseas. Expenses paid, ages 20-60, single or married, no dependents. Write: PEACE CORPS FARMER, Rm. 322Q, 1 N. Wacker Dr., Chicago, Ill. 60606. (8-101-31b)

HOMEWORKER'S WANTED! OUT- STANDING INCOME! INFORMATION FOR STAMPED ENVELOPE. LaPoe, 9700 Pinehurst, South Gate, California 90280. (7-61-15p)

PAINTING, Tuck pointing, sand blasting, caulking, registered steple-jack, fully insured. E.R. Wilcox, 3424 E. Beaver Rd., Bay City, Phone 517-684-7640. (6-11-20p)

WANTED TO BUY - John Deere GP or D model Tractor. For sale 1938 John Deere A Tractor with extras. LeRoy Keinath, R No. 4, Vassar, Michigan 48768. Phone 517-652-2388. (8-11-25p)

MISCELLANEOUS

LAND CLEARING and Bulldozing - By the hour or by the job. Tom Tank, Eagle, Michigan 48822. Phone 517-626-6677. (5-11-18p)

PECAN HALVES, Fresh! Gallon \$9.45. Postpaid. Canecreek Farm, Box 151-AD, Cookeville, Tenn. 38501. Guaranteed! (9-41-14p)

PICK-YOUR-OWN APPLES; Retail and Wholesale Apples and Cider. Birch Creek Orchard and Cider Mill, 8880 Babcock, Jeddo, Michigan. For information phone 313-327-6622. (9-11-24p)

FOR SALE: Certified Tecumseh Wheat. Donald Keinath, 123 Akron Rd., Caro, Mich. 48723. Phone 517-673-4211. (9-11-15p)

JERUSALEM ARTICHOKEs - Limited supply this season due to dry weather. Orders filled on first come, first serve basis. Write for prices. DEAN FOSTER NURSERIES, Box MF-10, Hartford, Mich. 49057. Phone 616-621-4397. (9-21-31b)

SURVIVE THE ENERGY CRUNCH Burn wood, famous Ashley Thermostatic wood burning circulators available now. Krader Enterprises, Rt. No. 1, Grand Junction, Mich. 49056. Phone 616-253-4332. (9-41-24p)

FREE: Newsy Letter of Interest to Mothers of Children under 12 AVB's "Kiddie Boutique", Box 306G, Barrington, Ill. 60010. (9-11-19p)

WATCH REPAIR - Any make cleaned, repaired, internal parts, crystals, crowns, included. No case or dial repair. Three-day shop service. Wrist watches \$8.00, pocket \$20.00. No electronics. Elgin - trained craftsman. Mail order repair since 1952. Free mailer. Hub's Service, 3855 Hopps Road, Elgin, Ill. 60120. (9-61-44p)

WANTED TO BUY - A PTO driven combine with seed cleaner in good condition. Phone 616-657-5003 or write to GREEN TIP FARM, R No. 3, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079. (7-41-25p)

FARMERS - Multi-manufacturer distributor expanding business throughout Michigan. Need agriculturally experienced associates. Work independently. Excellent products - commissions - benefits. Send name - address. P.E.D., Box 781, East Lansing, Mich. (7-61-25p)

FARMER WANTED - 130 acres near Dimondale. Phone 517-394-1213. (9-21-8b)

FREE music lesson, "Learn Chord Playing". Piano, organ, guitar. Simple new system enables anyone to learn chording. Davidsons, 6727 MFN Metcalf, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66204. (9-11-24p)

HOMEWORKERS! \$200.00 weekly possible addressing (longhand or typing) and stuffing envelopes! Experience unnecessary! Details 25c and stamped addressed envelope. Garrett, 8050-MF South Main, Houston 77025. (9-21-25b)

WARM MORNING & SHENANDOAH wood burning space heaters. Thermostatically controlled. Fire brick & cast iron lined. \$169 to \$340. PANGBORN'S PAINTING, Stanwood, Mich. 49346. Phone 616-823-2215. (9-11-25p)

WANTED TO BUY: 16 gauge Remington shotgun (Browning patent style) in good condition. Call 906-847-3777 or write Box 315, Mackinac Island, MI. 49757. (9-11-23p)

MISCELLANEOUS

FREEZER DOUGHS! BREADS, BUNS, ROLLS! MAKE YOUR OWN! Complete, easy, instructions. Save time, money! \$1.00 Hamilton's, Box 233-131, New Ulm, Minn. 56073. (9-11-20p)

HOMEMADE CHEESE! HARD, SOFT & COTTAGE! Make it yourself! Easy, delicious! Complete instructions! Recipes, \$1.00. Hamilton's, Box 233-131, New Ulm, Minn. 56073. (9-11-20p)

FARMERS - RANCHERS - Money Available From Numerous Government Loans. Send \$3.00 to Info Publications, P.O. Box 34183, Clermont, Indiana 46234. (9-36-19b)

800 GLASS Gallon jugs, will sell one or all, 25c each. Jim Langley, phone Davison 313-653-8109, or Milford 313-685-3687. (9-11-19p)

50 Free Wholesale Catalogs! Valuable List - 25c. O'Donnell, 9-R4 Sewanois, Lincoln Park, New Jersey 07035. (9-11-15p)

WANTED: A young 4-H married couple as a caretaker's helper in a country home. (Catholic preferred) Ref. Telephone Fenton 313-629-6421. (9-11-20p)

GMC 6x6 ARMY TRUCK with extra spare engine and axle parts. Runs good. \$1500.00. Phone Sheridan 517-261-4339. (9-11-17p)

REAL ESTATE

HOWELL, MICH. Area, 240 acre milk farm, 1 mile to I-96 and M-59 interchange, ideal for fish farming, truck gardening, vegetable or sod farm, golf course or recreation development. Small barn-shop, 1/2 mile river frontage, pumped drainage system, easy to irrigate. Willing to divide. \$800.00 per acre. 517-546-7111. (9-11-25p23b)

MINI-FARM 6 miles west of Kalamazoo. 215 acres with 4 year old farmhouse. 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, kitchen with pantry, dining room. Walkout basement with rec room. Aluminum siding. Priced in mid 40's with land contract available. (9-11-25p16p)

District Five

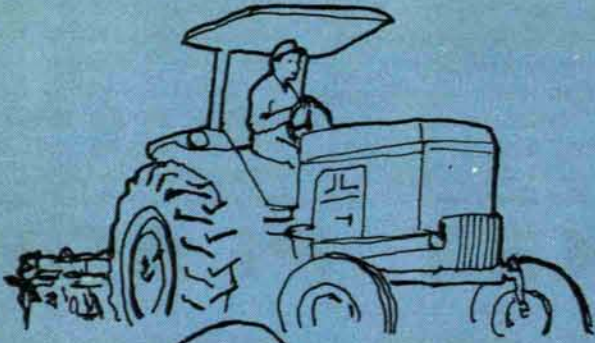
Womens' Rally

The Farm Bureau Women of District 5 are sponsoring a "Lady, you've come a loooooong way!" meeting at Long's Convention Center, Lansing, on October 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets may be purchased from any District 5 Farm Bureau Women.

Keynote speaker will be Delores B. Stacey, PhD., a consulting psychologist, and many special Bicentennial features are planned.

GOOD NEWS

from Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company



We've raised our dividends.

During 1976, this change will increase our participating life and annuity policy dividend payments by about 15% overall.

If the dividend scale is maintained in future years, this will mean hundreds of extra dollars in dividends over the life of many of our policies now in force, and of many new policies written with Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company in 1976. Practically every policyholder will benefit.

To increase your present policy, or take out a new policy, call your Farm Bureau Insurance agent. The agent will also be glad to discuss with you the effects of the raised dividends on retirement income or other aspects of your financial planning.

FARM BUREAU
INSURANCE
GROUP™

