



Laingsburg's permanently closed rail station and paved-over tracks stand as reminders to the impact of rail line abandonment. The grain storage facilities in the background are a part of Ovid Roller Mills, which formerly shipped grain on the now defunct Penn Central's line from Lansing to Owosso. The State of Michigan subsidized this line for awhile, but soon found that allotted funds had to be diverted to keep other, more heavily traveled sections of track open. After the State withdrew its support, the mill was forced to ship grain by truck at additional expense.

New Rail Classification System Could Cause More Line Abandonments

1st of a Series

Michigan's railroads are still in trouble, in spite of efforts by Federal and state agencies to provide funds and reorganization plans to rehabilitate them. Consequently, some lines servicing major agricultural areas in the state may be abandoned.

Ironically, the very tools designed to rejuvenate rail service throughout the country may lead to the demise of some Michigan routes.

"The Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory reform Act of 1976 was passed to 'rehabilitate and maintain the physical facilities, improve the operations and structure and restore the financial stability of the railway system in the United States,'" says Porter Barnett, marketing specialist for the Michigan Department of Agriculture. "The Act called for studies to be made so that the Federal Railway Administration could advise Congress on how to spend billions of dollars to supply the capital requirements of the nation's railroads."

To make sure that the most important lines receive the proper funds to keep them in top operating order, the FRA compiled and issued a preliminary report listing the country's Class I lines. These lines are to receive primary consideration for federal funds.

Not one Michigan line was considered Class I in the preliminary report issued by the FRA," Barnett points out. "This includes the line that the Michigan Department of Agriculture considers as the state's primary rail route, the old Ann Arbor route from Toledo, Ohio to Frankfort, Michigan and across Lake Michigan to Manitowac and Kewaunee, Wisconsin." Instead, the FRA listed this route as a Class B branch line.

The State of Michigan now owns and operates this line, including the rail car ferry service across Lake Michigan.

"The state rail line map in the FRA report is also in error," Porter continues.

"It shows the route running from Toledo to Manistee,"

Porter emphasized. "If this false information is accepted, it will drastically influence the appropriation of federal funds for the line."

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Michigan State Highways and Transportation Department both provided testimony at the September 20 FRA. Public hearing to record any public statements on discrepancies in the preliminary FRA rail classification report.

Both agencies took exception to many parts of the preliminary FRA report. The Department of Agriculture attacked the whole classification system.

"This system will cause the cutting off of branch lines just so that the main lines can survive," the MDA spokesperson pointed out at the hearing. "Main lines depend on branch feeder lines for the generation of good traffic," the spokesman continued. "This is no way to get a balanced system of transportation in the country. Branch lines need to be

(Con't. on page 3)

Victory for Estate Tax Reform

On September 16, the House of Representatives voted 405 to 2 to incorporate estate tax reform provisions in the House-Senate Conference report on the Omnibus Tax Reform Bill (H.R. 10612). These provisions are ones previously agreed upon by the House-Senate conferees.

The House also voted 383 to 26 to accept the entire conference report and send it to the Senate for action. However, it will contain a provision amending the income tax law changing the basis for the capital gains tax on inherited property. The American Farm Bureau Federation had supported Representative Conable's (R-New York) efforts to strike this provision from the report, but his attempts to make a motion to eliminate the provision were voted down 181 to 229.

None of the estate tax reform provisions will result in any increased taxes on heirs who inherit farms unless they sell their inheritances.

The Senate is expected to act on the Conference report promptly. When it does, we shall have achieved a major goal of Farm Bureau policy since 1974. The action of this Congress is further evidence of the effectiveness of Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau members when they work in support of their policies. See the National Notes section of this edition for further clarification.

MFB Makes Goal



On Wednesday, August 25, the Michigan Farm Bureau surpassed its 1976 membership goal of 61,586 member families. This year marks the ninth straight that memberships have been increased. In honor of the event, Michigan FB President Elton R. Smith donned the traditional "membership blazer". Charles Burkett, director of MFB Field Operations Division, assists Smith while Robert Braden, MFB Administrative Director, looks on approvingly.

From the Desk of



The President

Co-ops -- Islands of Economic Democracy

Every October farmers make a token effort to focus public attention on cooperatives so that consumers will realize the importance of this unique system to their food supply. Mostly, they have depended upon their state and national co-op associations to do the job for them.

This year, farmers need to make more than a token effort. They need to get personally involved in spreading the good word during Co-op Month and in the days following. The cooperative system, which has helped farmers feed our nation and much of the rest of the world, is under attack and we cannot afford to complacently sit back and allow it to be destroyed.

Why should a system which has allowed America to become the best-fed and best-clothed nation in the world come under attack? There are a number of factors. With the rise in food prices, the entire industry is under scrutiny. Cooperatives have grown in size to meet increased member needs and citizens have become suspicious of "bigness." A few co-ops made headlines because of improper political activities.

Whatever the reason, people have come to believe, mistakenly, that farmers and their co-ops are getting special treatment through the Capper-Volstead Act. They believe the Act gives co-ops the right to engage in practices that violate the nation's anti-trust laws. This, of course, is not true. The Act simply gives farmers the right to bargain and market collectively. Without that right, many family farms would face disaster.

We need to launch an aggressive campaign to inform the public that our nation and our world depend upon America's family farmers -- and that America's family farmers depend on their cooperatives. We need to tell consumers that without cooperatives, both the production and marketing of our nation's food supply could fall into the hands of large non-cooperative corporations. If this should happen, production efficiency would suffer and retail prices would rise. We need to educate our legislators about cooperatives' importance not only to farmers but the entire nation.

As so frequently happens, the Farm Bureau Women have recognized a problem and made plans to tackle it constructively. In their Program of Work for 1976-77, they have included a "Protect Cooperatives" section which suggests: (1) Understand the value of cooperatives. Be informed about related legislation and be able to respond knowledgeably when the cooperative concept is challenged; (2) Co-op Day promotions to give farm and non-farm people the opportunity to get acquainted with their cooperatives, and (3) effective use of the news media through letters to the editor and radio programs.

I congratulate them for their awareness of what is at stake and encourage all Farm Bureau members to follow their leadership and support their cooperative education efforts.

Jerry Voorhis, for many years the executive director of the Cooperative League of the USA, has



FREMONT CO-OP TEAM MEMBERS (left to right) Max Brink, sales representative; Gary Luchies, millman, and manager Howard Boerman, believe some good things have resulted from the PBB tragedy.

DONNA

PBB Built Character

Whether it was pimples, crooked teeth, skinny legs, unrequited puppy love or failure to get the lead in the Junior play (the latter two the result, I was sure, of the first three), my mother had a couple of standard reassurances for all of my early tragedies. It was either "It builds character" or "Something good will come of it."

As I grew older and the "tragedies" had more substance, I found that, as usual, she was right. Indeed, I learned to have pity on all those character-less people whose lives had been nothing but smooth sailing with easily-earned successes.

The PBB tragedy was one that effected us all and I don't think it was an exception to my mother's philosophy. It built character - no doubt about it! And I also think some good things have come from it. One of the good things that resulted was that it brought the Farm Bureau Family closer together. Just as when families like your's and mine get older and bigger, they don't always keep in touch as they once did, and sometimes it takes a tragedy to make them realize

how much they mean to each other - so it was with the Farm Bureau Family. With PBB, Farm Bureau was Farm Bureau, no matter where you, personally, fit into the complex structure.

I discovered I was not the only one to believe that something as negative as the PBB tragedy could be turned into a positive when I visited the Fremont Co-op. Sharing that experience with you seems a fitting tribute to Co-ops during their special Month.

Despite the PBB tragedy, with many of their customers effected, the Fremont Co-op showed a steady gain in feed sales, a sign that somebody there was doing something right. Finding out who that "somebody" was turned out to be a tough assignment.

When asked who was responsible, the manager credited the sales rep, the sales rep cited the millman, the millman said it was the manager, the people "up front" gave credit to the people "out back" and vice versa. One common denominator finally surfaced: the farmer customers - the ones who stuck with them throughout the tragedy,

written a book entitled, "Cooperative Enterprises: The Little People's Chance in a World of Bigness." He expresses his opinions on how to preserve our economic and political freedom and his strong belief that cooperatives give the average citizen a chance to keep his freedom. "Cooperative enterprises are -- and must always be -- islands of economic democracy in a sea of monopolistic oligarchy," he writes.

"Islands of economic democracy" is an apt description, I think, one that should make us realize what we are trying to preserve. The cooperative concept marked the beginning of progress; people working together made things happen. It will remain a vital key to our progress in the future, where many challenges await us. Let's all work together now to assure that we will have cooperatives to help us meet those challenges.

Elton R. Smith

and those who came back once their claims were settled and they were back in business.

The three key members of the Fremont Co-op team -- and they are a team in the true sense of the word -- Manager Howard Boerman, Sales Representative Max Brink and Millman Gary Luchies -- all feel that some good things have resulted from the tragedy.

They have a clean plant that's been vacuumed and scrubbed - every nook and cranny, every bolt and bearing, even the cracks in the cement walls -- and they've kept it that way. In a mill, that's quite an accomplishment! As one salesman described it: "Your's is the only mill I can walk through with my suit on."

Howard, who started at the bottom and worked himself up to the manager's spot, sums up their positive position in spite of a traumatic experience, to three things: "Good people, good programs, and a lot of faith that the Good Lord will take care of you, and he did."

"Our quality - control program, a sales rep who's out there doing his job, conscientious people here at the plant - - put all these things together -- no one element would have done it. It took a combination of all," said Howard, "and all of our people were behind us 100 percent."

The enthusiasm and confidence and positive attitude of the Fremont team was infectious. My visit with them made me proud to be a "relative."

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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Farm Bureau

Branch Lines in Trouble

(Con't. from page 1)

rehabilitated just as much or more than main lines. Besides ignoring the needs of agriculture, the classification system could lead to complete disruption of the entire rail system."

Michigan's railways are in dire need of the federal funds, says Don Riel, manager of Rail Freight in the State Highways and Transportation Department's Bureau of Urban and Public Transportation.

"The state of Michigan now subsidizes 909 miles of rail line that was formerly owned by the now bankrupt Penn Central and Ann Arbor railroads," Riel explains. "Under the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform act of 1976, Congress is to provide a declining scale of federal funds to the 17 states affected by the bankruptcies of seven railroads. The five-year funding program was established to assist the states in keeping the bankrupt lines open."

During the first year of operation, Congress was to appropriate 100 per cent of the operating costs, Riel points out. Michigan's share was 12.97 of the total amount allotted. This amounted to \$4,355,000 for the first six months of operations. The percentage figure was determined by the percentage of rail that was originally approved for abandonment in Michigan out of the whole 17 state system. The other states' funds are determined by the amount of original abandoned track within their boundaries also.

"The federal funds did not cover 100 per cent of the Michigan lines' operating costs as they were supposed to because of the percentage breakdown," Riel explains. "The Michigan legislature had to appropriate an additional \$1.9 million to keep the lines operating. The combined state and federal funds were just enough to cover the costs for the first six months, April to September of this year."

Riel expects even more problems during the ensuing four years.

"Congress is supposed to appropriate 90 per cent of the operating funds the second year, 80 per cent the third, and 70 per cent for the fourth and fifth years," he points out. "The states are to supply the remaining percentages. Since we did not get enough money the first year we can only speculate on how close the system will come to filling the needs during the ensuing years."

The problem could also get worse because of the 432 miles of solvent carrier lines that these railroads may choose to abandon, Riel adds. Lines that have had abandonment proceedings filed with the Interstate Com-

merce Commission are:

-The Grand Trunk Line from Imlay City to Caseville in the Thumb servicing these cities and Lum, North Branch, Kingston, Wilmot, Deford, Cass City, Gagetown, Owendale and Linkville.

-The Grand Trunk line from Marne Penn Junction to Grand Haven, also servicing Coopersville, Nunica and Spring Lake.

-The Chesapeake and Ohio line from Manistee to Petoskey, including branch lines from Traverse City to Suttons Bay and Traverse City to Elk Rapids. Other cities that would be affected by these line's shutdown are Kaleva, Thompsonville, Bendon, Grawn, Bates, Williamsburg, Barker Creek, Rapid City Alden, Bellaire, Ellsworth, Charlevoix, Bay Shore and Lamson.

-Chesapeake and Ohio Line from Greenville to Remus, also reaching the cities of Sidney, Stanton, Edmore and Blanchard.

-Chesapeake and Ohio line from Edmore to Alma, servicing the cities of Cedar Lake, Vestaburg, Riverdale and Elwell also Chesapeake and Ohio line from Hartford to Paw Paw, also servicing Lawrence.

"Unless the state legislature appropriates more funds than the state is asked to provide under the RRRR Act, we might not be able to operate all of these lines," Riel points out. "Even if it did, the funds could not be provided indefinitely. If all these lines are abandoned, we may have to place a priority on some and have to let service be discontinued on the others."

Cases on the pending abandonments should be coming up soon, Barnett points out.

"These cases have been in limbo, waiting for the final railroad reorganization plans to be mapped out," he says.

"Now that these plans have been put into action, we expect to see the abandonment cases come to a head."

The abandonment proceedings have been held up for some time. The Grand Trunk Line originally filed the Imlay City to Caseville line for abandonment on October 15, 1974. The other filings took place soon after this date.

No dates have been set for public hearings, but Porter says such hearings can be requested by any group. If no hearings are requested, the lines may be abandoned without the rail user's side of the story being told.

"We're here to assist any group who wants to request a hearing and enter testimony stating why a certain line should remain in service," Porter points out. "The Department of Agriculture has a wealth of information on how to prepare testimony concerning such matters."

This state agency feels that action should be taken in behalf of the agricultural shippers on the lines pending abandonment. The department sentiment is especially strong regarding the Imlay City to Caseville line.

"Our agency considers this route to be absolutely essential to Michigan agriculture," Porter emphasizes. "We feel that it is unthinkable to let this line be abandoned."

Huron, Tuscola and Saginaw counties in the Thumb are the state's primary producers of dry edible beans. The first two counties are also among Michigan's heaviest field corn, wheat, oats, rye and barley producers.

"These products lend themselves well to being shipped by rail," Porter notes.

"There is also only one Class I highway, M53, that grain trucks can legally travel on to serve the area that could be left without rail service."

Riel also notes that two cities on the Imlay City to Caseville line are not near all-weather truck routes.

To abandon a line, a railroad must file several

(Con't on page 14)

Attend Your County Annual Meeting

Alcona	November 1	Check with County Office
Allegan	October 21	Check with County Office
Alpena	October 14	Wilson School
Antrim	October 12	Check with County Office
Arenac	October 12	4-H Bldg., Standish - 7:00 P.M.
Barry	October 7	Moose Lodge, Hastings - 7:30 P.M.
Bay	October 26	Williams Township Hall
Benzie	October 18	Sail Inn, Benconia
Berrien	November 3	Check with County Office
Branch	October 11	Check with County Office
Calhoun	October 12	B-Henry Bldg. - 6:30 P.M.
Cass	October 16	Check with County Office
Charlevoix	October 6	Check with County Office
Cheboygan	October 18	Check with County Office
Chippewa	October 5	Rudyard School, Rudyard 8:00 p.m.
Clare	October 16	Mid-Michigan College - 8:00 P.M.
Clinton	October 12	Smith Hall, St. Johns
Copper Country	October 6	Ottawa Sports Club, Pelkie - 7:00 P.M.
Eaton	October 7	Kardell Hall, Charlotte
Emmet	October 11	Shay Elementary School, Harbor Springs
Genesee	October 14	Mundy Township Hall, Rankin
Gladwin	October 5	Check with County Office
Gratiot	October 6	Check with County Office
Hiawathaland	October 2	Congregational Church, Rapid River - 7:00 P.M.
Hillsdale	October 7	Farm Bureau Office Meeting Room
Huron	October 28	FB Center, Bad Axe - 6:30 Dinner
Ingham	October 6	Mason Bowling Lanes 7:30 p.m.
Ionia	October 18	Rather School, Ionia
Iosco	October 27	Check with County Office
Iron Range	October 18	Mansfield Township Hall - 7:30 P.M.
Isabella	October 12	Weidman School - 8:00 P.M.
Jackson	October 14	Hillside Methodist
Kalamazoo	October 19	Check with County Office
Kalkaska	October 7	Cadillac State Bank, Kalkaska
Kent	October 12	Schensul's, Eastbrook Mall, Grand Rapids 7:00 P.M.
Lapeer	October 12	Lapeer Center Bldg. - 7:30 P.M. dinner
Lenawee	September 23	Blissfield High School
Livingston	October 14	Fowlerville School
Mac-Luce	October 4	Garfield Township Hall, Engadine - 7:00 P.M.
Macomb	October 13	Emanuel Lutheran Church - 7:30 P.M. Waldenberg
Manistee	November 4	Farr Center, Onkama 6:30 p.m.
Mason	October 5	Johnny's Inn, Custer - 7:00 P.M.
Mecosta	October 4	Stanwood Elementary School, Stanwood
Menominee	October 7	Hirche's Restaurant, Nathan 7:00 p.m.
Midland	October 18	Homer Township Hall
Missaukee	October 5	Lake City High School
Monroe	September 28	4H Bldg. Fairgrounds
Montcalm	October 19	New Elementary School, Stanton
Montmorency	October 9	12:00 Noon
Muskegon	October 14	8:00 P.M. Ravenna Christian School
Newaygo	October 14	Fremont Christian School - 7:30 P.M.
N.W. Mich.	October 13	Twin Lakes
Oakland	October 21	United Methodist Church, Clarkston
Oceana	October 18	Shelby High School - 7:00 P.M.



4-H clubwork gives us 2,284,769 reasons to believe in American youth.

In cities and small towns, on farms and ranches, more than two million 4-H club members prove what a great resource America has in the potential of its youth. □ They live the 4-H pledge...get involved in farm and home projects...tackle leadership assignments...and work on special community improvement projects. 4-H makes activities of "head...heart...hands...health" mean a lot. □ PCA people are proud of 4-Hers and salute them for their outstanding contributions to the country - and to this community.



Production Credit Associations of Michigan



Farming is everybody's bread & butter

CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith

The State Board of Canvassers has completed its work on certifying the November 2 ballot proposals. This includes the 100 word description of three Constitutional amendments and one initiative proposal.

A "Constitutional amendment" changes the Constitution and cannot be changed except by another vote of the people.

An "initiative" proposal results from the Constitutional power of the people to "propose laws and to enact and reject laws . . ." They result from petitions signed by not less than 8 percent of the registered voters. If passed they cannot be vetoed by the Governor. They cannot be amended or repealed except by the voters or by $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the Legislature.

The following are the four proposals together with the exact wording that will appear on the ballot on November 2. The short analysis of each is intended to provide important information to the voter.

PROPOSAL A

**PROPOSED LAW TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF NONRETUR-
NABLE BOTTLES AND CANS FOR SOFT DRINKS AND BEER; TO
REQUIRE REFUNDABLE CASH DEPOSITS FOR SOFT DRINK
AND BEER CONTAINERS; AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR
VIOLATION OF THE LAW.**

The proposed law would:

- (A) Prohibit the use of nonreturnable bottles and cans for the sale of soft drinks and beer for off-premises consumption;
- (b) Set up a requirement for cash deposits and repayment of deposits for soft drink and beer containers;
- (c) Prohibit the use of metal soft drink and beer containers with detachable openers;
- (d) Establish fines for violation of the law by dealers, distributors and manufacturers.

Should this proposed law be approved?

PROPOSAL B

**PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE
OFFICES OF STATE SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVE**

The proposed law would:

- (a) Reduce the age requirement to be eligible for the offices of state senator and state representative from 21 to 18.
- (b) Require that to be eligible for the offices of state senator and state representative a person must be a registered elector of that legislative district.
- (c) Change the time a person must have these qualifications from the date of assuming office to the date of qualifying as a candidate.

Should this amendment be adopted?

PROPOSAL C

**PROPOSAL TO LIMIT ALL STATE TAXES AND SPENDING TO 8.3
PERCENT OF THE COMBINED PERSONAL INCOME OF
MICHIGAN**

The proposed amendment would:

- (a) Limit all state taxes and spending to 8.3 percent of combined personal income of Michigan, except taxes for repayment of bonds. State taxes means all state revenues, excluding federal aid;
- (b) Provide for refund of excess revenue to individual taxpayers;
- (c) Permit 8.3 percent limitation to be exceeded only if Governor declares specific emergency approved by 2/3 vote of the Legislature;
- (d) Prohibit state adopting or expanding local programs without full state funding;
- (e) Prohibit state from reducing existing level of aid to local governments;
- (f) Prohibit local governments from increasing existing taxes without voter approval;
- (g) Provide for implementation by the Legislature.

Should this amendment be adopted?

PROPOSAL D

**PROPOSAL TO REPLACE THE PRESENT FLAT RATE STATE
INCOME TAX WITH A GRADUATED STATE INCOME TAX FOR
CALENDAR YEAR 1977, THEREAFTER RATES AND BASES OF
STATE INCOME TAXES TO BE DETERMINED BY THE
LEGISLATURE.**

The proposed amendment would:

- (a) Remove constitutional ban on graduated income tax;
- (b) Reduce to 3.9 percent maximum, the income tax rate on taxable personal income of an individual, or individuals filing a joint return, on the first \$20,000 of taxable personal income, adjusted upwards by \$1,500 for taxpayer and each dependent;
- (c) Raise tax rate of individual taxpayers on income over that amount to replace the loss of revenue caused by above tax reductions;
- (d) Establish a constitutional minimum \$1,500 exemption for taxpayer and each dependent;
- (e) After January 1, 1978, permit the Legislature to establish bases and rates of personal income taxes.

Should this amendment be adopted?

Vote Yes on Proposal A

This is the "ban the bottle" proposal. A YES vote will pass into law controls on nonreturnable bottles and cans. Farm Bureau has supported such bills in the Legislature for several years. Farm Bureau members throughout the state collected a large percentage of the petition signatures needed to force the issue on the ballot. Farm Bureau's 1976 policy as passed by the voting delegates states in part, "We will support action to place the question of nonreturnable beverage containers on the ballot for voters to decide . . ." Farmers have been plagued with cans and bottles on their roadsides, yards, and fields. Large dollar losses have resulted with damage to tractor and implement tires, injured livestock and even loss of feed due to cans and bottles going through choppers. The legislature has failed to pass legislation to solve this problem. Two other states, Oregon and Vermont have similar legislation. If Michigan is ever to have a law, the voters will have to do it.

Proposal B Comments

This is on the ballot by action of the Michigan Legislature. It would amend the Constitution to allow 18 year olds to be elected to the state Legislature. Eighteen year olds were given the right to vote by a vote of the people in 1973. Numerous laws have been changed giving them all the rights and responsibilities of adulthood. This includes the right to drink, contract, etc. The question now is whether they should be permitted to be elected to the Legislature.

Proposal C Comments

This proposal to amend the Constitution was placed on the ballot by petition. The Michigan Farm Bureau Board considered the proposal and took a "no position" stance.

The proposal excludes "taxes imposed for the payment of principal and interest on bonds and other evidence of indebtedness . . ." This exclusion insures unlimited power to tax to meet principal and interest payments. It applies to certain types of bonds such as those voted by the people such as veterans bonuses, recreation, water pollution bonds, school loan bonds, etc. Michigan has generally been on a pay-as-you-go basis for capital outlay. The amendment may encourage a greater use of bonding.

It is also maintained that the amendment would severely curtail the states ability to increase the percentage of state aid for K-12 schools and maintain funding for community colleges and higher education. This in turn would put strong pressure on the voters to increase property taxes.

Any further property tax revision would be practically eliminated. It is entirely possible that present property tax rebate systems (circuit breaker, farmland preservation tax rebates, etc.) could be curtailed or even eliminated.

Local government presently receives a great deal of state assistance through revenue sharing. The amendment requires that, "the proportion of state revenue paid to all units of local government, authorities created by the state, and political subdivisions of the state, taken as a group, shall not be reduced below the proportion in effect when this section is adopted."

Words "proportion" and "taken as a group" are important. The actual number of dollars could decrease and still be in "proportion." The share to local governments could shift (counties more, schools less, etc.). This could result in further pressure on local property taxes with frequent millage elections.

In short, Proposal C is most complex with far reaching effects. There will be much pro and con debate on it before election. The voter must give this careful consideration.

Vote No on Proposal D

This was put on the ballot through a petition drive by the "Citizens Lobby." This is the same group that promoted the removal of the sales tax on food and drugs. They promised that no new taxes would be needed to make up the nearly \$200 million revenue loss. This was a major factor in Michigan's financial crisis. The Legislature had to increase the income tax from 3.9 percent to 4.6 percent.

The Citizens Lobby is using the same tactics on this issue -- great promises with no guarantee. It is really a backdoor effort to establish a graduated income tax which has been rejected by the voters in previous years.

The key to the proposal is the provision that the amendment would last for only one year. After that, the Legislature could do anything it wanted, with no limitation, to legislate any kind of graduated income tax with no limit on rates. If Michigan is to change its income tax from a flat rate tax to a graduated tax, it should be through an honest and forthright proposal that is understandable to the voters. It should not be through Proposal D that promises a tax rollback for some for the first year with a doubling of taxes on others (nearly 10 percent) and then letting the Legislature do as it pleases with no limits after the first year.

NATIONAL NOTES

Tax Reform, Export Controls

Albert A. Almy

After several months of writing on federal estate tax reform in this column, it is a pleasant task to note that the House of Representatives voted nearly unanimously to incorporate estate tax reform provisions into the Omnibus Tax Reform Bill (H.R. 10610). These are provisions previously agreed upon by the House Senate Conferees.

The estate Tax provisions include the following:

1. An estate tax credit equal to a \$120,000 standard exemption in 1977 and increasing to the equivalent of a \$175,000 standard exemption in five years;
2. A marital deduction of \$250,000 or 50 percent of the adjusted value of the estate, whichever is greater;
3. Appraisal of farmland for estate tax purposes on the basis of actual use rather than potential use value;
4. Extension of time to pay estate taxes to 15 years. Payment of estate taxes could be deferred during the first 5 years. The interest on unpaid estate taxes would be 4 percent;
5. An amendment to the income tax law providing that only the decedent's capital gains taking place after December 31, 1976, will be subject to income tax. No capital gains would be payable at the time of the decedent's death unless the property was sold by his executor. No capital gains would be payable by an heir unless and until he sells his inheritance.

Most Washington

observers believe Congress will leave the estate tax provisions intact, and approve H.R. 10612 before adjourning in early October. An effort was being made to build support for an amendment to delete any reference to capital gains.

If the above assumption is correct, the long effort to obtain federal estate tax reform will have been successful. Farm Bureau members were instrumental and can take great pride in their efforts to obtain introduction of estate tax legislation by nearly 150 Congressmen. Literally thousands of letters, telephone calls, telegraphs, and personal contacts were made by Farm Bureau members to build support and obtain an understanding of the need for estate tax reform by their Congressmen. The expected enactment of H.R. 10612 will do much to enable the transfer of family farm estates to future generations without the need for heirs to sell the property to pay estate taxes.

EXPORT CONTROLS

The importance of free access to world markets is understood by virtually every farmer. Exports of agricultural commodities provide a major source of farm income to American farmers, provide thousands of jobs and offer many benefits to consumers.

During the 94th Congress, several bills were introduced to deal with inflation and unemployment. Few people

thought of these bills as effecting agricultural exports. However, the much publicized Humphrey - Hawkins Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1976 -- H.R. 50 -- would have had a major impact on agricultural exports and commodity prices.

Specifically, Section 107 (A) of the Humphrey - Hawkins bill, would require annual economic reports containing a comprehensive set of anti-inflation policies including, but not limited to, "(4) provision for an export licensing mechanism for food and other critical materials when the national well-being is threatened because projected supplies are inadequate to meet domestic needs without drastically increasing prices, and the establishment of stockpile reserves of food and other critical materials in order to meet emergencies such as floods and famines and to maintain reasonable price stability and adequate farm income."

On May 14, the Humphrey - Hawkins bill was reported to the full House by the Ways and Means Committee. Strong opposition developed because of the projected cost of the bill if enacted. Farmers should recognize that this bill is a typical example of the politics and inappropriate proposals which often surround the issue of agricultural production and food.

PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

On August 5, the House passed H.R. 9719 -- Payment in Lieu of Taxes. This bill is now pending in the Senate and if approved before the 94th Congress adjourns in early October, it could ease the tax burden on some property owners. The big question is whether or not there is enough time for action.

H.R. 9719 would provide for federal payments to be made to state or local governments by the Secretary of Interior based on the extent of certain federal lands within the boundaries of states or other localities. The objective is to off-set with federal funds the loss of tax revenues to states and counties caused by federal land holdings. In Michigan for example, the federal government owns in excess of 3 million acres, most of which are in northern Michigan counties.

Although Congress has established programs in the past which partially compensate these local governments, the amount paid has not adequately covered what would have been received in property taxes under private ownership.

Specifically, H.R. 9719

would provide payments to local units of government in which certain federal lands are located. These payments could be used for any governmental purpose. The payment formula provides for a minimum payment of 75 cents per acre to units of local government. This payment, however, could not exceed a ceiling based on population and is further reduced by any revenue from the federal lands that was actually received by the unit of local government during the preceding fiscal year. If payments under existing statutes exceeded what the local unit of government would receive under the 75 cents per acre formula, there would be an additional payment of 10 cents per acre -- again subject to a ceiling based on population.

Farm Bureau is strongly supporting H.R. 9719 because it would help several northern counties. A report accompanying the bill estimates that Michigan would receive \$2.1 million for distribution to counties in which certain federal lands are located.

County Annuals Contd.

Ogemaw	October 28	Check with County Office
Osceola	October 19	Lincoln Townhall
Otsego	October 21	Check with County Office
Ottawa	September 30	Christian School, Allendale - 7:30 P.M.
Presque Isle	October 13	Belknap Town Hall - 8:00 P.M.
Saginaw	October 21	I of C Hall
St. Clair	October 5	Goodells - 7:00 P.M. dinner
St. Joseph	October 18	Check with County Office
Sanilac	October 6	Sandusky High School - 7:30 to 8:00 P.M. dinner
Shiawassee	October 11	Casino Bldg., McCurdy Park, Corunna
Tuscola	September 28	Caro High School - 7:00 P.M. dinner
Van Buren	October 23	
Washtenaw	October 6	Farm Council Bldg.
Wayne	October 5	4-H Dining Hall Fairgrounds
Wexford	October 19	Edelweiss Lodge, Caberfee Ski Area

P.A. 344 Asparagus Suit Sent Back to Circuit Court

Opponents of the State Farm Bargaining Act have so far failed to convince the Michigan Supreme Court that P.A. 344 is unconstitutional. The latest action on this Act took place on August 25, 1976, when the Michigan Supreme Court returned the Asparagus Lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the Act and the accrediting of the Michigan Asparagus Growers Association back to Ingham County Circuit Court. This suit was initially filed in the Court on March 8, 1974, by the Michigan Canners and Freezers Association (MCFA).

The Supreme Court ruled that the Circuit Court could indeed decide the constitutionality of P.A. 344. It was also decided that the burden of unconstitutionality rests on the MCFA. The lower court had declined to examine the constitutionality of the Act. The Supreme Court also ruled that the Circuit Court may rule on the challenged procedures in the contested legislation, but that it cannot rule on the validity of the Michigan Asparagus

Growers accreditation by the Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Board.

The state processors association filed the suit after the Marketing and Bargaining Board named Michigan Asparagus Growers Division of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) as a Sales and Bargaining Representative of the Processing Asparagus Bargaining Unit.

"The MCFA has filled other suits against P.A. 344, and is using the accreditation to fight the farm bargaining rights granted by this Act," says Noel Stuckman, MACMA general manager.

This Act was signed into law in 1973, after passage by the Michigan Legislature in 1972. The Michigan Farm Bureau has been a principle proponent of this bargaining legislation.

Processors specifically do not want either the compulsory arbitration or the requirement to bargain in

good faith as required by law, so they are fighting with as many legal tools as they can on the constitutionality issue, Noel Stuckman, MACMA general manager. They contend that the Act violates the Michigan State Constitution by exceeding the state's police powers and several other such points.

"The law has proved it's value to both groups under all kinds of problems and marketing conditions during it's three years of existence," Stuckman points out.

"It has lead to negotiations that have generally resulted on the true market values of the raw product to become established."

"As an indication that P.A. 344 provisions for good faith bargaining mediation and arbitration do work, there have been no picket lines, truck diversions, further disruptions of fruits and vegetables to processing plants involving commodities represented by growers associations," Stuckman says.

"The loss of this law would

have a severe effect on Michigan agriculture and beyond," Stuckman concludes.

"P.A. 344 is landmarked Farm Bargaining Rights legislation. Other states have

copied provision of the Act. If the processors can prove that this law is unconstitutional in Michigan, the other states, such as Maine and Minnesota, will also have to suffer."

Northern Michigan Cooperative Feeder Sales 1976 - 11,000 Head

These are all native cattle sired by registered Bulls and out of predominately beef type cows. All sales guarantee heifer calves open and male calves properly castrated. All calves dehorned.

M.A.B.C. has arranged to have a few lots of A.I. feeder steers to be sold in conjunction with the Gaylord Oct. 14th sale. The A.I. calves will be sold in groups and identified by breed and sire.

- Oct. 11 Paulding 1275 yearlings and calves
- Oct. 12 Rapid River 1325 yearlings and calves
- Oct. 14 Gaylord 4000 yearlings and calves
- Oct. 19 Alpena 1300 yearlings and calves
- Oct. 20 West Branch 2000 yearlings and calves
- Oct. 29 Baldwin 1200 yearlings and calves

All sales start at 12:00 Noon
Cattle are graded U.S.D.A. Standards and will be sold in lots of uniform grade, weight, sex and breed.
Brochure available with description of cattle in each sale. Michigan Feeder Cattle Producers Council
Posen, Michigan 49776

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STATE FAIRGOERS were attracted to the Farm Bureau display by this colorful backdrop depicting the progress of agriculture. Nearly 200 Farm Bureau members from 19 counties participated in this consumer information project.



LENAWEE COUNTY FARM BUREAU shared fair exhibit space with their local Farm Bureau Services, Farmers Petroleum Cooperative and Farm Bureau Insurance Group at the Lenawee County Fair. The county Farm Bureau, under the direction of Mrs. Hope Sawyer, promoted a different commodity each day of the fair week.



MINIATURE FARM EQUIPMENT drew the children to the display and gave farmers the opportunity to explain the huge investment necessary to operate their farms and keep consumers well-fed.

Governor Declares October as Co-op Month

In Michigan October will be "Cooperative Month". The Governor in signing the proclamation indicated the contribution of farmer cooperatives to the economy and to rural areas of the state. Our farmer cooperatives provide Michigan farmers with more than one-third of their in-puts and markets. Many farmers belong or use four or five different cooperatives.

The national theme for this years program is "Cooperatives -- People Working Together". Most cooperatives throughout the U.S. will sponsor some activity in promoting the cooperative ways of doing business.

Proclamation

The dictionary defines a "cooperative spirit" as one found in persons "given to or marked by a willingness and ability to work with others in a common effort."

Certainly this concept has been the vital element in founding and developing a country that is second to none. It really could be the "Spirit of '76" that has been extolled all through this Bicentennial year.

In ensuing times of strife and good fortune, let us hope that the cooperative spirit is never lost. And why should it be? Hopes and dreams are insignificant unless they can be shared with others. To transpose such dreams into advanced technology benefitting all has been one of our citizenry's strongest motivating forces.

Right along with the pooling of ideas and efforts to build Mars landers and to provide better educational techniques go new ways to produce more and better food crops and superior ways of getting this food to consumers with the least delay.

Therefore it is fitting that we honor the institution that magnifies and serves as a base for the cooperative spirit, the cooperative. This unit of society will go on serving this state and this nation to the best of its many members' abilities all through this country's third century and well beyond.

I, William G. Milliken, Governor of the State of Michigan, urge all citizens of this state to give fitting recognition to the importance of cooperatives to Michigan and the two million families they serve.

Given under my hand on this twenty - first day of September in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred seventy-six and of the Commonwealth one hundred Thirty-Eighth.

Staff Changes

With the addition of a new member to the Farm Bureau Family -- the Michigan Farm Bureau Group Purchasing, Inc. -- a number of staff reassignments have been made within the Field Operations Division.

Gene Greenawalt, former Coordinator of County Offices, has been promoted to Operations Manager of the new Group Purchasing corporation.

Jesse Taggart, former Manager of the Young Farmer Department, has been assigned to the new position of Assistant Field Operations Division Director, responsible for plans and training and the regional representatives.

Harold Scharp, former regional representative for the Central Region, is now Manager of the Young Farmer Department and Administrative Specialist, in charge of member records.

Replacing Scharp as Central regional representative is Bernie Bishop, former Marketing Specialist in the Market Development Division. The Central Region includes Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Shiawassee, Genesee, Livingston and Oakland counties.



GENE GREENAWALT
Operations Manager,
MFB Group Purchasing, Inc.



BERNIE BISHOP
Regional Representative,
Central Region



JESSE TAGGART
Assistant Field Operations
Division Director



HAROLD SCHARP
Manager, Young Farmer Dept.
and Administrative Specialist

MIOSHA Hears Unified Voice Against New Machine Safety Proposals

Testimony provided at the September 13 Michigan Department of Labor Commission Public Hearing on proposed state machinery safety regulations was overwhelmingly in favor of rejecting the state legislation and accepted the federal OSHA standards scheduled to go into effect October 25, 1976.

Most agreed that the federal regulations will be more effective than the state proposals.

More than 160 persons attended the hearing, which was highlighted by an all-day testimony against the state rules.

The most telling was provided by State Representative Harry Gast, Jr. (R-St. Joseph). He stated he will introduce House Bill 6296, legislation designed to prevent the Michigan Department of Labor from enforcing part 51 and part 53. These regulations call for more stringent laws concerning safe tractor operation and care, along with rollover protection and the placement of guards on nearly all farm equipment.

Two other state representatives, Ernest Nash (R-Dimondale) and Stanley Powell (R-Ionia), also testified against the state proposals.

Merrill J. Buschlen, operations manager for the Michigan Agricultural Services Association, testified that most of the problems with the state proposals started when the state Department of Labor gave their Agricultural Advisory Committee only a short time to submit their suggestions for state additions to the federal OSHA rules, and then rejected their ideas.

"This committee was given less than eight hours to make a judgment on rules that it took the federal OSHA three years to put together," Buschlen pointed out. "The federal rules were written

with the recommendations of many agricultural engineers from universities, agricultural associations, and many implement manufacturers. Because of this help, the federal rules were put together in such a way that they are understandable by the farmer. Because the state rejected the advice of its agricultural advisors, the state proposals are confusing, unintelligible, and in contradiction with themselves."

The federal OSHA agreed with its advisors that the most effective method of reducing the injuries to agricultural tractor operators would be to require that the tractors they operated over 20 horsepower would be equipped with a seat belt and rollover protection structure, Buschlen added. The Michigan Department of Labor standards include this standard and many other rules concerning the care and operation of a tractor.

"The engineers who designed and produce the tractor are the best qualified persons to determine the most efficient and safe use of their particular make and model of tractor," Buschlen emphasized. "The operators manual prepared by the manufacturer is the best source of information for the proper care and use of the tractor."

Yet the MI-OSHA proposals declare that the director of labor is the only one who can approve hitching points other than the drawbar.

"I doubt if the equipment manufacturers would appreciate anyone else deciding where and under what circumstances operators could hitch to their tractor at a point other than the hitch points designated by engineering design," Buschlen noted.

He noted that there are at least eleven additions to or deletions from the federal standards, plus four new rules in the Michigan

proposals in the tractor section alone.

Page Bellinger, products safety manager for Deere, Inc., Moline, Illinois, echoed Buschlen's sentiments.

"The farm equipment manufacturers certainly are not opposed to safety equipment, if the manufacturer instruction manuals are properly used with them," he said. "Deere first introduced the rollover protection structure in 1966. Since then we have incorporated many other protective devices into the design of our equipment."

Because of this experience, Deere strongly objects to the section of Michigan proposals that call for an additional seat to be provided for supervisors. This seat is provided so that they can ride along while instructing persons as to how to operate the tractor.

"A second seat would reduce the rollover protection provided by the tractor design ROPS," Bellinger said. "There are no such compelling needs in Michigan for this device over any other areas in the country. The federal OSHA rules say that states may implement regulations that are more stringent than the federal, if there is a compelling need in a certain area for them."

Dr. Richard Pfister, Michigan State University agricultural safety engineer, also questioned the practicality of a second seat.

"For years, agricultural safety advisors have stressed 'no riders' on tractors," the safety expert pointed out. "Now we have a proposed law that totally contradicts this common sense safety rule."

Pfister is noted throughout the country for his research on the prevention of farm accidents. He has served on the committee that established the federal OSHA farm equipment safety regulations that go into effect this year.

(Con't. on page 10)



Just some of the concerned attendees to the September 13 hearing on Michigan Department of Labor proposed standards for farm equipment. Out of the 26 persons who testified, only one defended the state's edited versions of the federal OSHA regulations.



The Michigan Farm Bureau's Information and Public Relations Division scheduled a pre-hearing press conference so that media personnel could ask questions about the FB policy concerning the state proposals. Fielding queries were Dr. Richard Pfister, Michigan State University agricultural safety engineer, Merrill J. Buschlen, MASA operations manager, Elton Smith, and Laurie Ahfi, president of the Michigan Farm and Power Equipment Dealers Association.

Every farmer should bank on the 3-in-1 system.

Agriculture is a complicated business...and so are its credit requirements. That's why the cooperative Farm Credit Banks of St. Paul are three-banks-in-one.

The *Federal Land Bank* makes long-term loans secured by first mortgages on farm real estate and rural homes through local Federal Land Bank Associations. The *Federal Intermediate Credit Bank* provides funds to and supervises Production Credit Associations which make short- and intermediate-term loans to farmers for just about any agricultural purpose. The *Bank for Cooperatives* makes loans to farmer-owned marketing, supply and service cooperatives, directly from St. Paul.

All three banks raise funds in the nation's capital markets. The money helps provide credit to farmers, ranchers and their cooperatives in Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

It's a good System. 'Cause when it comes to farm credit... every farmer can count on the three banks of the cooperative Farm Credit System.

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Michigan Marketing Outlook

Special Sugar Report

The AFBF Sugar Advisory Committee met with officials of the U.S.D.A. in Washington, D.C. recently to urge that prompt action be taken to help lighten the burden of large world sugar stocks and sagging domestic prices. Committee members, from major sugar producing states, asked Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Richard Bell, and other U.S.D.A. officials to give serious consideration to lowering present import quotas to more reasonable levels. The import quotas are currently set at approximately 7 million tons annually. Quotas would have to be lowered to the 4 million ton area before they really become meaningful.

Another cloud hanging over the sugar industry in the U.S. is the importation of duty free sugar from underdeveloped nations. This duty free sugar is allowed under this country's generalized system of preferences. Closing this gap could provide some relief for U.S. producers. It is reportedly a sore spot some U.S.D.A. officials.

A further consideration during the meeting between the AFBF Sugar Advisory Committee and U.S.D.A. was the possibility of raising the duty on imported sugar. Presently, the duty is set at 62½ cents per hundred. One proposal calls for raising the duty level to \$1.87 per hundred.

Assistant Secretary Bell assured committee members that something will be done. In all likelihood, a combination of alternatives will be applied to the problem. He added that studies are now under way to determine whether or not certain countries are dumping sugar into U.S. markets. If dumping is discovered and can be proven, countervailing duties will be applied to correct this condition.

In another move designed to assist U.S. sugar producers, Congressman Robert Bergland (Democrat-Minnesota) has introduced a Bill which would, in effect, put a floor under domestic sugar prices. This Bill would use a formula, geared partly to the cost of producing beet sugar, to set a so-called "base price". Then if any sugar was imported at prices below the base, importers would have to pay a fee which would bring the total cost of foreign sugar to within 2½ percent of the base. No action is expected on this Bill during the current congressional session. Even Mr. Bergland, who incidentally is the Vice Chairman for Jimmy Carter's Agricultural Campaign Committee, sees little hope for action this year. He does however, hope that this Bill can serve to prevent growers from abandoning sugar beets as a cash crop. However, the implicit concept behind Congressman Bergland's Bill of a variable levy on imports has very serious implications and far reaching ramifications. The implication is especially serious when consideration is given to the U.S. role in trade negotiations currently underway.

An Ad Hoc Sugar Task Force consisting of officials from the State Department, Commerce Department, U.S.D.A., Treasury Department and a member of the White House Advisory group has been reactivated. This Ad Hoc Committee has been asked to review the pros and cons of U.S. participation in an international sugar agreement which will be of topic for discussion next March at a soybean meeting in London.

One factor hampering the bargaining position of domestic sugar producers however, is the development of low cost substitutes. One

recent development has been dubbed Meloteine - 14, made from a specially processed dairy blend. It is composed of 70 percent milk sugar and has about 14 percent protein. Another replacement for cane or beet sugar is referred to as High Fructose Corn Syrup (H.F.C.S.). Corn syrup production and use has been on the increase in recent years. Consumption of HFCS in 1970 was negligible. By 1975, consumption had risen to nearly 5 pounds per capita. It is expected, and forecast, that this trend will continue.

Sugar is likely to be a topic of discussion next spring when Congress brings consideration of new national farm legislation to replace the 1973 Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act which expires on December 31, 1977. The original Sugar Act was allowed to expire in 1974. Some producers would like to see similar legislation enacted in 1977. The chance for passage of such a measure does not appear favorable at this time. The political atmosphere however, may change before these discussions take place. Meanwhile, producers will continue to be plagued by poor prices, slumping demand, large world stocks and continually rising production costs.

The situation in the sugar industry brings to light several important points for policy discussion in the commodity areas: 1.) How much government do we want in agriculture?; 2.) What kind of posture should the U.S. maintain with regards to international trade of agricultural commodities?; 3.) To what extent do we really support the free market economy?

Dr. Paul E. Kindinger,
Director
Market Development
Division

CORN AND SOYBEANS

No matter which estimate of production you have been following the trend is the same -- down. Both the U.S.D.A. and private forecasters have reduced yield and thus, total production estimates for corn and soybeans in the U.S. The cause is hot, dry weather over much of the midwest. As a result of the unusual weather in many areas of the corn-soybean producing areas, crops have suffered. Ear development of corn has been hampered and soybean pod development is behind normal. The estimates for corn production in the U.S. is now

set at 5.8 to 5.9 billion bushels (depending on who you listen to). But this is still a far cry from the 6.6 billion bushels forecast earlier this year. Similarly, soybean estimates have slipped from the August 1st figure of 1.34 billion bushels to the U.S.D.A.'s September 1st forecast of 1.25 billion bushels. If weather continues hot and dry much longer the October estimates will most likely show a further decline.

Prices for corn and soybeans however, have continued to be sporadic, trading mostly on the downside. Even if the new

higher predictions of grain production in the U.S.S.R. pan out and the Soviets reduce their buying activity, this should be partially offset by increased domestic feeding and exports to western Europe. Some brokerage houses are still recommending trading December corn from a long position.

They have taken a wait and see attitude with the soybean complex, looking for rallies prior to harvest.

Dr. Paul E. Kindinger,
Director
Market Development
Division

BEEF

The controversy involving beef movement from Australia and New Zealand is being negotiated currently and looks like action will be taken. A letter from Michigan Farm Bureau supporting the closing of that loophole has been sent. The loophole involves beef moving from Australia and New Zealand thru a processing plant in a U.S. Free Trade Zone in Puerto Rico. This beef, because it's processed before leaving the Trade Zone, until this week had escaped beef import quotas from Australia and New Zealand. That loophole had been closed!

The beef situation has improved slightly from last month but not as fast as was anticipated. The situation has been complicated by the severe drought in the western ranges forcing more liquidation of herds previously thought to be sound. Although this slows down the recovery of the beef industry it is probably a healthy situation. As long as we are in the liquidation cycle it will be better for all of us to suffer another month and lower the population to a point that would guarantee a longer and healthier recovery cycle.

The Beef Research and Information Act hearings will be held in six places across the country this next 60 days with a referendum scheduled for next spring. Michigan Farm Bureau will be testifying in Des Moines, Iowa on October 12th.

I remain optimistic and am convinced that the entire beef industry will be in a much healthier situation by the next writing.

Tom Reed, Market
Specialist
Market Development
Division

DAIRY

Milk production in August was up nearly 6 percent above a year ago and was the largest monthly increase this year. For the first eight months of 1976 U.S. milk production was up 3.8 percent from the same period a year ago. Even though milk cow numbers continue to drop the increase in production has more than offset the reduction in numbers. Lower quality feed in several states will likely curb further increases in output thus, the total milk production should not reach the point of a burdensome oversupply in the next six months.

The strong consumer demand for milk products have only begun to show up in the dairyman's milk check. More advance in farm prices can be expected in coming months if the sales of milk and dairy products continue

as strong as they have since May.

Tom Reed, Marketing
Specialist
Market Development
Division

PORK

Due to unusually favorable return in 1975, swine producers increased this year's spring pig crop by 16 percent. Heavier slaughter weights coupled with a potential 14 percent to 16 percent increase in hog slaughter could assure a production increase of around 5 percent.

The one bright spot in the pork industry in the next twelve months is a possibility of substantial increase in overseas sales. U.S. pork exports in the 1976 fiscal year were more than double that of a year earlier, with pork exports to Japan tripling during the year and accounting for more than one half of the total.

Exports of livestock and meat products amounted to \$1.7 billion in fiscal year 1976 - up \$250 million over fiscal year 1975 (\$263,000,000 of that total was pork).

There is promise of sharply increasing our exports of livestock and meat products in the years ahead, particularly for pork.

Tom Reed,
Marketing Specialist
Market Development
Division

FRUIT Cherries

The F.D.A. is all poised to delist Red No. 4 food coloring only a few months after taking Red No. 2 off the market. Red No. 4 is used to give Marichino Cherries their bright, red color.

If Red No. 4 is delisted, consumers may be faced with a pale pink or whitish looking cherry for decorating their deserts, etc. And likewise, producers, briners and finishers in the cherry industry will be left without any acceptable substitute for Red No. 4 at the present time.

Apples

The juice price in Michigan for 1976-77 has been established at 4 cents per pound. Several processors have also agreed to the \$8.00 per hundred price for soft varieties, \$8.75 per cwt. for hard varieties 2½" and up (except Jonathons which are priced on 2¾" and up) F.O.B. farm and \$10.00 per cwt. for Northern Sprys 2½" and up F.O.B. farm being asked by the Michigan Processing Apple Growers Committee. Negotiations will continue with sauce processors.

Dr. Paul E. Kindinger,
Director
Market Development
Division

Supply Report



By Greg Sheffield

FERTILIZER -- Unlike CF Industries, the co-operative fertilizer manufacturing company partly owned by Farm Bureau Services, other non-co-op fertilizer manufacturers are again shipping fertilizers overseas in large enough quantities to seriously effect domestic prices. The export demand for phosphates swung into a position of strong foreign demand after several months of virtually no activity. Fertilizers, after coming down from a spiral of rises due to foreign demand early last year, are again creeping up in price for the same reason. This has been taking place significantly after the major spring use period and planting demands.

As in the past, where chances of price increases are indicated, prudent farmers with the capacity to order and take supplies during the winter have come out ahead. In addition, they can avoid the rushes that always occur when the planting season breaks. Farm Bureau dealers should be consulted, and specific arrangements made for your needs, taking advantage of the co-operative system which mandates that our farmers come first.

SEEDS - There is plenty of the Tecumseh seed available

from Farm Bureau outlets. Its been shown to be a high yielding seed wheat especially suited to later planting. The Michigan State University has been advocating planting two weeks past the fly - free dates because of smut which has been an ever increasing problem in Michigan. The later planting seems to avoid some of the conditions which encourage smut.

FEEDS - Cooperative Research Farms, owned by Farm Bureau Services and other regional supply co-operatives, has a new, scientific breakthrough of great importance to dairymen. This patented scientific advance can increase the yearly milk production of quality, high-producing herds by hundreds of pounds. Our scientists have discovered how to increase the effectiveness of the "protein factories" inside of cows by allowing protozoa and bacteria to better utilize soluble and insoluble protein. A meeting explaining this important breakthrough was held for Farm Bureau dealers at the end of September. Dairy farmers will be able to get this innovation in feed from Farm Bureau dealers as an exclusive, not available from other manufacturers. You must find out about NU

PRO Dairy Feed, trademarked by Farm Bureau Services, from your dealer as soon as possible.

Excellent feed buys are on right now at Farm Bureau dealers. The Star Spangled Dairy deals program is available too for good measure. In this program free Bovadine Teat Dip is offered with feed purchases through December 31.

Interest in LPS, liquid protein supplement, has been increasing greatly. To enhance your operation consider taking on some for a try.

HARDWARE - Farmers should order or reserve their storage bin needs at once. Prices have not increased as expected even though rises in steel did take place.

A special mailing is going out from the Stelco steel people offering coupons with dollars off on single strand barbed wire. Since every farmer will not receive the coupons be sure to ask your Farm Bureau dealer for yours.

Twine is available for those who still need it at reasonable prices.

Water softeners sales are increasing all over the state. This may be your last chance to paint before bad weather. Paint supplies are good and

600 Attend Rural-Urban Conference

Mackinac-Luce area farmers, under the leadership of the Farm Bureau Women's Committee, used a contrast of old and new to tell the story of agriculture to urban guests on August 22. Nearly 600 people were taken on a nostalgic trip to yesteryear as they watched old farm equipment in operation and gained a better understanding of today's agriculture with a look at the efficiency -- and price tags -- of modern machinery.

Roy and Janice Butkovich and their six children hosted the huge crowd on their rural Engadine farm. The farm provided an effective arena for the agricultural "show," which included old and new farm equipment demonstrations, animals that city children could touch, square dancers, and a free beef barbecue with trimmings, served from the back porch of the Butkovich farm.

In addition to the Butkovich

farm, visitors were invited to tour three other area farms, the Shadyview, Buss and Flatt dairy farms.

Mrs. Ruth Foote served as chairman of the event, with Janis Butkovich and Mary Edwards as her co-chairmen. Special guests included Michigan Farm Bureau President and Mrs. Elton R. Smith, district director and Mrs. Franklin Schwiderson, and State Representative Charles Varnum.



A MIGHTY BIG MACHINE -- with a mighty big price tag to match. Representative Charles Varnum climbs aboard for a ride while the crowd hears a lecture on the origination of their breakfast oatmeal.

positions. **HUMIDIFIERS, ANTI-FREEZE, BATTERIES, FILTERS** - With winter coming on you may wish to consider a humidifier to enhance comfort and reduce fuel bills. Farmers Petroleum dealers have excellent inventories of these. Adequate supplies of antifreeze have been delivered to dealers. Regular patrons may wish to reserve their needs with dealers. You'll want to ask about the wonderful, new maintenance-free automotive batteries now available under our CO-OP brand. Filters, after somewhat tight supply, are now again readily available. Dealers are ready to service equipment for a fall harvesting with adequate quantities of greases and oils.

Peterson Appointed to Apple Committee

Daryl K. Peterson, Mason County Farm Bureau chairman, has recently been appointed to the Michigan Apple Committee by Governor William G. Milliken.

Peterson, a Ludington fruit farm owner and operator, succeeds Elwyn E. Omstead of Ludington, who resigned. Peterson will serve for the remainder of Omstead's term, which expires April 1, 1977.

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.

DEBENTURES

INTEREST ON DEBENTURES 5-10-15 year maturity

8%	5 Year Maturity	\$100.00 Minimum Purchase
8 1/2%	10 Year Maturity	\$100.00 Minimum Purchase
9%	15 Year Maturity	\$100.00 Minimum Purchase
8 3/4%	10 Year Maturity	\$1,000.00 Minimum Purchase
9 1/2%	15 Year Maturity	\$5,000.00 Minimum Purchase

Interest paid annually on September 1. The purchaser to be offered the option to receive their interest in quarterly payments on September 1, December 1, March 1 and June 1. 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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Lansing, Michigan 48904



I would like a copy of the prospectus and a call by a registered sales agent.

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Road _____ RFD No. _____
City _____ County _____
Phone _____

Safety Proposals

(Con't. from page 7)

The M.S.U. scientist feels that the Michigan rules, if enacted, would actually lead to more farm accidents.

"The Michigan rules pertain to equipment used by farm employees," he testified. "Farmers will certainly turn to their families to operate their equipment to avoid having to comply with the state laws. These generally younger persons have had less experience with farm equipment, and studies have shown that younger members of the family have two to five times as many equipment-related accidents as adults do."

Other irreversible trends leading to the demise of Michigan agriculture were also brought up at the hearing. Alan Hope, Vice-President of the Michigan Farm and Power Equipment Dealers Association, testified that the Michigan rule requiring all farm and farmstead equipment to have the guarding that new equipment must have could cause the loss of about \$650 million of farm equipment in the state.

"The Michigan proposals call for much more guarding than the federal does for new equipment," Hope points out. "The federal regulations also do not call for the placement of guards on old equipment."

Hope said that the farm equipment dealers could not accept or trade any old equipment that did not have the proper shielding called for by the Michigan law. Consequently, farmers could not get trade-in value for their old equipment. They would be forced to scrap this equipment.

After the hearing, the Michigan Occupational Safety Standards Commission will review the testimony and either sustain or make changes where appropriate in the proposed standards. Keith Molin, director of the Michigan Department of Labor said.

"The standards must then be certified by both the Attorney General and the Legislative Service Bureau. After being reviewed by the Joint Committee for Administrative Rules, the Michigan again reviews the standards before filing them with the Michigan Secretary of State, the final step in the process. The entire procedure could take up to nine months.

Buschlen, who worked to organize the testimony against proposed state safety rules, said that he was greatly pleased with the accuracy and factualness of the testimony provided.

"I heartily congratulate the people who made the effort to testify and those who came to hear the united voice of agriculture in action. This is the only way that we can show that we are for farm safety legislation, but only that which is understandable and practical."

October Planting Means Better Wheat Yields

You'll have better yields if you plant wheat after Oct. 1, concludes a five-year study at Michigan State University.

The findings, by Dr. Alvin Ravenscroft and Dr. Maurice Wiese, show that winter wheat planted in early fall was heavily infested with aphids carrying barley yellow dwarf virus.

Yields were as low as 20 bushels per acre in severely infested fields. Early plan-

ting also subjects the crop to epidemic levels of leaf rust and powdery mildew in some years.

All of the recommended varieties except Genesee and Yorkstar, are resistant to most prevalent races of Hessian fly in Michigan. However, these resistances often fail when field temperatures exceed 80 degrees F in the fall.

Records indicate a sharp

break in fall temperatures between Oct. 4-10 in Michigan, the period when continental air masses begin to predominate over the warmer gulf air masses.

Wheat plantings made just prior to or during this period are more insect and disease free and, therefore, more vigorous. Optimum yields were obtained when wheat was planted during the first week of October.

Be sure and soil test fields for lime, phosphorus and potassium requirements before planting. Nitrogen levels should be modest in the fall, but have adequate phosphorus and potassium. Top dressing nitrogen in early spring gives the highest yields.

It is best to plant wheat after navy beans, soybeans, corn (where herbicide use has been minimal), oats or barley.

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The Farm Bureau feed team, backed by a staff veterinarian and nutritionist, provides you with the most up-to-date feed information. In cooperation with other farm co-ops, Farm Bureau Services operates 10 research farms where new feeds, feeding techniques and health practices are tested. Recently we installed a Scidata mini-computer, to assist our feed nutritionist in determining the most effective feed formulations for desired production goals. In addition to these services, Farm Bureau offers a wide variety of excellent feeds, including Liquid Protein Supplement (LPS) which has been widely accepted as a versatile liquid supplement for all types of feeding operations.

Talk to your Farm Bureau feedman now. He'll work up a feed program to fit your particular needs. It's service you can depend on . . . from the Farm Bureau people.

ASK THE FARM BUREAU PEOPLE





DICK POSTHUMUS, executive vice president of the Michigan Beef Industry Commission, promotes beef wherever he is - in his office in Lansing or "on the road" meeting with retailers and consumers.

Beef Farmers Promote What they Produce

Farmers today have a vested interest in their production. They've come to realize in recent years that they can no longer just sell a product at the market place and expect it to move. To make sure that it does move and that demand for it increases, they've gotten involved in the promotion of their products - and in the education of consumers regarding the benefits and best uses of their product.

"It's a little bit like General Motors or Ford Motor Company," says Dick Posthumus, executive vice president of the Michigan Beef Industry Commission. "Once they produce a car, they don't just send it to a dealer and let him do all the promotion. They promote the product they have produced. It's the same way with farmers. They can't leave all the promotion to the retailers and packers."

Beef farmers, through a check-off system, finance their Commission to promote their product and to inform and educate the consumer. This promotion and education takes many forms. It could be a newspaper column giving consumers hints on buying and preparing beef, a beef "cook-off" at the State Fair, a press conference in Detroit on beef prices, a project with high school home economics classes, a "Beef for Father's Day" promotion on local radio, or a beef "blitz" advertising campaign on major television networks.

Or it could be assistance to County Farm Bureaus throughout the state in the form of printed materials and audio-visuals for fairs and mall promotions. Requests for this kind of assistance is enthusiastically received by the Commission. "It's like having a staff all over the state," reports Dick, "and this helps to stretch our budget." The Commission's office is located in the

Stoddard Building in downtown Lansing.

A unique problem faced the Beef Commission this past year and time-consuming, behind-the-scenes work was done with retailers who were succumbing to consumer pressures for out-of-state beef. Consumers were confused and worried about the PBB problem and retailers had no answers.

"Nobody had told the retailers anything about it and so they were beginning to say, 'Maybe there is reason for concern,'" Dick said. "We had quite a few ready to switch and some did."

To fill this communications void, the Commission began sending out a weekly letter to about 1200 major retail meat managers in the state, telling them what PBB was, how it was being taken care of, how much was really in the food system, and generally answering their question of whether there was a need for concern.

"This was probably the most important single thing we have done since the Commission was established," Dick feels. "Our basic concern was to make sure that consumer and retailer confidence in Michigan beef was maintained so that when the problem was over, we'd still have a beef industry." He believes this information campaign was well worth the effort.

The Beef Commission has just recently added a Director of Home Economics and Food Service Industry to its staff, Retha Hankey, who will work with food editors, home economists, and schools. Retha, who has an extension service and 4-H work background, looks forward to helping homemakers provide well-balanced meals for their families while stretching food dollars.

(Con't. on page 12)

Montcalm FB Gets New Building



The new Montcalm County Farm Bureau's new office building graces its location on East Main Street in Stanton. The landscaping and other features were also contributed. The building replaces the old office space the county has leased for many years.

The new Montcalm County Farm Bureau building in Stanton has a feature typical to many large corporation headquarters, a conference room named in honor of a benefactor.

However, this honored person is far from typical.

"Our new headquarters would have never been built without the dedicated efforts of Herb Perkins," says Cris Rasmussen, Montcalm County FB president. "As our 'financial committee', Herb singlehandedly solicited and collected the \$25,000 from our members that it took to build the structure. We have been dreaming about it for years. As far as I know, this is the only county bureau the state that constructed a new main building solely from funds contributed by members."

The new building was needed because of the condition of the leased space the county bureau has used for years. The new structure had been talked about for some time, but no one knew what the money for it would come from, Rasmussen explains.

"Then the Board of Directors made the decision to build in August 1975, the president notes. "It had been noticed that enough in accumulated debentures had built up in 25 years to purchase a lot for the building. We bought the lot in Stanton for \$3,250. It was shortly thereafter that we asked Herb to be the chairman of the new building committee."

Perkins, a retired farmer and lifelong county Farm Bureau member, drew on his experience as a United Way fund raiser to conduct the successful project.

"After the board appointed me chairman, the first move was to get pledges from the members," Perkins explains. "I only solicited those persons and businesses I thought could afford the \$100 minimum pledge."

Perkins set this minimum because otherwise it would have taken forever to obtain

his goal of at least \$25,000. As it was, the pledge drive started in October 1975 and Perkins was able to collect nearly all the money promised by this spring.

"A lot of the pledges were for more money, such as \$250, \$500 and \$750," Rasmussen proudly exclaims. "There were even some for \$1,000. The whole effort took the great interest and generosity of a lot of considerate members."

The new building was finished on August 1. The facility is located at 113 East Main Street in Stanton. An open house honoring all contributors was held on August 28 and 29. The structure houses two insurance offices and the Perkins Conference Room that serves as a meeting center for the County Board of Directors, insurance agents and the county Women's meetings.

mfrn farmers of the week

QUALITY FARMING OPERATIONS • AGRICULTURAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Sanford Yeomans
600 acre Ionia County poultry farmer - President Ionia County F.B. - Chrmn. MFB Poultry Advisory Comm. - member AFBF Poultry Advisory Comm. - member Mich. Allied Poultry Industry Board of Dirs. - member Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors - 1975 State Farm Management Tour Steering Comm.



Leonard E. Varner
555 acre Midland County livestock and cash crop farmer - Midland County F.B. President - member county board for 10 years - Chrmn. Cass County ASCS - member Homer Twp. Board of Review - member St. Johns Lutheran Church.

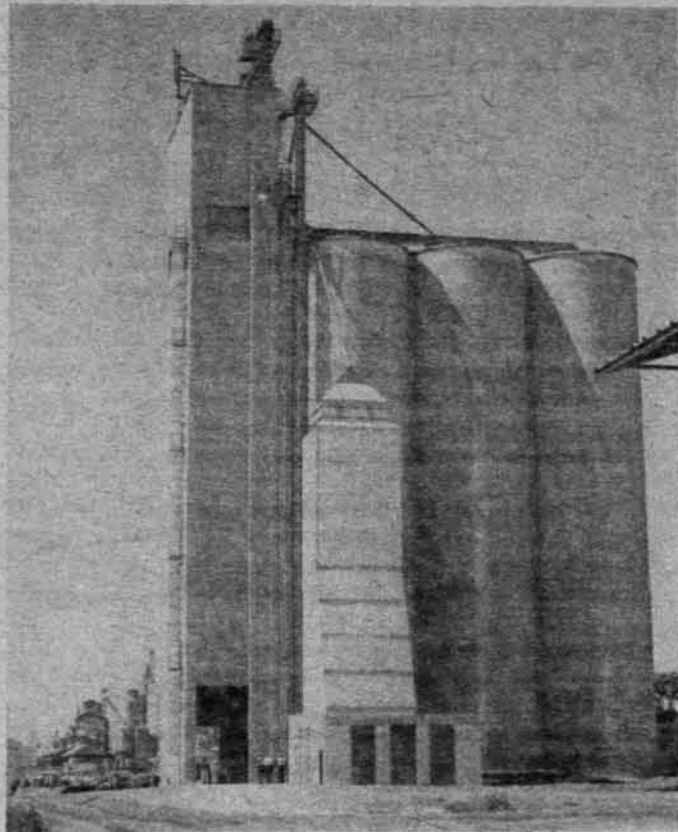


Earl Reed
460 acre Shiawassee County dairy & cash crop farmer - past Pres. & V.P. Shiawassee Co. F.B. - Vice Pres. MMPA Local - member St. Paul School Commission - Owosso Twp. Clerk - member St. Paul Catholic Church.



David S. Cripe
640 acre Cass County dairy and crop farmer - member Cass County F.B. executive comm. - Chrmn. Cass County Soybean Comm. - Cass County Soil Conservation District - Deacon Grace Bible Church of Elkhart, Ind.

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MICHIGAN FARM RADIO NETWORK AND FARM BUREAU INSURANCE GROUP™



With its 160-foot high headhouse towering over the surrounding landscape, the new Hemlock Cooperative grain elevator adds more than just a landmark to the area. Its capacity of 570,000 bushels more than doubles the grain-holding facilities of the organization. The original 230,000 bushel capacity elevator can be seen in the left background.

BEEF

(Con't. from page 11)

And she hopes to teach them how to effectively purchase beef and use it in a variety of ways "instead of always having hamburgers."

In addition to financing activities within the state, a portion of the Commission's budget goes to the National Live Stock and Meat Board for research, education and promotion. One example is publication of America's first metric beef cookbook to help consumers through the transitional period of the move to this new system.

Members of the Commission, who are appointed by the Governor, represent every segment of the industry from producers to retailers. Currently serving on the Commission are: Milton J. Brown, chairman, a cattle feeder from Mt. Pleasant; Lowell Eisenmann, vice-chairman, Blissfield cattle feeder who also serves on the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors; and Joann Higby, secretary, of Romeo, also a cattle feeder. Lester Hennesey, a retailer from Grand Ledge, serves as treasurer.

Other members are Harvey Hansen, Posen, and Gordon Andrews, Sault Ste. Marie, both feeder cattle producers; Harold Lein, St. Louis, of the Michigan Livestock Exchange; Robert Zeeb, dairyman from Bath, and Charles Hazekamp, a packer from Muskegon.

Ex-officio members of the Commission are Ronald Nelson of the Animal Husbandry Department, Michigan State University, and Jim Gleason of the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Hemlock's Business Up

The new grain elevator at Hemlock Farmers Co-operative will really expand the organization's grain holding capacity, says Bob Reeve, general manager.

It started coming in July 13, and now we have 80 percent more wheat than we ever did before. The new elevator is two-thirds full now. The limited capacity of the older structure prevented the co-op from providing adequate service to members."

Grain shipments will also be improved by the expanded facilities. Five rail cars can be unloaded in an hour, and 1,200 bushel capacity grain trucks can be filled in three minutes

Hemlock Co-op's Expansion a Tribute to Members

The August 28 grand opening of the Hemlock Farmers' Co-operative's new elevator facilities, was really a "hats off" celebration for the co-ops dedicated members. They voted to have the facility built as part of an expansion program and contributed 44 percent of the cost of the nearly \$1.5 million dollar elevator.

The program all began when Robert Reeve was appointed as the co-op's General Manager in 1973.

"We realized then that the facilities we had could not serve the needs of our members," Reeve explains. "Our first step was to get the existing elevator up to code. That facility now handles 230,000 bushels of navy beans, red wheat and ear corn. Then we expanded the retail store by 25 percent, increasing sales from \$237,000 to \$989,000 annually."

Then came a near unanimous member vote to support and contribute to the building of the new elevator.

"It's impossible to say that any one group of members was the most instrumental in the channeling of funds for the new project", says Lowell Nelson, fund drive coordinator. His firm, Nelson Marketing, initiated this successful campaign to secure the necessary capital through investments. It also made the study that spelled out the need and practicality of building the elevator.

"The funding drive was spearheaded by an aggressive board of directors and management, but farmers with every size farm worked just as hard to contribute time and money to the project," Nelson notes. "they worked with the same spirit that more than doubled Hemlock Co-op's business in two and a half years, from

\$1.7 million to \$4 million. I don't know of any other co-op in the state that has made such achievement in so short of time, especially in a recession."

In addition to the new 570,000 bushel elevator, Hemlock Co-op has added a 100,000 gallon raw petroleum storage facility and a 240 ton fertilizer storage building to round out its expansion program.

Elton Smith, President of the Michigan Farm Bureau, spoke at the opening ceremony in praise of the co-op's spirit.

"Local involvement is what really makes co-ops work," Smith stressed. "The facilities themselves are the envy of many Michigan farmers, but the spirit that lead to 44 percent of the elevator cost to be defrayed by the community, really shows the best assets of the community."

Ben Schrader, Saginaw County Commissioner, was also impressed with the tremendous involvement on

the part of the Hemlock community.

"A community will die without growth," Schrader pointed out. "The Hemlock's Farmer's Co-operative and all its members, have contributed a major asset to the community. Their expansion project shows that they are doing their best to promote and protect the best interests of the community."

Don Armstrong, Vice President of Michigan Farm Bureau Services, said that the new elevator will help the Hemlock Co-operative on community play a stronger role in the grain shipments for export.

"A community has to have facilities like this to be able to enter its farm products into the export trade market," Armstrong pointed out.

The first 65 unit train was scheduled to be loaded on September 20. Shipping activities will continue throughout the year as corn harvest starts coming in during the first week of October, Reeve added.



Lost in a crowd of enthusiastic Hemlock Co-op members and their families, Farm Bureau president Elton Smith cuts the ceremonial ribbon at the new elevator opening celebration. More visible (left center) at Smith's side are Hemlock Co-op President Warren Watson and Bob Reeve, general manager.



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700 HD. - REG. & TOP GRADE HOLSTEINS - 700 HD.

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on -Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday

- OCTOBER - 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st - 10:00 A.M. - DAILY - Located N.W. of Battle Creek, Mich. on M-37 to Dowling, Mich. then 2½ Miles West - (In Top Michigan Milk Market Country) Monday and Tuesday -- October 18th & 19th - 10:00 A.M. 425 Hd. -- Reg. & Grade Cows -- from 1st lactation thru 5th lactation -- W-D.H.I.A. - 15,900 lb. Milk & 575 lb. B.F. and over 25 percent 1st calf heifers in milk!!! 65 Hd. Over 17,000 lb. - 30 Hd. over 20,000 lbs. milk!!! - 3 Reg. Herd Bulls - Son of Arlinda Chief - Bill too.

This exceptionally fine herd-owner-raised over last 25 years -- and from Top Sires -- Bootmaker, Arlinda Chief, All Star Pilot, Black Knight, West Side AB Seamon, Maple, Needle and their top predecessors. 100 percent clean T.B. - Bangs - P.B.B. - Calf Vac. & Preg. Checked. -- Also --

SELLING TUESDAY - OCT. 19TH -

2000 Gal. Mueller bulk tank with Mueller Matic washing system -- DeLaval D-6 pipeline milkers -- 500 gal. Dari-Kool bulk tank - 33 Stanchion DeLaval Pipeline Milker - Semen Tank & Parlor Equip.

All Major Motel Chains - Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Hastings - or Call Auctioneer - Brokers for Reservations. Your Pre-Sale inspection welcomed!! Three days here will be worth 5 years time in building your herd!!!

SELLING WEDNESDAY, OCT. 20TH - 10:00 A.M. -

- 65 - Hd. - Close Up Reg. & Grade Holstein Heifers - Heavy Springers - 65 - Hd. Heifers - Bred for March thru June 1977. 100 - Hd. Heifers - 8-15 Mo. -- Approx. 125 Hd. - 3 days to 3 months.

PLUS -- Approx. 2 hrs. of Top Shop & Maintenance Tools - Cattle Feeders - Etc. - Including 20 KW Win Power Generator - Acetylene Torch Set, New 20th Century 205 Amp. Arc Welder, New Campbell-Hausfield Compressor W-3 hp. - Single Phase Motor, ¾" Drive Socket Set, Tool Chests, 100 Amp. H.D. Battery Charger. Impact Wrench. Large Selection Ass't Bolts, Waterloo Shop Tool Chest and complete line of excellent hand & maint. tools. - Saddle tanks, Panther 340 Snowmobile, Panther 303 Wankel Eng., Etc. - Be there early - Equip. will sell at 10:00 A.M.

- THURSDAY - OCT. 21ST - 10:00 A.M. - SHARP -

473-ACRE-Dairy Farm - 25' x 65' - 20' x 70' Harvestores - 600 Acres - DeKalb Corn - 7 - Tractors - 3 Bobcats - Complete Line Farm Machinery - Trucks - Trucks -- Farm Machinery - Will Sell at 10:00 A.M. - M-M-G - 1050-D+Tractor with No. 201 Koehn Cab -- MM - G - 1000 - D - W-201 Koehn Cab - both W-duals & completely overhauled. 8' Waldron blade. J.D. No. 70 W.F. - D, W-P.S.-Duals. Moline 670' W.F. Gas. MM Super Jet Star - Series 3 W-duals. IH Super M-G-. Moline Z. New Holland Self-Prop. "Crop-Cruiser" - 1974 - Cat-Diesel Hydro-Static Drive W-12' direct cut & 3-30" corn hd. - P.U. Attach. - used 1 crop year. 1976 N.H. No. 850 round baler. N.H. No. 880 - 2-row 40" - pull type chopper W-hay & corn hd. 2-1974 Melroe - M-610 Bobcats - Case No. 1845 Uni-Loader. 2 N.H. No. 790 tandem axle spreaders W-Sluice gates.

2 Gehl 3 pt. round bale handlers. J.D. 6-row 30" planter W-liquid set up & insecticides. N.H. No. 258 "Rolabar" side delivery rake. 1976 Tandem Axle fertilizer spreader. New Holland No. 469 haybine. N.H. No. 36 Flail Crop Chopper. 2 - "Hutch-Master" 12'6" H.D. offset field disc. plows. 2 Patz No. 181 spreaders. Oliver 252 - 13' wheel disc. Oliver No. 251 disc. 2 - 1000 gal. liquid fertilizer tanks on HD rubber & gear. 10,000 Gal. tank. 2 Anhydrous tanks W-trailers. Brillion cultipacker. Gehl 3-beater forage box W-10 ton gear. 52' & 51' grain augers mobile. 6-16" Moline spring reset plow. 5 & 6 bottom Midwest harrows. N.H. No. 27 Hi-Throw blower.

52'-6" Mayrath auger Leg. 10 ton gear W-floatation rubber & feeder box - Flat bed implement trailer. 500 gal. liquid tank. 300 gal. fiberglass tank. Front end loader W-material bucket. H.D. running gear W-grain box & hoist. 3 pt. tedder, -- 8' dragline. - etc.

1976 Chev. custom deluxe 20 - 4-wheel drive pickup w-less than 10,000 miles. G.M.C. W-grain box & 20 ton dual cyl. hoist. Chev. 2-ton truck w-Midwest comb. rack. 1971 Chev. C-60 2-ton truck W-Midwest comb. rack, hoist & new 427 engine. Chev. truck w-Gehl mtd. chopper 3-beater box. Platform scales. 45 Gal. lasso. Saddle tanks. 3 bags Turadan, 500 lb. Zerco Mark IV - Hay Preservative. MM 114 - Hydro lawn tractor W-mower. 20 bags Aureo Crumbles, etc. Be There Early.

- 473 - ACRE GRADE A DAIRY FARM -

This very well located farm will sell as 160 Acres - Excellent Modern Homes and 14' x 60' 2 BR Marlette Home on Basement. All Building Improvements. 1400 Ton Cement Bunker Silo. Blacktop Road - Complete Dairy or Beef Feed Lot Facilities for 150 up cows & heifer replacements. Highly productive, well cared for, undulating to level loam land. No. 2 - 157 acres with 33 stanchion barn - pole barn. Excellent, level, very productive 145 acres tillable land w-M-37 frontage - No Home, but Ideal Home Site - Very fine Grade A Dairy Set up for single family dairy farm. No. 3 - 160 acres -- W-blacktop & gravel road frontage will sell as 4 vacant 40's - 2 wooded, 2 tillable, and then will sell as 473 acres -- Highest bid price to determine way it sells. It will fit any or all!!!

- Selling After & Separately from Farm - 25' x 65' Harvestore W-(Goliath unloader, Completely Rebuilt.) 20' x 70' Harvestor W-Herc unloader, rebuilt w-new warranty in 1971. 600 acres of 24 to 26,000 plant population DeKalb corn - Selling by the acre - on per field - acreage basis!!! Buy 20 acres or 600! Harvestor roller mill. Harvestore protein mixer. Grain Storage bins, etc.

- Terms: Personal - Cash or Check W-Bank Letter of Credit - Real Estate - 10 percent Bid Price - On Sale Date - Balance on or before 30 days -- Possession of land & bldgs. - Immediate - Homes - 30 days from date of closure. Open House Inspections. All Real Estate - Saturday, Sunday - Oct. 9th & 10th - 16th & 17th - from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. - for full Real Estate Terms W-Sales Representative on Ground.

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DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**

Manager Member Relations

The word "FIRE" shouted in the night and the sound of sirens has a paralyzing effect on all of us. We sit in silent horror as we read a newspaper account of fellow human beings who parish in a home fire. According to the National Fire Protection Association, fires were the cause of death for 11,500 Americans in 1974. The scars and terrifying memories live for months or years with those who are injured. Many of the injured lie in hospitals for weeks, months, or years. Many of them must return over and over again for plastic and reconstructive surgery. Many never resume normal lives.

We know that more people die from fires in dwellings than all other types of buildings combined. And yet, only a few of us take even the slightest advance preparation to save ourselves in case of fires.

Discussion Question:

What are the two most important things you can do to save yourself and your family if fire strikes your home at night?

DEADLY SMOKE

Fire in dwellings are silent killers. Most major fires occur at night when people are asleep and nearly 75 percent of the deaths are caused by smoke rather than burn injuries. The simple fact is that a large majority of the so-called fire victims are laying in their beds, dead or unconscious from smoke inhalation long before the fire reaches them.

HOW ABOUT INSURANCE?

Adequate insurance on a home and building is an absolute necessity. It's purpose is to replace property in case of fire or other calamity and should be reviewed and updated periodically. Most of us would not get a good night's rest without the security of a paid-up fire insurance policy. If we even suspect that our policy has lapsed, or might be inadequate, we would call our insurance agent in the middle of the night to confirm coverage.

But, while insurance replaces property, there is no insurance which will replace life lost in a fire. Insurance against loss of life does not come in the form of an insurance policy.

WHAT TO DO

Insurance against loss of life in a fire comes in the form of a "an early warning device" and an escape plan.

For you or your family to survive a night time fire, you must awaken before smoke and

heat becomes intolerable. You should have two alternate exits from each bedroom. Your entire family should practice using these escape routes. Once outside, you should meet at a pre-determined place and stay out of the house-many die from going back. The fire department can be summoned from the neighbor's telephone.

To help insure that you are awakened in time to execute your evacuation plans, you should install an early warning device system in your home.

WHAT KIND OF SYSTEM?

The highly expensive elaborate fire alarm system is no longer necessary to improve your chances of survival in a fire situation.

When it comes to fire alarms for the home, what you want is a device that's fast and dependable, something that will alert you in time to get everyone out without unnecessary haste. Generally speaking, a smoke detector meets those requirements better than a heat detector. Smoke detectors can sound an alarm minutes, and even hours, before a heat sensing device because they are activated by the first-long distance symptom of fire -- smoke. This production of combustion often is the first to spread throughout a house; smoke and accompanying toxic gases are the cause of death more often than burns.

In general, a smoke detector should be installed in the home so that smoke from any fire which originates outside the bedroom area passes over the detector and triggers the alarm before the deadly smoke reaches the bedroom. A smoke detector should be installed in the hallway outside the bedrooms. If bedroom entrances are all located in the same area, a dwelling can be protected with just one detector. In single story homes with more than one bedroom area, or in multi-story homes, more than one detector will be needed.

TYPES AVAILABLE

Smoke detectors are manufactured in two types. One is the "Photo-Electric" type, which generally operates on house circuit. The other is the "Ionization" type which has a lower power consumption, thus lending itself to battery operation. Both have been found to be quite effective in dwelling type fires.

A Photo-Electric detector sounds when smoke particles reflect light from a tiny bulb or light emitting diode onto a photo-electric cell. Photo-Electric detectors generally

respond faster to slowly smoldering fires. Most depend on a small light bulb, which eventually burns out, causing the alarm to sound.

An ionization chamber models a tiny source of radiation electrically charges a small amount of air. Entering smoke particles disrupt the flow of electricity and the alarm goes off. Ionization Chamber detectors respond faster to fires in which flames are visible. They are also more sensitive to smoke from cooking, so they are more prone to sound off if placed in or near the kitchen.

Most smoke detectors are self-contained units including the power supply, sensing device, and alarm in one unit. The battery operated units are required to have a fail-safe mechanism which causes a "trouble signal" when the battery power begins to drop, thus aborting the possibility of the battery going dead without your knowledge. Batteries in most models last for about 1 year, and because the system requires a special battery, the replacement cost is usually about \$5.00.

Both batteries and house circuit system have advantages and disadvantages.

Discussion Question:

What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of battery verses house circuit?

WHERE TO BUY A SMOKE DETECTOR

Smoke detectors are being available through any number of sources such as hardware stores, department stores, electronic suppliers, and house to house salesmen. When purchasing a smoke detector, you should be sure there's either the F.M. (factory mutual) or U.L. (underwriter's laboratory) seal of approval. The retail price should range from \$50.00 to no more than \$150.00 per unit.

The Michigan Farm Bureau Federation has entered into a contract with Wolfe Safety and Security Systems, who have agreed to supply both battery operated and house circuit type smoke detectors to members of Farm Bureau Community Groups, and County Women's Committee at a cost of only \$31.50 per unit -- providing each group or committee pools all orders on one order form and sends one check for the entire group or committee. These are the same detectors which are being sold retail for \$50.00 to \$100.00. Literature describing the detectors is enclosed in the discussion leader's packet.

After checking a number of smoke detectors over the last six months, we feel secure in offering this unit as the "best buy." The Community Group secretary should use the order form on the recording sheet and simply send it to us in the usual manner. Your smoke detectors will be sent to one person in your group for distribution. As soon as you receive your smoke detector, complete the card that is enclosed and return it to Wolfe Safety and Security Systems. This will enable them to provide you with direct service and battery replacement.

RAILROADS

(Con't. from page 3)

reports with the ICC. One is an environmental impact statement showing how a shift of commodity movement by truck instead of rail would affect an area.

"This report is only concerned with air, water and sound pollution," Porter relates. "There are really no economic criterion established, except what the railroad reports as gross tonnage on the line."

The Michigan Department of Agriculture has conducted comprehensive studies on how the shift from rail to

truck would affect the economy of the Thumb area in question.

According to the report, about 782,000 tons of bulk agricultural commodities were produced in Huron, Tuscola and Lapeer counties. Of the tonnage produced, approximately 547,000 tons were shipped out of state. The bulk of this amount was shipped by rail.

"A single shipper who wanted to move his bulk corn from Cass City to Augusta, Maine would have to pay approximately \$33.00 per ton," Porter adds. "If the

product were to move by rail, he would only have to pay \$18.15 per ton."

Such additional costs to the shipper can adversely affect that person's profits, Porter explains. If this profit loss is multiplied, it could affect the economy of the entire area.

The only way the shipper's side of the story can be recorded is for those persons to appear at public hearings and provide testimony, Porter points out.

Mike Patrick, a graduate student who is conducting extensive shipper surveys for Michigan State University's

Department of Agricultural Economics, says that some shippers do not realize how interdependent they are on rail service, Patrick said. "There is some feeling that the railroads are only submitting data that would be favorable to their own interests. If shippers could pool their rail shipping data, there might be enough information to balance out what the one-sided testimony the railroads have provided."

Shippers and other members of the local community are the only ones that could help prevent the loss of rail ser-

vice to their towns, Patrick stresses.

Riel and Porter also concur that it will take local community effort to make sure rail service on certain lines in Michigan is not suspended.

"The real questions are how long the State of Michigan can provide money to subsidize the lines it does now, and if it can afford to maintain the lines that are under pending abandonment," Riel says. "The threatened lines are definitely going to have to get support from the local communities affected to make it for sure."

Corn and Sugarbeet "Expo '76" To Be Held October 5-6

"Anyone interested in performance of new tillage equipment should attend this event. We will be plowing and finishing 200 acres with equipment literally from throughout the United States," says William Bortel, Michigan State University Cooperative Extension director in Tuscola County.

Giant tractors, discs, conventional plows, subsoilers, chisel plows, pulvimulchers, a wide variety of corn and sugar beet harvesters, drying and handling equipment are only part of the wide variety of equipment to be demonstrated and displayed.

"We have more than 115 manufacturers registered to bring equipment to expo. We

believe that the displays alone will cover 40 acres. Farmers will have the opportunity to see the equipment in action and talk with the manufacturer's representative about equipment capabilities," Bortel says.

Harvesting demonstrations will include 120 acres of corn. Along with this is a four-acre "200-bushel challenge plot" in which Bortel hopes to see a 200-bushel per acre yield. The corn was planted April 20 at 32,000 kernels per acre. A special, formulated phosphorus was used, and zinc acetate was applied in anhydrous ammonia and sidedressed. Di-nitro was foliar sprayed by air.

A corn variety show featuring 35 varieties from 16 companies will be toured and discussed. Herbicide demonstration plots will also be shown and discussed.

The sugar beet research and demonstration plots include 80 acres of beets to be harvested during the two-day event.

Activities both days run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no charge for the expo. Food stands will be available on the site.

Details and a list of lodging accommodations and camping sites are available from the Michigan Corn - Sugar Beet Expo '76, c-o Extension Office, Civil Defense Center, Caro, MI 48723.

AFBF Wants All Export Provisions Delated

Deletion of all provisions of the Export Administration Act that provide authority for imposing export controls on agricultural commodities has been called for by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

In a letter to the House International Relations Committee, which is marking up a bill, H.R. 7665, to extend the Act, John C. Datt, Director of the American Farm Bureau's Washington office, said the continued threat of embargoes and moratoriums on farm exports will only serve to inhibit food production and antagonize foreign customers.

"Such controls will contribute to a U.S. balance-of-payments deficit, foster inflation, and reduce U.S.

ability to purchase needed products such as petroleum, which in short supply here," Datt added.

Trade policies embodying export controls make it impossible for this country and others to gain the full benefits inherent in mutually advantageous trade conducted with a minimum of trade interference, he emphasized.

The Senate, in passing a 3-year extension of the Act on August 27, added a number of amendments. One amendment gives the Congress 30 days to disapprove by concurrent resolution any controls on agricultural exports imposed by the President, unless he acts for national security on inflationary control purposes.

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.

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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)

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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)

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FOR SALE: Horse drawn wooden wheel wagon with grain box and spring seat. Clifford Persons, 23387 US-27, Olivet, Michigan 49076. Phone 616-749-4893. (10-11-21p)

FOR SALE: Farmall M with live hydraulics, A.C. 66 combine, J.D. 45 combine, J.D. 1-row chopper, A-1 condition throughout. Phone 517-765-2683 Burlington, Mich. (10-11-22p)

FOR SALE: Oliver 512 cornhead for 525 or M.M. 2890 J.D. chopper for parts, straw chopper for 525 or 2890 - \$175.00. Phone 517-765-2683, Burlington, Mich. (10-11-25p)

FOR SALE: Insecticide for 494 corn planter, New Idea model 300 2-row pull type picker J.D. 210 cornhead. Phone 517-765-2683, Burlington, Mich. (10-11-22p)

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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)

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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)

ARABIAN HORSE AUCTION, Saturday, October 30, 1976 at 12 noon. Futurity show at 10:30 a.m. at Walnut Manor Farms, 1 mile south & 2 miles west of Galesburg, Mich. 30 head purebred & 20 partbred Arabians, includes 4 stallions, 7 mares, 21 foals, 9 yearlings, 9 age two & over, most are broke to ride. New arena. For catalog, write or call: Dale Kirkin, 8792 East ML Ave., Kalamazoo, Mich. 49001. Phone 616-381-2774. (10-11-73p)

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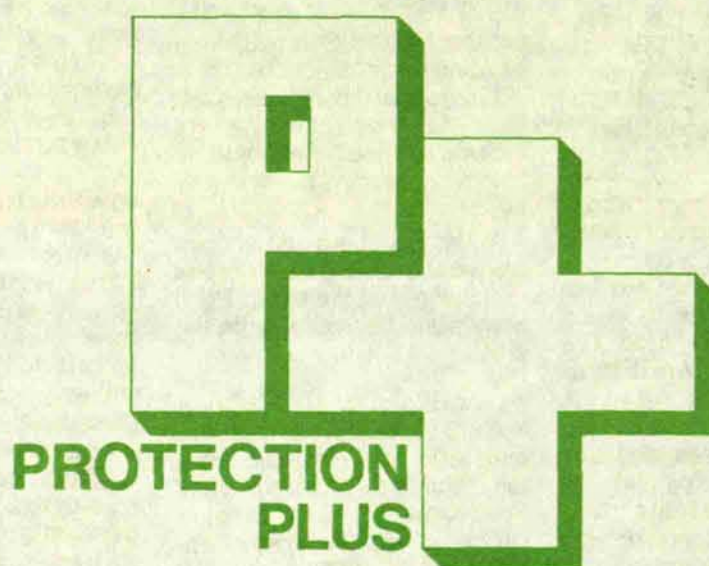
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