

**Voting Resolutions**

# Delegates Show Most Concern on SBT, Land Use Policies

Voting delegates from throughout the state adopted a comprehensive slate of policies for the Michigan Farm Bureau during the organization's annual meeting in Grand Rapids, November 30 through December 3. Farmers representing 69 county Farm Bureau units discussed, debated, amended and finally adopted a total of 175 policies dealing with a wide range of issues. These policies will serve as a guide for the state's largest farm organization in the year ahead, with many of the same volunteers who helped develop the policies becoming active in their execution.

Policy recommendations dealing with national issues will be forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration and possible adoption at the national meeting scheduled for January 9-11 in Hawaii.

In a recommendation regarding Michigan's "Single Business Tax," delegates said the tax should be repealed. If it is not repealed, they said, certain major revisions should be made, including assurance that small businesses will not be required to pay a tax during years when they net less than \$10,000.

"While the Single Business Tax may help the industrial climate, it harms the agricultural climate with other states," they concluded.

On the subject of land use, delegates supported legislation to create a Land Use Commission within the Department of Natural Resources with the majority of the Commission representing forestry and agricultural interests. They called for Farm Bureau members to actively participate in land use planning at the local level.



Glenn Preston, winner of the Young Farmer discussion finals, shows his technique at the last test. Preston excelled on the topic of land use policy. He will represent MFB at the AFBF Annual meeting in Hawaii.



Daryl Peterson, president of Mason County, receives his President's Trophy from MFB Administrative Director Robert Braden while President Smith reads praises of Peterson's outstanding work during 1976. The Award was presented at the Presidents' Banquet during the 57th MFB Annual Meeting. Bill Kissane, president of Clinton County, and Gordon Phillbeck, president of Menominee County also received the trophies.

**Hundreds Attend Annual; Resolutions Set**

# MFB Must Grow in Attitudes, Smith Says

Michigan Farm Bureau must continue to grow if it is to continue to serve agriculture, Elton Smith, president of MFB, said in his address at the organization's 57th annual meeting.

"By growth I mean we must have a growth in attitude," Smith explained. "We must get members concerned, willing to participate and active in Farm Bureau. We have the organization to meet the needs, to face the issues, and to force the action. We must grow in our knowledge as how to best use our structure."

A part of this growth process is, as Farm Bureau members, learning to act as members of a minority group, the agricultural community.

"Let me give you some examples," Smith said. "First, we must participate in outside groups dealing with energy, world food supply,

transportation, consumer issues, land use planning, education, and a host of others. We are currently going through a time in history when it is the vogue to have symposiums, conferences, and meetings on many subjects by many groups. Many of these are having input on issues upon which government action will be taken. In fact, many of these groups are demanding government action. Many of these decisions concern agriculture and are being made without our input. We just can't let this happen."

What it really means is that farmers will have to participate in these events, the MFB leader said. This is not easy but it is necessary. Each County Farm Bureau can build a nucleus of members who will be available.

"We must talk up our industry," Smith continued. "Agriculture is not sick, it is not decaying. We have much

of which to be proud and tell."

Once Farm Bureau members have learned to speak up for agriculture, they must do it in a unified voice, on the issues and challenges for the coming year, Smith emphasized.

"The first is a farm program, Smith pointed out. In the months ahead, Congress will be developing a new farm program through legislation. No one knows what this legislation will contain. There will be strong forces advocating a return to higher support price and production restrictions."

Farm Bureau members must also let their voices be heard on land use policy and possible energy conservation measure, Smith added.

"I honestly believe we must work for state guidelines in land use planning. These guidelines must provide for strong local involvement, for

(Continued on page 2)



Congressman Bob Bergland, from Minnesota's 7th district, participated in a press conference while at the FFB Annual Meeting to outline some of his views on what the 1977 Farm Act should be like. Bergland was recently named by President-elect Carter as Secretary of Agriculture.

**Special Annual Meeting Issue  
1977 Resolutions Start on Page 7**

*From the Desk of*



*The President*

## Time to "Play Ball"

"It's a brand-new ball game."

That's how Paul Weller, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives' vice president for public affairs, recently described the upcoming four years in Washington. Weller told Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives annual meeting participants that because of the new administration, they must be more flexible in accepting compromise in reaching legislative and regulatory solutions that effect agriculture. While increasing their flexibility, Weller said, farm co-ops and their members must be more assertive in relaying the needs of farmers to Congress.

I think this is a good point for all of us in agriculture to consider. We cannot "take our ball home" and refuse to participate simply because we believe those in quarterback positions will call plays that are contrary to our philosophies. In fact, it's more vital than ever that farmers "play ball" with those who will be making policy decisions in the next four years.

We do not need to compromise our beliefs to do this. What we do need to do is take every possible opportunity to communicate with the consumer, environmental and labor groups that will have an impact on the nation's agricultural policies. We must not only supply direct input to lawmakers, but also act as "expert consultants" to these groups. We must explain to those not involved in agriculture why market orientation is important, why increased government regulation would be catastrophic, and why a so-called "cheap food" policy would ultimately result in economic disaster.

Let's face it! These non-agricultural people will have an influence on the new administration in practically every facet of government. If we continue to participate and educate -- the very real possibility exists that our efforts will be more fruitful than we ever thought possible.

For example, here in Michigan, it looked like rough times ahead when proposed MIS-OSHA standards were threatening the competitiveness of the state's farmers. Through an intensive educational campaign, farmers told their story to the public. And from the results so far -- the message was heard loud and clear.

A similar situation in California where a consuming public helped soundly defeat Proposition 14, which would have allowed unions to organize farm workers on the property of landowners. Voters there became more knowledgeable through the efforts of thousands of farmers and helped overcome the support of President-elect Carter and Governor Jerry Brown for the proposition.

The point is that when the public knows the facts, there's a tendency to accept the word of the farmer.

Our word will not always be readily accepted, but we increase the chance for obstacles by not "playing ball," by not participating. We now have new opportunities to tell our story -- more new avenues of communication accessible to the American farmer than ever before.

By accepting the challenge to explore these new avenues, the American farmer gives himself the opportunity to assume a vital position of leadership and responsibility.

Elton R. Smith

## MFB Must Grow contd. from page 1

this type of planning is basically a local responsibility. The guidelines must preserve private property rights and appeal procedures. They must have some flexibility with enforcement at the level of government closest to the individual. As Farm Bureau members, we

must be involved in developing local guidelines. I'm convinced that if we don't, rules will be made in Washington and administered by bureaucrats. The demand for food in the future will make it happen."

The last challenge is to adopt new technology; Smith

explained. "Let us look for ways to do so", he stated. "Let us explore new communication methods to provide us better marketing information and intelligence. Let us grow in our ability to better communicate within our organization. Let us grow so that we are recognized as a minority group with a mission -- serving the needs of mankind."

Smith also lauded the challenges Michigan Farm Bureau has already met and won over in 1976. He cited estate tax reform, the refinement of P.A. 116 in regards to tax assessments, and the successful defense of P.A. 344, the Michigan Marketing and Bargaining Law.

Others were:

- putting proposal A, the legislation to ban the sale of non-returnable beverage containers on the ballot and the resultant passage of the bill during the November 2 election.

- Amendment to the Michigan Pesticide Control Act, so that farmers can qualify to use restricted pesticide after October 21, 1977.

- Defeat of legislation to require farmers to pay overtime and increase the agricultural minimum wage.

- An increase in allowable credit against property taxes under the Homestead Credit Act.

- An increase in bond requirements of grain elevators and greater protection for farmers delivering under "Price Later Agreements."

## DONNA Push Button Security

When members attend the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting, they witness smooth-running sessions with all the various activities listed in the program happening when and where they're supposed to, with few fluffs or missed cues.

Keeping things looking good "out front" sometimes creates chaotic and humorous (in retrospect) situations behind the scenes. Take the annual awards program, for example. Any time you have 70-plus winners to recognize in a short time frame, you have a challenge. Giving each winner the recognition he or she deserves, without boring everyone except the award-winner's proud spouse, is almost mission impossible.

The backstage (and occasionally on-stage) chaos created by this mission at past annual awards programs inspired us, in recent years, to go the slide route in lieu of warm bodies. Slides may be "colder" than the real thing, but they have advantages. When the commentator announces James Jones as the winner, push a button and James is there on the screen.

With real, live bodies, Suzy Smith could march up on stage when James Jones is announced. It's obvious to everyone in the audience that she just couldn't be James. But nobody bothered to tell the script writer that James couldn't get anyone to do the chores so Suzy is accepting the award for him.

Suzy takes her responsibilities as substitute acceptor very seriously. When she sees she has the wrong certificate, she protests the fact -- loudly -- to the commentator who is backstage with his script and microphone. The commentator is already disconcerted because he announced James and there came Suzy (has he missed a line?).

Picture him now: attempting to peer around Suzy (who is standing in front of him protesting the wrong certificate) to see if the winner he has just announced is at least the right gender, if not the right person. . . covering the mike to keep the 1200 people out front from sharing the information that Suzy has the wrong cer-

tificate. . . grasping for the pages of script that have been knocked to the floor. . . getting them back in order. . . finding his place to announce the next winner. . . and then making that announcement with ENTHUSIASM and GUSTO! Hence. . . the push button prevailed for a couple years.

This year, we returned to real, live winners, supplemented with slides. The backstage comedy was reserved (mainly) for the practice session. A good time for practice, we thought, would be Tuesday night while everyone was downstairs enjoying the FBS-FPC buffet dinner, and the auditorium was empty. We could set up our equipment, get zeroed in so the "show" Thursday night would go without a hitch. Good idea, except. . .

The small room in the Civic Auditorium that serves as our annual meeting "press room" also doubles as a storage place for audio-visual equipment. Part of the equipment we needed for our practice had been placed in the bathroom -- a good, safe spot, we figured. But, alas, the door which had been locked from the inside sometime during the day had remained locked when it was closed from the outside. Well, we've faced bigger challenges. . .

The ceiling, we could see, was one of those suspended kinds with the plastic inserts which could be easily removed, allowing us to climb over the door frame into the bathroom to unlock the door. A chair, on top of a table, brought one of our female staff members up to the level where she could peer over the top. A long way to drop, she decided; better put a chair over first to shorten the distance. Good idea, except. . . the chair got lodged in the wires that held the suspended ceiling and refused to be budged either way. Better the chair than her, we supposed.

A humiliating situation for three liberated females to get caught in. . . especially when the man who catches them simply walks to the trusty tool kit, picks out a screw driver, inserts in latch and opens door!

Like I said, a smooth-running annual meeting doesn't just happen. You really have to work at it.

## MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

The Michigan FARM NEWS is published monthly, on the first day, by the Michigan Farm Bureau Information Division. Publication and Editorial offices at 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48904. Post Office Box 960. Telephone, Lansing 485-8121, Extension 228. Subscription price, 65 cents per year.

Established January 13, 1923. Second-class postage paid at Lansing, MI. and at additional mailing offices.

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POSTMASTER: In using form 3579, mail to: Michigan Farm News, 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48904.

**Farm  
Bureau**

Successes show Determination, Braden says

# 1976 MFB "Victories" Hailed at Annual

In his Administrative Director's report as part of the Michigan Farm Bureau's 57th Annual Meeting, Robert Brahan cited some major accomplishments of MFB during 1976. According to Braden they were:

1. Achievement of membership goal for the ninth consecutive year. This was a real accomplishment in a year of a substantial dues increase, Braden pointed out.
2. "All of us who attended the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual meeting in St. Louis last January, were most proud when Michigan Farm Bureau was recognized as an eight star state for program accomplishments. These stars were awarded for attaining - our membership goal, commodity activities, women's program, young farmers and ranchers program, marketing (non-AAMA), marketing (AAMA), natural resources and policy development. In addition to this, Michigan received the coveted golden eagle award for service to farmer members for the fourth consecutive year."

3. The establishment of a new Michigan Farm Bureau affiliate in February, the Michigan Farm Bureau group purchasing, Inc. In September, this new affiliate launched a Safemark tire and battery program for Farm Bureau members only.

4. The successful effort, through testimony from 200 Farm Bureau members, to cause the rejection of Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration proposed standards for tractors and farm machinery. These standards were far more restrictive than the OSHA standards already adopted.

5. The enactment of Estate Tax Reform.

6. A long time Michigan Farm Bureau policy objective was accomplished at the November second election - the passage of proposal "A" will ban the use of nonreturnable bottles and cans in Michigan.

7. A state-wide trespass proposal, important to Farm Bureau members, passed the Legislature just last week. The new act will require all persons to have written permission to enter all far-

mland, for such purposes as hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and operating off road vehicles. Violators will be subject to immediate arrest on a complaint to any law enforcement officer.

Switching to MFB program progress, Braden felt that the local affairs program under Ron Nelson has been successful from its inception.

"I am happy to report today that well over 20 counties have requested and received assistance in programs that are important to them in their local communities. Problems range from local ordinances that restrict the movement of large farm equipment over country roads to information on county drain codes," Braden said. "Of course, local zoning plans are included frequently in the request for assistance.

"Also, a major effort in the local affairs department has been directed toward prevention of rural crime. Michigan Farm Bureau has played a key role in the development of the Michigan Rural Crime Prevention Council."

Braden also outlined some of the key administrative changes that were made during 1976. He pointed out that the \$10 increase in 1976 dues made it possible to increase the field staff by two members.

"This change from 10 to 12 regional representatives became effective November 1, 1976, Braden said. "The regional boundaries were adjusted and 12 regions were established. In all of the lower peninsula regions, one or two counties were cut from each region. Regional representatives will now serve between 5 and 7 county farm Bureaus. This will allow the regional representative more

time in each of his counties to assist volunteer leaders in program planning and execution."

The county membership goal formula will also be changed for 1977. Each county goal will be that county's 1976 goal plus one, regardless of its final 1976 membership count, Braden said.

"Also with the membership, goal for the tenth straight year challenge, the one most important to Farm Bureau members will be to continue to have a strong, viable Farm Bureau organization," Braden concluded.

## Land Use Policy Most Vital Milliken says

Michigan must act now to protect farmlands through land use planning legislation, Governor William Milliken said in his address at the Kickoff Luncheon of the 57th Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

"There is a real threat to agriculture if the lack of a land use policy continues much longer," Milliken said. "Urban sprawl continues to increase at a rapid rate. If Michigan is to remain a leading farm state, a workable plan to save the best lands for agriculture should be put into effect as soon as possible."

Milliken explained that so far, the legislature has examined many different approaches to the land use problem.

"Its been one of the most thoroughly examined issues that I can remember," the governor emphasized. "I promise to not let up on this matter until a solid, effective policy has been established."

The governor fully encouraged Farm Bureau leaders to provide information and suggestions to help resolve this question.

"Michigan needs to stay the top agricultural state so that we can help keep peace in the world through a balanced system of training," Milliken added. "To accomplish this we need to adopt a 1977 farm act that is market oriented."

Because of its trade value, the \$1.7 billion of agricultural production during 1976 is really worth about \$8.7 billion, Milliken pointed out.

"However, this wealth of marketable produce does not mean that Michigan or the country as a whole can afford to set itself up as a provider for the rest of the world. We must learn to respond to the



trade demands of responsible nations that will help us maintain a balance of trade. Now, there is little control to provide such a balance."

A revision of Michigan's tax structure is also needed, Milliken added.

"There must be an improvement in the assessment of rural property," the governor stressed. "At the same time we must make sure that residential property taxes are not shifted on to agricultural areas."

One thing that has shown that individuals and agricultural organizations can influence decisions on the state's problem areas, is the passage of Proposal A, legislation to ban the sale of non-returnable beverage containers in Michigan, which was on the November 2 ballot, Milliken pointed out.

"This law will lead to a cleaner and better Michigan," Milliken concluded. "Its passage will also play a significant part in the adoption of a national ban of non-returnable beverage containers, because Michigan is the largest industrialized state to adopt such legislation."

## Ovid Woman New MFB Queen

A young farm wife and mother from Shiawassee County, Boneeta (Bunny) Semans, was crowned "Michigan Farm Bureau Queen" for 1977 at the Civic Auditorium in Grand Rapids, Wednesday evening, December 1. The crowning took place during the Young Farmer Banquet, which is part of the farm organization's four-day Annual Meeting activities.

The new Queen and her husband, William, operate a 220-head dairy farm near Ovid in partnership with his brother.

Runner-up in the contest was Mrs. Dorothy Helmreich of Bay County.



Bunny Semans, 1977 MFB queen, beams before more than 1,200 annual meeting attendees just after being crowned. From Shiawassee County, the new queen and her husband William operate a 220 head dairy farm near Ovid. Bunny will represent MFB at the AFBF Annual Meeting in Hawaii.

## "Outstanding Young Farm Woman"

A 28-year old farm wife from Genesee County was named "Outstanding Young Farm Woman" by the Michigan Farm Bureau during the Organization's Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids, November 30-December 3. Mrs. Roger (Linda) Bloss, wife of a Swartz Creek dairy farmer and mother of four children, was honored at the Wednesday evening Young Farmer Banquet held in the Civic Auditorium.

Mrs. Bloss was picked from a field of nineteen contestants, nominated by their respective County Farm Bureau units.

Runner-up in the contest was Mrs. Kathryn Middleton of Oakland County. Kathryn and her husband, Thomas,

operate a 1,400-acre dairy and field crops farm near Ortonville. She is a teacher and mother of three children.



Linda Bloss awaits Claudine Jackson's announcement that she has been elected as "Outstanding Young Farm Woman" for MFB at the annual meeting. She is from Genesee County, where she and her husband Roger operate a 700-acre farm specializing in dairy.

# CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith

The 78th Legislature has adjourned for the year with a flurry of activities lasting until nearly 4 A.M. in the morning of Friday, December 17. Several comprehensive and controversial pieces of legislation were before the law makers for final consideration. In an unusual move, Governor Milliken was called at 1 A.M. to go to the capitol to urge the Senate to take a final action on many of these issues. Perhaps the most important of them was consideration of legislation to make technical changes in the Single Business Tax Law.

The Senate intended to make major amendments to the law in order to remove some of the inequities that effect small business, which of course includes those farmers subject to the tax. The fact that this controversy arose at the last minute of the Legislative Session makes it more clear than ever that the Single Business Tax issue will be of priority nature in the coming Legislature that will be convening in mid January.

The Single Business Tax has been reported to Farm Bureau members in several issues of the Michigan Farm News and in Minuteman communications. Numerous meetings were held around the state, including a special panel discussion at the Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

At the Annual Meeting, Senator VanderLaan, (R, Grand Rapids) who was a member of the panel, stated to the packed room that while he voted for the Single Business Tax if he had an opportunity to withdraw any vote that he has made in his long career as a Legislator it would be the vote on the SBT. The law is so comprehensive and complicated that at the time of its passage, it was impossible to foresee the consequences that would result in its effect on many small business including affected farmers.

## TAX WON'T AFFECT MOST FARMERS

Dr. Kelsey, Agricultural Economist, MSU, pointed out to the audience that according to their studies, most farmers will not be affected; however, many farmers that are affected may have considerable additional tax burden. He also pointed out that it should be remembered that a companion bill was passed with the SBT which increases the property tax rebate from the present \$500 to a maximum of \$1200. Practically all farmers will qualify for this full rebate which cuts many tax bills in half or more. He further pointed out that the tax is deductible on the federal income tax and there is also a provision for a deduction (through a sliding percentage scale) on the state income

tax. These two features, along with others, will reduce the actual impact.

Dr. Gerald Miller, Director of the Bureau of the Budget, outlined the theory of the SBT and explained the fiscal crisis faced by Michigan's under the previous tax system. He said that over all, the SBT will level out the income of the state and eliminate the previously high peaks and extreme lows of revenue. It should also encourage the expansion of many businesses within the state.

Bob Smith, Farm Bureau Senior Legislative Counsel, pointed out the fact that when it became obvious that the Single Business Tax would pass the Legislature, Farm Bureau made every effort to include several amendments to eliminate as many foreseeable inequities as possible. Farm Bureau also supported the increase in property tax rebate limitation to \$1,200.

The Michigan Farm News has carried several articles on this issue including a complete explanation in the September 1 issue along with a form designed for farmers to determine whether the tax affects them. Many farmers took the time to cut the survey form out, fill it in, and return it to Farm Bureau.

In addition, several hundred survey forms were sent to a broad cross-section of Michigan agriculture in an effort to accumulate accurate data on the effect of the SBT on agriculture. Unfortunately, the number of returns was disappointing; however, enough were received to make it clear that it is impossible to make sweeping statements on the tax's effects on any particular segment of agriculture. It varies considerably with individual situations.

## 1977 SBT RESOLUTION

The policy resolution that was adopted by the voting delegates at the Farm Bureau Annual Meeting outlines very clearly the major areas of inequities as they affect farmers. This resolution is printed as a part of the policy insert in this issue. It states very clearly Farm Bureau's policy will be to support the repeal of the SBT. It points out that the several taxes that were repealed at the time of its enactment did not apply to farmers and, therefore, the SBT is a completely new tax. If the act cannot be repealed, the resolution mentions several major revisions that should be made including the following:

1. Elimination of the interest component. Many young businessmen and young farmers depend heavily upon borrowed capital. They should be congratulated for their willingness to take such high

risks rather than being burdened with the tax on interest. Farmers must borrow large amounts due to a variety of reasons including crop failures caused by drought, floods, frost, wind, hail, etc.

2. Changes in the taxation of depreciation. Unlike many businesses, farmers must have a large inventory of machinery and equipment most of which is used only a few days a year.

3. Consideration of changes for those who have heavy labor costs. It is maintained that the intent of the SBT is to encourage employment. While this may be true for some industries, farmers and other small businesses are more likely to be discouraged from hiring people.

4. Assurance that small businesses will not be required to pay a tax during years when net profit is low. (e.g.: \$10,000)

5. Total exemption of cooperatives organized under the Capper Volstead Act that qualify under the I.R.S. Section 521 exemption.

Be sure to read the entire policy in the "pull-out" resolutions section.

There are other areas that also need revisions. For example, the present act does not treat partnerships equitably. The exemptions for the partners should be raised substantially. The act over all fails to recognize the broad variety of business

enterprise in Michigan and the fact that nearly all of them are completely different and cannot be fitted into a single law without adjustments. Some progress is already being made through the Single Business Tax Task Force that was appointed for the purpose of studying the act and making recommendations to the 1977 Legislature. Farm Bureau is represented on the Task Force. It consists of 44 members, 37 of whom represent a broad variety of business enterprise in Michigan ranging from the largest industries down to small businesses such as restaurants, cleaning services, agriculture, retailers, etc.

The Task Force circulated an information survey to more than 4000 businesses. The return was very disappointing and the data collected was not sufficient to help in making recommendations.

## TASK FORCE HEARINGS

The Task Force has had a series of nine hearings throughout the entire state. Farm Bureau notified County Farm Bureaus of the hearings and used the radio

time at its disposal to further notify farmers and anyone else interested in the issue. Many farmers attended some of the hearings. Their testimony was positive and helpful and will be considered by the Task Force.

The Task Force has already written an interim report. Some of the areas that need revision and have been recognized by the Task Force to date include relief for small business where there are low profits include:

1. Increasing the small business deduction which is presently \$35,000 to at least \$50,000.

2. Permit small business to receive full credit on their personal income tax. There would be a ceiling on such a credit.

3. Provide alternative tax methods and allow the tax payer to choose the one most advantageous.

4. Provide for exemptions or a better formula for small businesses with high labor costs.

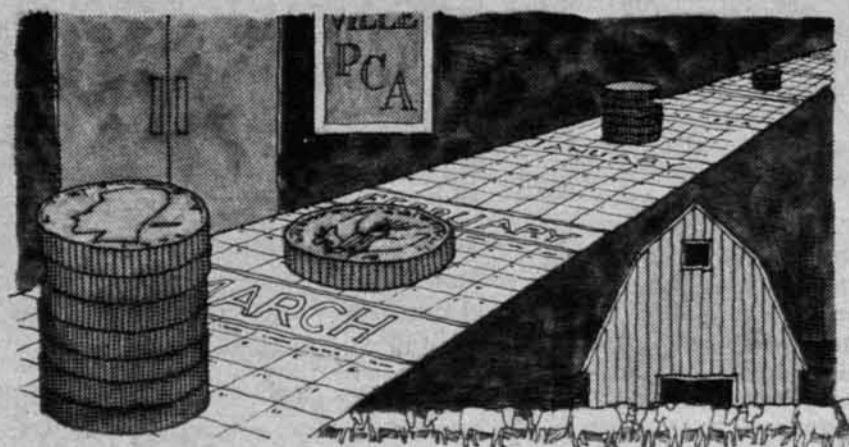
5. Permit investment writeoffs and tax credits to encourage increased employment.

6. Remove the taxation of interest for small businesses recognizing that this is unfair to those who must borrow large amounts and take greater risks than those who are able to finance without excessive borrowing. Some amendments to the act would be extremely costly and their revenue loss would require higher tax rates.



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# Buschlen to Retire as MASA Head

Merrill J. Buschlen, manager of the Michigan Agricultural Services Association (MASA) since 1966, will retire on January 4. Don Shepard will assume the managerial position on that date.

"Busch" joined Farm Bureau Services as a retail store manager in 1953. He then progressed to manager of fertilizer sales, manager of the Farm Supplies Division of FBS, and then became director of distribution in charge of sales. In this position he assisted the chief labor negotiator of FBS with union labor negotiations. His next position was director of MASA, when that organization was formed.

Prior to 1953, Buschlen had been employed by the sugar industry for eighteen years. He had graduated from Michigan State University (then Michigan State College) in 1935 with a B.S. in Agriculture. He then obtained an M.S. degree from the University of Idaho in plant physiology and plant chemistry.

While heading MASA operations, "Busch" was responsible for many "victories" for farmers in the state. These "victories" consisted of leading testimonial efforts by MASA and Farm Bureau members in the opposition of state and national legislation that would adversely affect the state's producers, providing advice to many MASA members so that they could successfully handle complex laws dealing with migrant labor laws and becoming a nationally recognized expert on farm labor laws and migrant workers. This recognition led to his serving on the Federal Regional Council Migrant Task Force, a member of the Occupational Safety Standards Commission advisory committee for agriculture, a member of the Board of Directors of the National Council of Agricultural Employers, a member of the National Institute of Farm Safety a consultant to the Michigan Agricultural Labor Commission.

One of Buschlen's most recent successes was his work in organizing efforts to oppose tractor and farm equipment safety proposals set up by the Michigan Department of Labor that were much more restrictive than federal OSHA standards already in effect. Nearly 200 agricultural representatives protested the state standards either by writing or by testimony at the September 13, 1976 Department of Labor hearing on the proposals. Their testimony led the Michigan Agricultural Labor Commission to reject the state proposals and accept

the Federal OSHA standards. Buschlen feels certain that the state Department of Labor will soon adopt the federal standards for the state.

Shepard joined the Farm Bureau family in 1963, when he was hired as sales manager of Farm Bureau Services Feed Department. In June 1973, Shepard became manager of the FBS Feed Department.

During 1972 Congress passed legislation which made substantial changes in the regulation of pesticides. Among the changes are provisions which will affect most farmers who apply pesticides on their own farms. These provisions include:

1. A requirement for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to classify all pesticides into "general" and "restricted" categories.

"General" pesticides will be those considered generally safe to the environment when used according to label instructions. "Restricted" pesticides will be those considered potentially harmful to the environment or applicator even when used in accordance with label instructions.

2. Private applicators, which includes farmers who desire to apply "restricted" pesticides after October 21, 1977, must be certified.

Currently EPA has not published an official list of the "restricted" pesticides to guide farmers in determining whether or not they will need to become certified. However, it is reported by persons close to the classification program that pesticides bearing the skull-and-crossbones symbol on the label will probably be on the "restricted" list.

The Michigan Legislature has amended the Michigan Pesticide Control Act to conform with the Federal mandate that each State designate an agency to administer the certification program. The Legislature designated this responsibility to the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Farmers desiring to be certified in order to apply "restricted" pesticides after October 21, 1977, are required to demonstrate their competency by passing a test which will be administered by the Department of Agriculture. Farmers may choose among the following alternatives to become

certified:

1. Self-study and examination;
2. Classroom training and examination;
3. An oral fact finding interview administered by an authorized person if unable to demonstrate competence by examination or classroom training.

A special study manual has been prepared by the Cooperative Extension Service for use by farmers in obtaining the information necessary to pass the examination. Copies of the manual may be obtained at 75 cents per copy from County Cooperative Extension Offices. The Extension Service will also be holding meetings this winter to discuss the information that farmers must know to pass the examination.

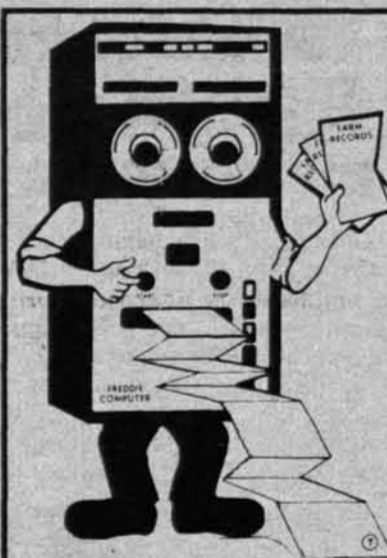
Examinations will be given at various times and locations this winter. Dates and locations of the examinations may be obtained from County Cooperative Extension Offices. A fee of \$10.00 will be charged. The certification must be renewed every three years. Farmers who do not pass or are unable to take the first scheduled examination will have an opportunity to take another examination at a later date.

All Farm Bureau members are encouraged to contact their County Cooperative Extension Office soon, and obtain further information on the certification program which has been mandated by federal law.



Merrill J. Buschlen

Don Shepard, New MASA Operations Manager



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# Annual Commodity Session Covers SBT, Farm Policy



Dr. Richard Bell



Bob Bergland

## Bell, Bergland Differ on Farm Policy

The highlight of the Commodity session of the MFB 57th Annual Meeting was a panel discussion on National Farm Legislation. Featured were Dr. Richard Bell, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for International Affairs and Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland. Both made speculations on how Congress might change the 1973 Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act, which expires in 1977. This Act must be renewed by late March or early April 1977. Bergland and Bell offered their suggestions on how the bill might be changed.

The two differed on a number of points, the most notable concerning the basic loan rate to farmers.

"I predict that we will see an end of the so-called target price concept," Bergland said. "It will be replaced by a system that will embody an increase in the basic loan rate. This increase will enable farmers to market their grains in a more orderly fashion. The increase will also allow producers enough credit so that they can pay operating expenses that are due in the fall. Grain would not have to be marketed at harvest time but could be kept off the market until a more advantageous time when there were higher prices."

Bergland deplors the current target price concept. He feels that under the current law, if market prices drop to the loan rates, the Secretary of Agriculture would wind up owning all the grain stocks. Under the target price program, if prices are below target levels established by law, then payments are made representing the differences, between the market prices

loan rates concerns the marketing of wheat, Bell points out. He believes that wheat is the only commodity that could be in trouble as far as international marketing goes. The 1976 marketing year has shown a large net increase in wheat production throughout the world.

"If market prices remain low, producers may want to use wheat as feed. I'm afraid that higher loan rates would discourage this practice. In other words, raising loan rates would produce the opposite effect for which it was intended."

Because surpluses can exist when conditions occur as they did in 1976, Bergland feels that the law needs to be changed in regards to the management of grain reserves.

"The question is not whether we're going to have grain reserves or not," Bergland said. "Rather, it's how these reserves can best be managed."

The Minnesota Congressman advocated a new alternative as to how grains can be managed.

"Now you can sell the grain in the fall or feed it as the market demands, or put it under price support loan and delay the sale until next spring," he explained. "A third alternative, which has never been tried, is to provide for a five year resale contract authority. This would mean that wheat could be stored on farms for five years and be sold only if the market price rose above a certain level. This program would be sensitive to the market. If we were to put excess grain under this program, we would be able to increase wheat prices."

Bell feels that there should be grain reserves, but that

Bergland's plan goes too far.

Bell feels that the target price concept is needed to provide income deficiency payments if they are needed.

"Agriculture must end the 'boom and bust' — the wild swings of commodity prices," the Congressman emphasized. "We must do this through the end of target price policies, an increase in the basic loan rate and the encouragement of an on-farm grain reserve program. Whatever the decisions, Congress will need the kind of advice Farm Bureau has traditionally provided to make the proper decisions."

"The loan rate is basically a tool to encourage orderly marketing of farm produce, to prevent distress selling," Bell said. "The loan rates in this country are the underpinning of the entire world economy. How they go depends on world trade in grain."

# Single Business Tax Debated

## Not All Bad For Farmers

Michigan Single Business tax may not have as adverse affect on the state's agriculture as once thought, it was reported at the Commodity Session panel discussion on that subject. The Commodity session was a part of the 57th Annual Meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Dr. Myron Kelsey, one of the four participants on the panel, made the statement as an part of his segment, dealing with how the Single Business Tax will affect agriculture. Dr. Kelsey is a Michigan State Agricultural economist who has worked closely with Michigan Farm Bureau and the Michigan State Legislature to assess the tax structure. Other panel members were Senator Robert VanderLaan of Michigan's 37th District, Dr. Gerald Miller, Director of the Department of Management and Budget for the State of Michigan, and Bob Smith, legislative counsel for the Michigan Farm Bureau.

"As long as farmers are expanding their businesses, they're really not going to be paying any tax," Kelsey explains. "Once farmers stop expanding, then they're going to start paying."

Under the SBT, businesses can write off first year expenses for capital investments costs of expansion, Kelsey said. Farmers can continue this write-off if they continue to expand.

Another SBT clause, placed through the work of Michigan Farm Bureau and other agricultural organizations, increases the amount of rebate on the homestead property tax credit from the original \$500 to \$1,200.

"Farmers are going to be the biggest beneficiaries of this clause," Kelsey explained. "Most farmers are going to be getting money back on their taxes because of it."

"The adoption of the SBT also meant the dropping of corporate income taxes," Kelsey said. "This tax removal eliminates the negative impact we have had in Michigan for farmers to form a corporation."

With these benefits from the single Business tax, Kelsey feels that Michigan agriculture is in a net positive position in relation to the total tax package. He feels that less than 10 per cent of the state's farmers will wind up paying more tax than they receive rebates for.

"It's important to look at the single business tax in complete perspective," Kelsey emphasized. "This tax is presently undergoing heavy scrutiny and most certainly will be modified. However, some of the changes that have been proposed could possibly put the farmer in a worse position. I urge those who are in a position to influence these changes be careful to evaluate their impact on the whole of the agricultural community."

However, the tax is certain to be changed, Vander Laan emphasized.

Vander Laan feels that:

a. the tax should be far more related to income.

b. interest on income should not be added to the income base on which the tax rate is based.

c. Income from unemployment and workman's compensation, Social Security and similar programs should not be included in the tax base.

d. labor intensive industries, such as agriculture, need a bigger break.

"legislators are convinced that there must be major changes in the single business tax," the senator concluded. "Now we must make sure that they are the right ones."



Highlights of the Commodity Session of the MFB Annual Meeting were panel discussions on the Single Business Tax and National Farm Policy. Paul Kindinger, director of MFB Market Development division and Dean Pridgeon, member of the MFB Board of Directors led the sessions. Participants in the SBT panel discussion, pictured here, were Dr.

Michael Kelsey, Michigan State University agricultural economic professor, Senator Robert Vander Laan, Dr. Gerald Miller, director Department of Management and Budget for the State of Michigan and Robert Smith, MFB senior legislative counsel.

# 1977 MFB Resolutions

This special section is a complete text of resolutions on state affairs and Farm Bureau as approved by the delegate body representing Farm Bureau members through county delegations at the annual meeting in Grand Rapids, Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 2, 3.

Every Farm Bureau member has an opportunity to take part in policy development. This is done through community groups, county committees, county annual meetings, district meetings, etc.

This year policy recommendations were also in record number by the counties to the State Policy Development Committee made up of farmers from throughout the state. Several state commodity advisory committees, also made up of farmers from throughout the state, provided recommendations to the committee.

Many of the following resolutions can be carried out through legislation and many others in other ways and at the local level. Recommendations on national and international issues as passed by the delegates will assist Michigan's voting delegates in helping to determine policies on national and international affairs at the AFBF Convention, January 9-12, 1977.

## PURPOSE OF FARM BUREAU

Farm Bureau is a free, independent, nongovernmental, voluntary organization of farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve education improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement and, thereby, to promote the national well-being. Farm Bureau is local, statewide, national, and international in its scope and influence and is nonpartisan, nonsectarian, and nonsecret in character.

## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DELEGATES 57th Annual Meeting

Grand Rapids -- November 30, December 1, 2, and 3, 1976

### FOREWORD

As the United States of America enters its Third Century, it is appropriate that we, as farmers, should consider the role we will play in insuring a bright future for the nation our farmer forefathers were instrumental in building.

There will be challenges in Century III; of that we can be certain. Some of those challenges are unknown. Others will be a continuation of those we have faced in recent years -- the need for sufficient energy and land, over-regulation of our industry by government, maintaining the freedom to market what we produce, and meeting the increased world-wide demand for food.

In the face of challenges, known or unknown, farmers still look to the future as a time of "opportunities unlimited" for our industry. Whether we will be able to take advantage of these opportunities -- for the benefit of mankind -- will depend a great deal on our awareness that a healthy, prosperous agriculture is the key to world peace, and our willingness to strive aggressively and knowledgeably toward that goal.

Turning the challenges involved in feeding a hungry world into opportunities will require looking beyond the horizons of their own farms . . . to scientific researchers in laboratories and fields . . . to agricultural educators in college classrooms . . . to young men and women eager and well-equipped to take their place in an exciting, expanding industry. We must work consistently to develop a better-informed general public and legislators regarding agricultural matters so that the goal of a healthy, prosperous agriculture becomes a common goal, reached cooperatively.

Farmers of today and tomorrow must be prepared to meet both the challenges and the opportunities ahead, and the organization which serves them must be equipped to help prepare them. It is fitting that our motto for the coming year is "Farm Bureau -- United to Serve Agriculture." The strength of farm families, united to serve agriculture, can assure that we can meet the challenges and the opportunities ahead with confidence.

The task which lies ahead of us . . . developing and later executing the policies for our Farm Bureau . . . also contains challenges and opportunities. We meet those challenges and opportunities with confidence, too, that our decisions and our actions will result in a more prosperous agriculture, a stronger organization, and a better America in the future.

Dean Pridgeon, Chairman  
MFB Policy Development Committee

## APPRECIATION

During the 78th Legislature, much legislation consistent with Farm Bureau policies was passed or implemented including:

- Amendments to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act (P.A. 116), eliminating the requirement for State Tax Commission appraisals.
- Amendments to various tax laws including: Homestead Tax Exemption Act (P.A. 20) increases

property tax rebate from \$500 to \$1200 and clarifies its application to farms; changes in local revenue sharing formulas, various assessment reforms, exemptions of household repairs from assessment, important amendments to the Single Business Tax.

- Retention of the sales tax exemption on agricultural production inputs.

- Continued changes in school finance including improvement of the "equal yield" concept.

- Amendments to various commodity promotion programs including: Beef Commission, Bean Commission, and Potato Commission etc.

- Marketing legislation: P.A. 155 extends the Marketing and Bargaining Act; P.A. 135, provides for marketing fee collections, etc.

- Several public health measures including, malpractice legislation.

- Several livestock, dairy and crop measures including modernization of Michigan's fertilizer laws; feed laws; Fluid Milk Act; Weights and Measures Act; grain dealers licensing and "price later" regulation; certification of "animal technicians" to work with veterinarians.

- Several transportation measures including, P.A. 74, establishing special registration provisions for farm trucks used to haul commodities from the field to the storage; special consideration for farm trucks on covering requirements, providing for matching of federal funds to retain essential railroads not included in CONRAIL, bicycle regulations, traffic law changes etc.

- Appropriations for the Extension Service, Agricultural Experiment Station, FFA and 4-H. Also, progress toward a new plant science building and animal health diagnostic laboratory.

- Amendment to Michigan's Pesticide Control Act to comply with FIFRA to allow farmers continued access to essential pesticides.

- Passage of a new Trespass Act providing stronger protection for farmlands and legislation to control animals at large, a new "hunter access" program; progress on a new fence law proposal, maintenance of drainage rights, etc.

We commend the Governor and the Legislature on enactment of these and several other measures we have supported which are important to agriculture and to the economy of the State of Michigan. We also appreciate the fact that much proposed legislation not in the best interest of agriculture was not adopted.

## Taxation

### MICHIGAN'S TAXATION SYSTEM

A recent nationwide study by the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations shows that, in relation to other states, Michigan is the "highest ranking state in terms of revenue equity." States were rated on the basis of a "balanced use" of income taxes, sales taxes, and property taxes.

Even though Michigan is a leader in tax reform, the study showed that there is a small degree of "under utilization" of the personal income tax and general sales tax, and a significant degree of "over utilization" of the property tax. This means that to achieve a truly balanced tax system, continued reforms are necessary in the property tax system.

Michigan's flat rate income tax was declared to be "progressive" in nature due to the system of exemptions. Michigan was also rated in the top five states for assessment quality and uniformity of assessments.

A few of Michigan's recent major tax reforms include adoption of the "circuit-breaker" concept which bases property taxes on household income with provision for a rebate of up to \$1,200 (previously \$500). The Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act (P.A. 116) also provides property tax relief based on household income and exemptions from certain special assessments.

The creation of the Tax Tribunal has helped to ensure individual taxpayers of an impartial appeals procedure.

We believe that these and other major changes have led to a better balance of Michigan's total tax system. However, recognizing the findings of the Commission, additional reforms are needed. Such reforms should include:

1. Revision of the Michigan inheritance tax law.
2. Continued improvement of assessment and equalization procedures.
3. Maintaining and extending limitations on property taxes for educational purposes.
4. New sources of revenue for schools and local units with consideration for the possible use of the income tax.
5. Prevention of inequities arising from special assessments on property which receives no benefit from the project.
6. Limitation on state spending by the use of new concepts such as "sunset laws" and-or a "Budget Stabilization Fund."
7. Revision of the Single Business Tax because of built-in inequities.

While we believe that much progress has been made in Michigan toward a balanced tax system, these additional reforms will result in every citizen paying his fair share toward the support of his schools and other local and state government services.

### AGRICULTURAL LAND TAXATION

The Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act provides a voluntary method of preserving farmland through a contractual arrangement with the state and thereby limits property tax to a percentage of household income. It also provides relief from certain special assessments. We are pleased with the excellent support that farmers are giving this program throughout the entire state. More than 130,000 acres in 49 or more counties in both Peninsulas have qualified, with applications coming in at an accelerated rate.

The Act has been amended to remove one objectionable feature, that of the mandatory appraisal by the Tax Commission. Other amendments may be needed as experience is gained.

The administrators of P.A. 116 are to be complimented for the efficient manner in which the program has been handled.

Another tax relief program that is useful to many farmers is the passage of the "circuit-breaker" concept in 1972, providing relief for homestead and agricultural land based on household income. The refund limit has been increased from \$500 to \$1,200.

We believe that these reforms will continue to prove to be wise legislation and will be effective methods of preserving farmland for future food needs and open space. This will also be an effective tool to conserve water, help purify polluted air, and provide for aesthetic and recreational values. Open farmland creates no cost, traffic jams, or parking problems. It requires no services such as sewers, water, schools, etc. It actually helps moderate the service load to the community. We continue to support these concepts fully, and will continually work to maintain and improve them.

### RETIREE TAX EQUITY

Presently, retirement and pension benefits from a public retirement system or from any other retirement or pension system are exempt from income tax. Farmers and other self-employed persons do not have this benefit. They must provide their own program, often by setting aside monies to use the interest, rent, dividends, etc., as retirement income only to find it taxable under the income tax statute. We believe that any person retiring within the requirements of the social security system should qualify for exemption of such income from the income tax, the same as any other retiree.

### SINGLE BUSINESS TAX

The Single Business Tax (SBT) became effective January, 1976. The SBT was meant to be a "single tax" on a "single base" designed to improve the business climate of Michigan. It has no exemptions; every business enterprise is subject to the tax. Several taxes were repealed at the time of its enactment. Many businesses benefited from the repeal of other business taxes. However, many business enterprises including farmers, were suddenly saddled with a new tax system -- one that is difficult to understand and unlike any other tax system in any other state. It is a controversial tax even though it was designed to provide more stability in Michigan's tax system. Under the old system there was a "revenue roller coaster effect" under which the state experienced large surpluses in some years and fiscal crisis in others.

We believe the SBT is inequitable for many types of businesses including affected farmers. The shift in tax burden is apparently much higher than was anticipated. A survey conducted by the Single Business Tax Task Force indicated that two-thirds of those responding disagree with the SBT concept. Over 80 percent disagree with the formula used; 75 percent feel there are features that should be changed; nearly half favor a return to the profits tax or return to the old system; 25 percent see features worth retaining and a third of those agreed that the tax simplifies tax preparation and filing; and 80 percent feel that some industries have been overburdened.

We believe that the tax should be repealed. If not, certain major revisions should be made including consideration of the following:

1. Elimination of the interest component. Many young businessmen and young farmers depend heavily upon borrowed capital. They should be congratulated for their willingness to take such high risks rather than being burdened with the tax on interest. Farmers must borrow large amounts due to a variety of reasons including crop failures caused by drought, floods, frost, wind, hail, etc.
2. Changes in the taxation of depreciation. Unlike many businesses, farmers must have a large inventory of machinery and equipment most of which is used only a few days a year.

3. Consideration of changes for those who have heavy labor costs. It is maintained that the intent of the SBT is to encourage employment. While this may be true for some industries, farmers and other small businesses are more likely to be discouraged from hiring people.

4. Assurance that small businesses will not be required to pay a tax during years when net profit is low (e.g.: \$10,000).

5. Total exemption of cooperatives organized under the Capper Volstead Act that qualify under the I.R.S. Section 521 exemption.

There are perhaps other revisions that can be made after study. It must be noted that farmers are truly the victims of inflation. Increased prices affect their families the same as anyone else, but in addition, they are subject to an increasing "cost-price squeeze" resulting from spiraling production costs. They are the victims of the "pass on" but they cannot "pass on" increasing costs in the prices they receive. In fact, they are presently facing a major decline in the prices they receive. This decline has continued for several months. While the SBT may help the industrial climate, it harms the agricultural climate and places it in an even greater competitive disadvantage with other states.

#### ESTATE SETTLEMENT AND INHERITANCE TAXES

Past experience has proven that the settlement of estates in Michigan can be a time-consuming, costly, and demoralizing process. We recommend that:

1. The Legislature give a priority position to legislation changing the probate code to provide for a uniform, prompt and equitable method of estate settlement, which would require the services of an attorney only in situations of litigation.

2. Legislation be passed to update Michigan's inheritance tax laws. Present exemptions are unrealistic and should be increased to \$250,000 consistent with inflationary pressures. We believe that joint accounts, insurances and jointly-owned property should continue to be exempt. In the case of jointly-owned property, the wife should not have to prove a monetary contribution. The period of time in which transfers of property are held to be in contemplation of death should not exceed two years. Farmland should be appraised only at its value for agricultural production. These and other reforms should provide an equitable and uniform system of estate settlement.

#### TAXATION OF MOBILE HOMES

Presently, mobile homes in trailer parks pay, in lieu of property taxes, a fee of \$3 per month. Two dollars of this amount goes to the school, 50 cents to the township, and 50 cents to the county. This fee system, enacted in 1959, is no longer realistic. The increased value of trailer homes is not reflected, nor do they contribute a proper share of the cost of schools and local government.

We support legislation to tax mobile homes on the same basis as other property.

## Education

#### EDUCATIONAL FINANCE

Major changes in the financing of education have been made resulting in a "new equity in Michigan school finance." Reforms included the initiation of the "equal yield" concept guaranteeing a specific dollar yield for each mill of taxation, a new formula for funding intermediate districts, and a formula for assistance for bonding millage.

While these and other changes are highly commendable, the property tax remains the major source of local school finance. However, the "circuit breaker" concept and other reforms have aided in relieving the property tax burden. Continued voter rejection of millage proposals throughout the state clearly indicates the need for continued study and further efforts on school finance and educational reforms.

We recommend:

- Continued efforts to maintain or reduce property tax limits for school purposes.

- Increased use of the income tax as a major source of funds, including the possible use of the income tax by a local school district or intermediate district.

- Sufficient funds appropriated to pay in full all state aid formulas.

- Legislation to require each taxpayer to identify his school district on his income tax form.

- Increased level of state funding at no less than 60 percent of the total state-local dollars for K-12 schools.

- Funding for K-12 schools on a multi-year basis.

- Full funding by the state for all state mandated educational programs.

We believe it is possible to achieve further educational finance reform without eroding the fundamental right of the local community to determine educational goals within broad general guidelines provided by law.

#### EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

We believe that additional reforms should be made in our education system. We recommend:

- The present State Board of Education should be replaced by a bipartisan, odd-numbered Education Commission appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Commission should employ the Director of Education.

- Constitutional clarification of the relationship between school district (local and intermediate) and the State Board of Education.

- Statewide testing and assessment of student progress and total evaluation of education should be continued and expanded, with the goal of advisory educational accountability standards.

- Reorganization of K-12 districts, intermediate districts, and community college districts should continue to be voluntary. However, if reorganized, the policy making board should be representative of all local boards of education and/or all areas of the districts.

- Cooperative programs among small K-12 school districts to help provide a broader curriculum.

- The use of program budgeting should be encouraged at the local level as a means to equate program costs to student needs.

- Guaranteed local control of schools including curricula, personnel, etc. in order to meet the particular needs of the community.

- In-service training for teachers be encouraged.

- Local school facilities be used to their fullest potential for educational purposes for both youths and adults. Year-round school would be feasible in many areas.

- Vocational-technical programs for both youth and adults be made available to all areas of the state. Existing educational facilities should be used wherever possible. The "World of Work" demands salable skills.

- Building accountability into the educational system. School boards, administrators, teachers, students and parents must work together to set goals and objectives to improve student learning and performance.

- Evaluation of teacher education programs in the colleges.

- High school adaptation of MSU program, PROJECT PROF, a program of human development for the experienced professor. The emphasis is on the individual, his interrelationship and interactions with students, colleagues, and administration.

- Full implementation and funding of special education programs for handicapped children. It has been proven beyond a doubt that these children can be educated to lead productive lives with dignity and contribute to society.

- New and innovative instructional methods be researched and used whenever possible.

- Full funding of all special programs mandated by the Legislature or the courts. Such legislative actions should not have the effect of mandating the raising of property taxes above the 15-mill constitutional limit.

- Educational programs be constantly re-evaluated to determine the priorities and needs of our economy and work force. Education at all levels must meet the constantly changing needs of society.

#### SCHOOL BOARDS' COOPERATION

We believe that it is imperative that school boards work together in all areas in an effort to effectively deal with the increasing problems of school districts including the rising cost of education, teacher and employee contract negotiations, curriculum, etc.

We commend the Michigan Association of School Boards in its effort to correlate the attitudes and positions of all school boards.

We urge Farm Bureau members to take an active interest in seeking out and electing capable and responsible people to school boards.

#### SCHOOL CURRICULUM

School curriculum is primarily the responsibility of the local school board. Parents and teachers should work with the local school board members in developing curriculum that upgrades the educational opportunities in our schools. This is especially important as career and vocational education become more established. Curriculum should be continually updated. For example, the metric system of measurement should become a part of the curriculum, good nutrition could be taught along with making nutritious foods available in school vending machines. There should be programs for the especially gifted or talented child. Other exceptional children are already provided educational opportunities. School boards should not ignore the teaching of patriotism, concern for one's fellowman and instruction in our economic system and government.

#### CAREER AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Occupational education should be an integral part of the total education process. Constructive attitudes and concepts involving the dignity of all kinds of work should be woven into existing curriculum especially in the beginning grades. An integrated program can develop positive attitudes toward work, create awareness of the vast occupational opportunities, and provide knowledge and skills to meet the demands of a constantly changing society.

Vocational centers are rapidly developing, many through existing local educational units including community colleges, intermediate school districts, and high school districts. We fully support these programs and believe that the ultimate goal should be to develop and implement effective occupational programs in all areas of the state. Such training should, whenever feasible, include "on the job" training in cooperation with local businesses. Skilled people should be permitted to become instructors even though they may not meet the present certification requirements.

Where necessary, state minimum wage and child labor laws should be revised to permit the greatest possible opportunity for individuals to become trained for the world of work.

Citizen involvement is an important part of vocational education programs. Presently, a separate local Vocational Education Advisory Council for each program is a requirement for state reimbursement.

The Legislature should adequately finance the construction of vocational education centers, the operation of all such programs, and also the transportation of students. Local property cannot be expected to assume the total additional burden. The control of the center should remain in the hands of the local intermediate school district.

#### UNIVERSITY BOARDS OF CONTROL

Michigan's three major state-supported universities have boards of control nominated and elected through the political system. We believe this system could be improved. Too often, the nominations at political conventions for these positions are based on political reasons rather than ability or dedication.

We believe the State Constitution should be amended to provide that the boards of control of Michigan State University, University of Michigan, and Wayne State University be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. We believe this system has worked well for other colleges in the state.

#### TEACHER TENURE

The inflexibility of the present teacher tenure law makes it unreasonably difficult for school boards to discharge incompetent personnel. School boards are often forced to sit in hearings for unreasonable periods of time. We believe the tenure act should be streamlined to include the use of outside hearing officers, removal of administrators from the act unless specifically included by board action, require a single approach to removal procedure either through the employee contract, tenure act or court system.

The probationary period should be increased only with several reforms to assure a more workable and equitable legal document.

#### MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

The Agricultural Experiment Stations have played a valuable role in our society. 1974 marked the centennial year. Historically, research done in these facilities has helped to increase efficiency in food production. Both farmers and consumers have benefited from developments by this system.

As we look to future world needs with its increasing demands for more and more food and fiber, it is obvious that expanded research is needed if the demand is to be met. New techniques must be applied to farming to aid in solving environmental concerns and conservation of energy and natural resources, and also to meet future production needs. Such research aids all people, both farm and nonfarm.

The Agricultural Experiment Station at Michigan State University is one of the finest in the country. It serves eight colleges, including Agriculture and Natural Resources, Engineering, Human Ecology, Human Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Social Science, and Veterinary Medicine. There are more than 400 research projects with over 250 scientists.

We are proud of the work done by the Experiment Station. However, we are concerned over the fact that appropriations have not kept pace with rising costs. The station has no other source of income. We are shocked to learn that 27 or more top faculty and research personnel have resigned. Such talent cannot be easily replaced. This, at a time when many states are increasing similar research programs by as much as 40-60 percent. Good research is a continuing process and cannot be turned on or off. While Michigan faces a serious fiscal situation, we believe that Agricultural research has proven to be an investment that has returned great dividends to all citizens for over a century. We urge the Legislature to continue to recognize the need for sufficient funds to carry on research projects, such as:

- Optimizing energy, land and water.
- Improving food and feed crop production.
- Dairy systems.
- Livestock and poultry.
- Improving food quality.
- Housing for non-urban communities.
- Environmental monitoring network for agricultural production.

Research is vital to Michigan's highly diversified agriculture. Michigan must not fall further behind and become even less competitive with other states.

#### MSU PLANT SCIENCE BUILDING

The basis for all agriculture is in the ability to efficiently produce crops for food and fiber. Michigan State University is well known for outstanding research work in the area of plant science. Presently, the Plant Science and Horticultural divisions are scattered in several locations. There is a serious need for a Plant Science Building for greater efficiency.

Legislation was passed three years ago appropriating monies to plan a new Plant Science Building at Michigan State University. We are shocked that the planning money has not been released. This project must be treated more urgently.



We will support further appropriations to complete the Plant Science Building.

#### EXTENSION SERVICE

The Cooperative Extension Service has played a vital and successful role in the development of American agriculture. With the help of the Extension Service's information and education programs, American farmers have developed their operations into the most efficient industry in the world. This development has definitely been a financial benefit to individual farmers, but also has helped make it possible for the American consumer to spend a lower percent of his net income for food than any other consumer in the world.

We, within agriculture, believe that every effort should be made to use successful Extension Service methods for all people in our society who desire them; however, at the same time we are concerned that this will be at the expense of the Agricultural Extension Service and research programs.

In light of these considerations, we recommend:

1. Appropriations for nonagricultural programs be in addition to, not in place of, adequate appropriations for agricultural programs.

2. Requirement for special reports put upon the Extension Service be financed by the necessary appropriations, not by siphoning off a part of the already overtaxed budget.

3. Efforts be made to develop Extension-type programs for urban people where they are needed under the jurisdiction of the Extension Service with special appropriations being made for these programs.

4. Extension continue its traditional educational role of supplying unbiased factual information, but avoid taking positions pro or con on public issues.

5. The Cooperative Extension program continue to be administered through the Director within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

6. We recognize Michigan's monetary crisis. However, we believe that the Extension Service is so valuable in the supplying of food both here and abroad that the service be restored.

#### AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The Institute of Agricultural Technology, MSU, reports a constantly increasing enrollment and demand in many occupational fields for employees with agricultural background and training. The Federal Vocational Act of 1963, and 1968 amendments, finally recognized the urgent need for technical training in agriculture. Since that time, the number of students involved in technical training in agriculture has quintupled. A study by the National Academy of Science indicates that three technicians are needed for every college graduate in the agricultural-related fields. Presently, the ratio is only 1-1.

The demand for more teachers of vocational and technical agriculture continues with the advent of "career education" and specialized programs on both secondary and post-secondary levels in vocational centers and community colleges. It is estimated that Michigan could need as many as 2000 teachers by 1980. We urge capable students to consider this career opportunity.

There are 7 areas of training available including: agricultural production; ornamental horticulture; agricultural mechanics; natural resources; agricultural supplies, service, and products; soil, chemicals, and electrical technology.

We strongly urge that teachers of vocational agriculture continue to be employed on a 12-month basis. Summer months provide the opportunity for students to put into practice much of the vocational agricultural instruction provided during the school year. Providing this on-the-farm instruction of students is an important part of the vocational agriculture teacher's responsibility. Vocational agriculture and FFA are unmatched in teaching "individual enterprise" through practical application of classroom training.

We continue to support these programs and the necessary appropriations, and urge that greater emphasis be given to the increasing opportunities in technical agriculture and agribusiness.

#### 4-H

We commend the Michigan Cooperative Extension Service for its role in the development of the 4-H Program. This program has proven valuable by providing educational opportunities to both rural and urban youth. We note that 250,000 youth and 25,000 adult leaders participated in the current year's program, of which 53 percent are from rural areas. More than 18 hours of volunteer time is contributed for each hour of salaried personnel.

We urge that competition be an integral part of the program. Society demands competition every day of one's life.

We also commend the 4-H leadership for the new and exciting projects developed to gain interest and participation on the part of Michigan youth. We will continue to strongly support adequate appropriations for this worthwhile youth program.

#### M.S.U. SCHOOL OF VETERINARIAN MEDICINE

The economics of Michigan is greatly dependent upon agriculture and the livestock industry makes a major contribution. Large animals are important to agriculture and the state economy. We urge the Michigan State

University School of Veterinary Medicine to consider these facts and increase the proportion of students entering the large animal practice.

#### SPECIALIZED EXTENSION AGENTS

Due to the transition from general farming to more specialized agriculture, we feel the movement in the Cooperative Extension Service to specialized multi-county Extension Agents will provide better service to all farmers.

We support this concept and urge the Cooperative Extension Service to continue to create these positions whenever feasible.

We encourage County Boards of Commissioners to cooperate with the Extension Service in providing funds for these agents.

## Roads and Highways

#### COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONS

The Board of County Road Commissioners is a unit of local government responsible for maintenance and construction of most roads within a county. The three-member Boards have six-year staggered terms and are, in most cases, appointed by the County Board of Commissioners. They are elected in 12 counties.

We believe this system has insulated the jurisdiction of our county road systems from direct politics and has resulted in efficient highway management throughout the years. We continue to support the Road Commission concept and oppose any effort to shift control of county roads to some other agency. However, we will support legislation to reduce the term of office from six years to four years. We believe the shorter term will encourage a more responsive commission.

#### HIGHWAYS

Michigan has been known as a good roads state. However, spiraling inflation and the cost of maintenance and construction of highways along with reduced revenues for decreasing gasoline use has resulted in a more severe financial problem. According to one study (TRIP) 36 percent of the state's country roads are considered "intolerable" by federal and state engineering standards. Nearly 34,000 miles of these roads need to be improved because of ruts, lack of paving, narrowness, dangerous curves, and obsolete bridges. It is estimated that over \$40 billion would be needed over the next 20 years for Michigan roads. More than 90 percent of our roads cannot accommodate modern farm produce trucks. Hundreds of miles of rail lines have been abandoned. As these lines are taken out of service, additional freight will have to move by truck over the state's rural roads.

Neglect of local roads due to the almost total lack of M.V.H.F. funding adds to the cost of agricultural products - increased production costs to the farmer and increased food costs to the consumer - everyone loses.

While the interstate system in Michigan is near completion, counties have the additional costly job of fitting county roads into that system to accommodate the increased traffic on local roads caused by small industry, recreational users, etc., which create added stress on such roads and structures. Proper development of rural areas including agricultural transportation needs and industrial expansion is dependent on an adequate road system. For instance, Class A, or frost-free highway system, permits trucks to carry the same weight the year around; but to service county areas, they must often reload.

We recommend:

- Any needed increase in revenues be met through "user taxes" or other revenue sources, rather than a return to the old system of taxing farmland to build roads.

- No further diversion of motor vehicle funds for any nonhighway use, including law enforcement.

- Opposition to any diversion of highway funds (M.V.H.F.) for other modes of transportation. Separate funds should be provided.

- Opposition to any increase in or additional motor vehicle taxes for nonhighway use.

- Matching requirements for local roads should be decreased. (Most local units of government are financially unable to increase their contributions.)

- Local matching funds for bridge replacement and reconstruction should be eliminated as bridges represent a specific problem and are extremely costly. Michigan's share of federal funds for this purpose are not commensurate with other states.

- The counties share of the motor vehicle fund should be increased. Present formula is 44.5 percent for the state with 8 percent of the mileage (9,322 miles), 35.7 percent to the counties with 75.9 percent of the mileage (88,048 miles) and 19.8 percent to the cities.

- Consideration be given to counties with large areas of public recreation lands, not only because of the heavy financial burden placed on such counties, but adequate roads can also be a part of an effective safety program.

- There should be no further increases in gross weight, width, and length limitation of trucks using any road system in the near future. Most systems are inadequate to carry even the existing loads.

- Routes should be chosen to avoid diagonal highways and the use of productive agricultural lands.

- Multiple use of highway rights-of-way for pipelines and other utilities.

Good local roads are essential if rural areas are to be developed to their fullest potential and if transportation costs are to be kept to a minimum.

#### TRUCK LICENSING

Farm trucks are often used only for a short time and for short hauls. Present license laws do not allow farmers to purchase short-term license plates that will cover the harvest time operation of their trucks. We recommend a six-month license with the farmer allowed to pick the six months of his choice.

#### HIGHWAY SAFETY

Highway accidents take many lives each year; many people are injured, and much property damage occurs. To help reduce auto accidents, we recommend that:

1. Motorcycles be required to operate with headlight and identifying light on, even during the daylight hours, making them clearly visible to oncoming vehicles on all public roads.

2. Hard-top roads should be marked with center lines and side lines as an aid to safer nighttime driving.

3. STOP AHEAD signs should be placed an appropriate distance from every STOP sign where a particular hazard exists.

4. County Road Commissions clear roadsides and intersections of hazards within road rights-of-way that obstruct the view of motorists.

5. Signs within the traveled lanes of any highway be the flexible or breakaway type.

6. Red and amber reflectors be banned as mailbox and driveway markers and only blue or green markers be used.

7. Slow-moving vehicle signs be used only on vehicles as intended by law, with stricter enforcement and penalties for violators.

8. The state make greater effort to remove intoxicated drivers from our highways.

9. Bumpers on cars should be a standard distance from the ground.

10. The checklane system be continued, instead of the proposed mandatory annual vehicle inspection.

11. Roads not be used as headlands, because it is dangerous to farmers and hazardous to traffic.

12. All rural roads be marked with a name or number. Houses should be numbered, and the number clearly visible from the road. This information is essential during emergencies.

13. The 55 mile per hour speed limit be maintained and enforced as a safety measure and to conserve energy.

14. Stop or yield signs be placed at all unmarked road intersections so that traffic on at least one of the roads must stop or yield.

15. Place mail and paper boxes on same side of road to make travel with wide machinery safer and easier.

16. Present laws dealing with stopping for school buses are not uniform in all areas and lead to confusion. A uniform state law should be adopted for the safety of both the children and the motorist.

17. Shoulders on new construction or repairs of state highways should be unobstructed to a width of 12 feet by road signs, bridge abutments, mail boxes, etc. This would permit farm equipment to travel out of the line of traffic.

#### BICYCLE SAFETY AND LICENSING

The number of bicycles being used on Michigan streets and roads has increased greatly in the past few years. Unfortunately in too many instances, misfortune has struck owners and operators of bicycles. Fatal accidents involving bicycles have increased and bicycle theft has reached epidemic proportions. It is evident that action is needed to curb these happenings. The general public needs to understand that bicycles have the same rights to the road as motor vehicles. Riders need to practice better riding habits. Safety devices need to be installed on bikes and a means of identifying bikes for reporting of unsafe operation and the prevention of theft is needed.

We will support legislation which establishes realistic safety equipment on bicycles including flags and reflectors.

#### RAILROAD CAR REFLECTORS

Many serious traffic accidents resulting in death, injuries, and great monetary loss are occurring at unprotected railroad crossings. Many of these accidents happen during hours of darkness. We believe that luminous paint or reflectors should be required on the sides of new or repainted railroad cars as a safety measure. We further recommend that reflectors be placed on both sides of the railroad crossing. While a great deal of progress has been made in the use of reflectors on cars and crossings, there is still much to be done in the interest of maximum safety.

## Natural Resources

#### NUCLEAR ENERGY

The growing demand for electrical energy at reasonable costs warrants expanded use of nuclear power in view of limited fossil fuel resources and uncertain political and economic factors in petroleum-producing areas of the world. We support the use of nuclear fueled power plants, but we must assure reasonable safeguards.

to the public. Nuclear wastes should not be disposed of in Michigan or any other state unless proper safeguards and monitoring of disposal areas are assured. Whenever possible, areas of low population should be selected for nuclear waste disposal sites.

#### PUBLIC UTILITIES

Activities of power and utility companies take them across much of Michigan's farmlands. They often damage underground tile in farmlands when installing new facilities. Farm owners should be notified 30 days prior to installation of such new facilities so the farmer can identify the location of tile and prevent damages.

Electric and telephone utility transmission lines, gas lines and oil right-of-way agreements are often confusing to property owners. Many are based on different statutes. We believe that the acquiring of rights-of-way for these purposes should be standardized as nearly as possible with contracts or other legal instruments including as many protections to the owner as possible. We further believe that consideration should be given to the leasing, rather than sale, of rights-of-way.

We support legislation to require that a utility give present landowners utility corridors crossing their lands when no longer needed by the utility.

We support private ownership of electric companies in the state and nation. We strongly oppose state or federal governments becoming involved in the production of electrical power.

The size of farm machinery today is growing not only in width but in height. We recommend that all telephone and electric wires, specifically those strung across the road, should be not less than 14 feet above the ground at any point.

#### ELECTRICAL RATES

The cost of electrical power has traditionally been on a "declining scale", as usage increased the cost per unit decreased. Recent Public Service Commission orders have required some utility companies to adopt an "inverted" rate structure whereby the cost per unit increases as the usage increases. We are concerned with the inverted rate trend. This concept is especially detrimental to farmers who have limited control over the amount of energy and time frame in which it is used. We urge reconsideration of placing farmers on an inverted rate schedule.

#### ENVIRONMENT

Public concern for the environment continues to be a powerful force. This concern poses serious implications to agriculture. The future of agriculture is dependent on air, water and land as natural tools of production. Agriculture has an important responsibility to improve the quality of our environment.

All persons engaged in agriculture should become informed of pollution sources and discipline themselves so as not to add to the problem. Good housekeeping and a good neighbor policy can do much to prevent environmental problems from occurring. We urge that agricultural representatives be consulted during the development of pollution regulations and that such regulations, when implemented, be realistic and consistent with good production practices.

Continued research is necessary to find adequate answers to agricultural waste disposal problems. Continued emphasis should be placed on developing recycling systems for agricultural waste.

We recommend that whenever an environmental impact study is required, an economic study should also be required to inform the public of the probable consequences of the proposals.

Agriculture should continue to be a voting member of the Air Pollution Control Commission and Water Resources Commission.

#### LAND USE

Land is an essential resource to those who make their living from the soil. It is also an essential resource to the economy of Michigan and to the well-being of all citizens. Less than one-third of Michigan's 36.3 million acres is farmland. The production of food and fiber on this farmland contributes over \$1.7 billion annually to the economy, making agriculture our second largest and most stable industry. Although less than one out of every 100 Michigan citizens operates a farm, 27 percent derive some part of their income from agriculture.

Michigan produces approximately 50 percent of the food needed within the state. However, urban sprawl and unplanned development are moving steadily across much of our most productive farmland. It is imperative to the future well-being of every Michigan citizen that our essential farmlands be protected for food production.

We support the formation of the Land Resources Program Division within the Department of Natural Resources and we urge that it continue to provide assistance to local units of government in solving land use problems. We commend the Division for its appointment of an Agricultural Land Committee to provide advice on land use programs affecting farmland. We are pleased that the Division worked closely with agricultural interests in developing a manual to help local people develop effective zoning programs to retain essential agricultural lands. We support legislation to assign land use responsibilities within state government to the Department of Natural Resources.

We support legislation to create a Land Use Commission within the Department of Natural Resources. The majority of the Commission should represent forestry and agricultural interests. The Commission should have responsibility for coordinating the development and implementation of broad statewide land use guidelines for use by local government in identifying such areas as essential agricultural land, urban development, recreational land, unique areas, forest lands, utility and transportation corridors. Our state ranks 5th or higher among the 50 states in the production of 22 food crops grown on a wide range of soils. Essential farmland should not be based solely on soil capability for one or two major crops. The state should also provide necessary guidelines to assist local governments in implementing adequate land use programs. Such land use programs should include the retention of essential farmland. The state guidelines should provide for strong local involvement in both the land use planning and implementation process and include the following principles:

1. Private property rights and the right of individual appeal must be preserved.
2. Planning for land resources which are essentially local in character must be a responsibility of local government.
3. Enforcement of land use regulations and the settlement of conflicts must be a function of the level of government closest to the people affected.
4. Planning for local land resources must be permitted some flexibility to allow local planning bodies to adopt plans that reflect local goals.
5. A partnership approach in implementing sound land use programs should be developed between all levels of government and the private sector.

State land use plans or programs should be instituted only if those developed by local government cannot meet established guidelines. We urge Farm Bureau members to take an active part in land use planning at all levels of government. If local land use control is to be maintained, it is imperative that local people accept the responsibility to plan the use of their land resources.

Funds available to a state should not be withheld as a weapon to enforce compliance with a federal land use program.

#### WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

The Water Resources Commission has made rapid progress in water pollution control and is now authorized to administer the federally required NPDES permit program. The WRC has developed a good program to protect and improve our abundant water resources.

We appreciate the continued efforts of WRC personnel to work with agriculture in advising and informing farmers on water pollution issues. We will continue efforts to maintain this working relationship.

We support continued authority for water pollution control in Michigan by the WRC, and will work to protect such authority.

We oppose federal programs that threaten to reduce state water pollution control to a custodial level.

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, establishes a goal of zero water pollution by 1985. We believe the zero water pollution goal is impractical and unattainable. The dates established in the Act to meet such a goal should be extended five years. During this additional time, the Act should be substantially modified.

#### AREAWIDE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, requires each state to designate appropriate agencies to study area water quality problems and prepare and implement plans to control pollution sources. Plans prepared under Section 208 must identify, if appropriate, agriculturally related nonpoint sources of pollution, including runoff from manure disposal areas and from land used for livestock and crop production. The plan must also set forth procedures and methods including land use requirements, to control to the extent feasible such sources.

Each of the 14 Regional Planning Commissions in Michigan have been designated and funded to prepare Section 208 plans for their respective geographic jurisdictions. Public participation is required. We urge Farm Bureau members to participate in discussions and public hearings and to exert influence to whatever extent possible regarding this planning process which can greatly affect agriculture.

#### COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZM) was passed by Congress in 1972. The law provides federal funding to assist states in planning coastal areas. Michigan is participating in the planning process and is eligible for reimbursement of a portion of the cost from the federal CZM Agency if certain requirements are met.

Under the CZM Act the state must decide what land uses have a direct and significant effect on coastal waters and show how it plans to manage these major uses within the coastal zone. The coastal zone boundary has been tentatively set at 1,000 feet inland along most of the Great Lakes coast. The boundary would bulge further inland around special areas that are directly related to the Great Lakes such as river mouths, wetlands, flood areas, sand dunes, wildlife areas, coastal lakes and public beaches. A secondary boundary for planning purposes would follow the inland boundary of local townships bordering the shores of the Great Lakes.

Because boundaries included in the CZM planning process will include Great Lakes and certain other shorelands used for general agriculture or specialty crops, we urge affected members to participate in public hearings on the final plan which will be held this winter by the Department of Natural Resources.

#### LAND DISPOSAL OF WASTEWATER OR SLUDGE

The use of land to dispose of industrial and municipal wastewater or sludge is receiving much attention due to national water pollution abatement goals established by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The supply of nutrients in these wastes could be beneficial to agriculture. There are also several potential problem areas of concern to farmers. We believe any proposal to use productive farmland for disposal of such wastes should:

1. Permit private enterprise agriculture with voluntary participation.
2. Provide flexibility in amount and timing of application of the wastes according to agricultural needs.
3. Provide indemnity payments for unsaleable crops due to Food and Drug Administration regulations or crop losses caused by components in the wastes.
4. Provide indemnity for land should it become unfit for use because of components in the wastes.

We support the efforts of a Task Force now working to develop guidelines for use by municipalities and farmers that will assist in adapting disposal of these wastes to private agriculture.

#### AIR POLLUTION

We support an amendment to the Air Pollution Act that will exclude from the definition of air pollution, dust and natural odors associated with agricultural operations exercising recommended management practices. Producers need this amendment to prevent legal harassment in the name of environmental quality.

#### CERTIFICATION OF PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATORS

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act of 1972 requires that after October 21, 1977, farmers and other private pesticide applicators must be certified before using "restricted" pesticides. The Michigan Department of Agriculture is responsible for administering the program in Michigan. The Cooperative Extension Service will conduct meetings to help farmers meet test standards required for certification. We urge the Environmental Protection Agency to publish the list of "restricted" pesticides at the earliest date possible. All potential private applicators of "restricted" pesticides should make plans to become certified to insure their continued access to such pesticides.

#### AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS AND DRUGS

Modern agriculture cannot continue to provide sufficient quantities of high quality food and fiber to meet the nation's needs without the use of agricultural chemicals and drugs. Any undue curtailment of the safe and appropriate usage of these products will result in lower quality food and fiber at higher costs to consumers.

We believe governmental agencies, research organizations and manufacturers of chemical products must continue comprehensive research studies about the toxicity to humans, disease causing effect, and the life duration of the chemical.

We urge that responsible agencies not issue scare warnings until they are certain a problem exists. This has happened on numerous occasions in the past and in every instance has harmed the market for some products of American agriculture.

In any evaluation of chemicals and drugs, the possible detrimental effects must be considered in relation to the benefits derived. Only through a complete evaluation can a balance between environmental control and chemical control be effectively attained. Unless conclusive evidence exists to prove that a threat to public health exists, government agencies should not impose a zero tolerance upon any chemical or drug.

#### MINERAL RIGHTS

In many areas of the state, mineral rights were either sold or retained by original owners throughout the years resulting in the fact that many present day owners do not own the mineral rights to their property. Farming operations are disturbed when the owners of mineral rights exercise their right to develop the mineral resources. While compensation is due the owner of the surface rights, often there are other losses incurred for which no compensation is received. We believe that the owner of the surface rights should receive some portion of the royalties to compensate him for these losses and the fact that he has paid taxes on the property over the years.

Presently, there are laws permitting oil and gas mineral rights to revert to the owner of the property. We believe this principle should be extended to other kinds of mineral rights. However, we believe that the present 20 year claim period should be reduced to ten years.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES

Data gathered from highly sophisticated exploratory techniques indicates Michigan has large amounts of untapped gas and oil beneath state-owned lands. These energy supplies represent important resources to keep agriculture and other segments of the economy operating while alternate energy sources are being developed. We

support the development of these vast oil and gas supplies beneath state-owned lands providing strict environmental controls are assured.

A portion of the sales of oil and gas from state and federally-owned property should be returned to the county in which the property is located.

#### WILDLIFE PRESERVATION

Wildlife is important to the economy of Michigan and its public recreational opportunities. Federal and state wildlife areas contribute much to the preservation of wildlife and migratory waterfowl.

Establishing new and expanding existing wildlife areas often causes serious problems. These include acquisition of good farmlands, increased crop damage to surrounding farmlands, and loss of local tax base.

We urge that practical safeguards including advance notification to landowners in the affected and surrounding areas be established to provide equitable protection to farmers against unreasonable land acquisition for federal and state wildlife areas. Alternate site locations, consideration for continued farming of wildlife areas, and an assessment of the impact upon surrounding agricultural land should be considered when establishing new or expanding present wildlife areas.

An effective weed control program should be carried out within a strip inside the wildlife area boundaries to minimize weed infestation on adjacent farmland.

#### DEER HERD

We support the deer habitat improvement program of the Department of Natural Resources. The Department should continue to consider the opinion of farmers when establishing its policy regarding the shooting of antlerless deer in the overall deer management program. Farm Bureau should work with the Department of Natural Resources in the development of hunters choice permit regulations which will recognize increasing crop damage caused by deer and establish priority to agricultural producers in the issuance of hunters choice permits.

Attempts to ban the shining of deer have been declared unconstitutional. In view of this legal barrier, we will support legislation to:

1. Ban any shining in fields where livestock is kept or pastured.
2. Ban shining whenever a bow or firearm is in the possession of the individual unless otherwise permitted by law.
3. Prohibit allowing the rays of an artificial light to be cast upon occupied buildings except when necessary by persons working within the scope of their employment.

#### GAME LAWS

Portions of the present game laws are causing problems to landowners and hunters in specific areas of the state. We request the Department of Natural Resources to examine present game laws with special consideration to a summer season on woodchucks, possibility of a fall turkey hunt in Northern Michigan with landowners allowed to purchase permits and return of the October 20 opening date for squirrel season in Zone 3.

Farmers should be aware that local Conservation Officers may be called upon to assess damage to crops from wildlife such as raccoons, muskrats, etc. If the damage warrants, a permit can be issued for the landowner to conduct appropriate control measures or the Conservation Officer may choose to conduct a control program.

#### DESTRUCTIVE WILDLIFE AND PESTS

Blackbirds, crows, and starlings are causing serious damage to crops and property in many farming areas. They are also a potential carrier of disease to humans and livestock. We recommend that intensive research efforts be continued by state and federal agencies to find an effective method of control and eradication. Federal compensation for proven crop damage should be provided where there are concentrations of bird pests and wildlife such as the Sandhill Crane.

We recommend that farmers experiencing crop losses from bird pests and wildlife call upon United States Bureau of Fisheries and Wildlife personnel headquartered in the Michigan Department of Agriculture for assistance in minimizing these serious crop losses.

The Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act has resulted in protection for crows by establishing a closed season. In view of the increasing crop damage caused by crows, farmers should be aware that regulations permit landowners to harvest crows in the act of, or about to, commit acts of depredation.

#### HUNTER ACCESS PROGRAM

Michigan Farm Bureau supports legislation to increase hunting license fees to finance a statewide program of providing hunter access to farmland if accompanied by adequate safeguards to the landowner. Funds obtained from the license fees shall be earmarked for administration of the program and to provide payments to participating landowners. The safeguards must include the following:

1. Provide for voluntary participation by landowners.
2. Ensure landowners control over hunter access regarding unharvested crops and number of hunters allowed at any given time.
3. Opportunity to cancel the agreement if hunter access proves to be unsatisfactory.

4. Require hunters to stop at the farmstead and obtain permission before entering the property.

5. Provide distinctive program signs to participating landowners and require them to post the signs in a manner to clearly define the property boundaries.

6. Automatic penalty to hunters who trespass on property of participating landowners.

7. Relieve participating landowners of liability for injury to complying hunters unless cause by deliberate action of the landowner.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

The Department of Natural Resources administers many programs affecting agriculture. We are pleased that a farmer now serves on the Natural Resources Commission. This appointment has created a balance on the Commission and resulted in a better overall understanding of environmental issues. We will continue to support appointment of a farmer to the Commission.

#### AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

The Agricultural Environmental Committee, composed of producers representing major commodity interests and agricultural groups, has conducted many activities to assist Michigan agriculture in meeting some of its environmental challenges. We commend the members of this committee for their involvement in environmental issues important to Michigan agriculture and support their activities.

#### SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The Soil Conservation Districts, now organized in every Michigan county, are operated by elected directors serving without salary and are effective units of soil-saving activity. We pledge our support to work with Soil Conservation Districts to conserve soil and water through sound conservation practices. We believe Soil Conservation Districts should remain within the Michigan Department of Agriculture. We support legislation to provide the Department of Agriculture with adequate funds to conduct an inventory of the soil resources of the state over a ten year period.

#### SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION

Good soil conservation practices, minimizing erosion and conserving water, are one of agriculture's most important contributions to a clean environment. However, responsibility for the use and improvement of land and water resources rests on all citizens, urban as well as rural. The unprecedented world and domestic demand for food, places a tremendous responsibility on all segments of society to safeguard our land resources from soil erosion.

The Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act of 1972 provides for a locally administered permit program to control soil erosion. Under the Act prescribed earth changes must be conducted in accordance with an approved soil erosion control plan. In 1974 the Legislature exempted from the Act plowing or tilling of land for the purpose of crop production. Regional Planning Commissions are preparing Section 208 plans to control land runoff and the Water Resources Commission has proposed water quality rules which would control the use of plant nutrients to protect surface waters. We believe an amendment to the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act can provide an acceptable way for agriculture to avoid these potentially harsh controls.

We support an amendment to bring currently exempted agricultural practices back under the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act. The amendment should provide that after a specified date of not earlier than 1982 such agricultural practices would continue to be exempt if carried out in accordance with an approved conservation plan prepared by a Soil Conservation District.

#### DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION

Many acres of productive farmland would be lost without adequate drainage systems to handle excess water. We are opposed to legislation and regulations that would restrict agricultural drainage.

The use of irrigation for crop production continues to grow annually. We are opposed to efforts that would restrict traditional riparian rights of farmers. We support the formation of a Task Force to study present water laws, identify potential riparian problems which might affect agriculture and develop equitable recommendations to solve such riparian problems.

#### PRESCRIBED BURNING

The present policy of some federal agencies allowing fires to burn uncontrolled in wilderness areas should be reevaluated. We believe that prescribed burning is a beneficial forest management practice and should be continued.

#### SNOWMOBILES AND ATV'S

Many property owners report that the rapidly increasing number of snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles are causing damage to crops, young trees, and fences on private property. We should be aware that Trespass Law now includes these vehicles.

Snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, trail bikes, and similar machines should be covered by mandatory liability and property damage insurance when operating on property other than that of the owner.

We support efforts of the Department of Natural Resources to develop more trails for these machines on public lands.

#### LAND ACQUISITION

Private ownership and operation of land resources is in the best interest of our nation. Acquisition of fee title or interest in land by government for a public use should require individual state legislation or congressional approval following clear demonstration of the need for such use. In these cases, every effort should be made to select less valuable land. We urge that state and federal government consider leasing of needed land or taking easements rather than outright purchases.

#### RIGHTS-OF-WAY

In the exercise of eminent domain and obtaining rights-of-way for utilities, highways, and other uses, we urge that procedures be as uniform as possible. This would enable property owners to better understand and use the provisions to obtain fair and equitable settlements.

#### SUBDIVISION CONTROL

The present Subdivision Control Act permits a tract of land to be divided into not more than four parcels of ten acres or less without platting. However, many instances of circumventing the platting of land have been observed through the selling of land in parcels of 10.1 acres or greater. This practice has led to several areas of unplanned developments which can be costly to the community.

We will support legislation to eliminate the inadequacies of the present Act and require the platting of all subdivisions.

Local zoning laws should continue to control strip building along highways on agricultural land as authorized under present zoning laws.

## Agriculture

#### STATE AND FEDERAL MARKETING ORDERS

Marketing orders, at both the State and Federal levels, have provided for the orderly marketing of several commodities. Both producers and consumers have benefited because one of the objectives of a marketing order is to provide a constant supply of product. Two examples of federal marketing orders are:

1. The federal red tart cherry marketing order which has been successful in removing cherries from the market during surplus crop years. This management of supply has benefited producers, processors and consumers.
2. The federal milk marketing order which covers a highly perishable commodity with a relatively constant consumer demand. The milk marketing order has helped provide a daily supply of fresh milk.

By supplying the market with a relatively constant supply of product, prices to both consumer and producers tend to fluctuate less.

Marketing orders should not be used to control production directly, establish closed markets, maintain artificially high prices, or collect funds for the purchase of agricultural products for diversion purposes.

Any marketing order should meet the following criteria:

1. Be producer oriented.
2. Be market oriented and used to maintain and expand markets.
3. Provide opportunity for new producers to enter the industry.
4. Contain provision for periodic review through referenda to determine if the producers covered by a marketing order favor its continuation.
5. Allow a minority of producers to petition for rehearings or a new referendum.
6. Cover commodities which are produced for the same general market irrespective of the production area.
7. Provide that rejection of a proposed amendment shall not result in termination of the entire order.
8. Provide for termination of an existing order only by producer referendum.

#### AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AND BARGAINING ACT

The Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act (P.A. 344 as amended) has proven to be a fair and equitable procedure through which accredited bargaining associations and processors negotiate fruit and vegetable prices and other terms of trade. We commend the Michigan Legislature and Governor Milliken for removing the expiration date originally in the Act. We urge the Michigan Supreme Court and several lower courts to quickly resolve the backlog of litigation on this Act. We support amendments to the Act which would clarify provisions to make it more workable. All efforts of the opponents of P.A. 344 which would weaken the Act or cripple its implementation shall continue to be opposed. We continue to support P.A. 344 and its enactment in other states to eventually have it become nationwide in scope.

#### BUYER BONDING

Agricultural producers have little assurance of payment for their commodities other than the past reputation of a buyer. Many producers sell large quantities of a given commodity to one buyer. If that buyer defaults in making payment, the producers face economic ruin. We support legislation to require contract buyers of

farm commodities to post adequate performance bonds for the financial protection of producers on their marketing operations.

#### MOISTURE TESTING STANDARDS

All farmers who wish to sell crops at local elevators must rely on the accuracy of the scales and moisture testing equipment at the elevators. There currently are regulations concerning the scales. While the grain buyers who trade under U.S. grain standards must meet U.S.D.A. criteria, there is no enforceable inspection of all grain dealers. We feel that the farmer should have the additional safeguard of state inspection on moisture testing equipment.

#### QUARANTINE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

In trying to meet the growing need for food, farmers are doing all they can to increase food production. This often calls for new methods, production techniques and often use of chemicals.

While great care must be taken to use precaution in handling these chemicals, we recognize that sometimes accidents may occur. This may lead to quarantine of farms and possible disposal of products.

We believe that for all products the quarantine period should not exceed thirty (30) days. By the end of that period, the governmental agency imposing the quarantine must take one of three actions:

1. Revoke the quarantine.
2. Continue the quarantine for an additional thirty (30) days. Total quarantine should not exceed sixty (60) consecutive days.
3. Condemn the product and dispose of it within (10) days. In the case of poultry, the total quarantine should not exceed thirty (30) days.

#### PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

The Michigan Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act, P.A. 232, passed in 1965, provides uniform procedures permitting producers of any commodity to establish a program for product promotion, market development, and information, research, product standards and inspection, determination of surplus and producers assessments. The producers of apples, cherries and soybeans have adopted programs using one or more of the permitted provisions. We continue to support the right of producers by petition of 200 or 25 percent, whichever is less, to initiate a referendum for adoption, amendment or termination of a program and the right of individual producers to vote in a referendum on initiation, amendment or termination of any promotion program for a commodity which they produce. We will support legislation to amend the Act to require:

1. That in order for a referendum or any proposal to be approved, it must receive consent from a simple majority by number of those producers voting and by a simple majority by volume of those producers voting.
2. Review and referenda during each fifth year to determine whether the program should be continued, amended or terminated, or at any time upon petition of the producers with voting requirements the same as those required for initiation of the program.
3. That if producers, through a referendum, enact a program, all producers must abide by the majority and all contribute to the program.

We believe that producers of any commodity wishing to promote their product should do so within the broad and uniform provisions of the Act.

We will work with the Michigan Department of Agriculture to assure that this enabling legislation continues to be available to producers wishing to establish such programs.

Any commission or body created under an agricultural commodity promotion program must provide complete accountability of the expenditure of funds collected from producers. Funds released to any agricultural organization, public agency or private firm for promotion or research purposes should be on a contractual basis with complete accountability required.

#### WHITE WHEAT FUTURE CONTRACT DELIVERY

Soft white wheat is the major class of wheat produced in Michigan. It is the only class of wheat for which there are no provisions for delivering against a future contract.

We urge the Chicago Board of Trade to develop provisions for actual physical delivery of soft white wheat against the Chicago Board of Trade Wheat Futures contract. Such delivery points should be the same as for soft red wheat - namely Toledo and/or Chicago.

#### PROMPT PAYMENT FOR PRODUCE

We deplore the practice by some fruit and vegetable processors and handlers of operating on grower's money due to delayed payment for produce delivered. Sometimes this period extends for as long as a year or more. Growers must pay farm workers immediately after work is performed and are required to pay for other costs of production within a set period of time in accordance with normal business practices.

We, therefore, urge fruit and vegetable producers to develop firm business policies concerning contracts and overdue accounts. Farmers should add an appropriate interest charge to any account not paid in full after 30 days.

We support legislation that would require processors and handlers, purchasing fruits and vegetables from growers, to make full payment within 30 days of the date of purchase unless other provisions are made by written contract.

#### ANIMAL HEALTH DIAGNOSIS AND FEED ANALYSIS

We commend the Governor and Legislature for funding the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Michigan State University. The laboratory will protect our animal industries and food supply through rapid and accurate diagnosis of nonregulated disease or toxic substance contamination.

We also support the creation of a feed analysis laboratory for Michigan that will provide technical information to farmers. This laboratory should work in conjunction with the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory at Michigan State University.

We support the necessary funding for full implementation of this disaster prevention program.

#### ANIMAL HEALTH RESEARCH

The income from livestock and livestock products represents the largest segment of Michigan agriculture. We are concerned about the increasing incidence of diseases such as fatal disease of newborn calves, IBR, BVD, P13, and shipping fever in beef and dairy cattle.

We support research at the MSU Agricultural Experiment Station on these diseases and ask the Legislature to continue appropriations for this needed research.

#### POSTING OF DRYING AND SHRINKAGE TABLES

We believe that elevators and drying facilities in Michigan should adopt standardized tables for grain and bean shrinkage. Furthermore, we believe all elevators and drying facilities should be required to post the standardized table plus schedules showing drying and shrink charges.

#### SOYBEAN RESEARCH AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Soybean acreage is increasing in our state. This crop is an important part of Michigan's farm income. We believe the research on this crop should be intensified at Michigan State University. Monies collected from the Michigan Soybean Promotion and Development Program could also be used to promote overseas and domestic sales of soybeans. Major emphasis however, should be the testing of new varieties adaptable to Michigan soils and climatic conditions and for soybean disease, weed, and insect control research.

#### TRANSPORTATION AND GRAIN HANDLING

There is a serious need for a comprehensive study of the transportation, physical handling and delivery system for field crops in Michigan and the U.S. Given the tremendous scope and cost of such a project, we realize that no single organization or institution can carry out this study alone. Therefore, we urge Michigan Farm Bureau to work closely with other agencies, organizations or institutions studying these important areas.

#### "X-DISEASE" IN FRUIT

The State of Michigan is in danger of losing a portion of its fruit industry to a rapidly-spreading microplasm referred to as "X-Disease." Very little is known about this organism except that it lives a part of its life cycle in choke-cherry and is carried by several species of leafhoppers from the infected choke-cherry to peach and tart cherry trees. Once infected, the fruit trees decline over several years (1-4) until they eventually die. During the period of decline, these trees serve as an additional source of infection in the orchards.

This disease has destroyed the once viable peach industries in several areas, including the Romeo area of Eastern Michigan in the 1940's and in the Hudson Valley Area of New York in the 1930's. During this industry crisis in New York some research was done regarding X-Disease. Little has been learned about it since that time. Industry researchers know very little about the disease and growers have had little guidance in controlling the disease. Until very recently it was believed that the disease could not be passed directly from one fruit tree to another in the orchard. Based on this assumption, many growers have left infected trees in their orchards so that now the disease has spread throughout the many acres of peach and cherry plantings.

Being a microplasm, there is no known treatment for this disease. The only known way of limiting its spread is to remove the choke-cherry and infected fruit trees, and to reduce the population of leaf-hoppers in peach and cherry production areas.

We urge that the MDA and MSU Agricultural Experiment Station vigorously pursue a research program directed toward finding more effective means of controlling this disease.

Also, in the meantime, when inspectors from the MDA Plant Industry Division make their annual peach virus inspections, they should be trained to recognize choke-cherry plants and X-Disease infected peach and cherry trees and should mark these wherever they are found. This will help growers to better understand the extent of the infection on their property and make it possible for them to remove sources of infection.

#### EUROPEAN SKIPPER INSECT

The European Skipper has caused severe losses to hay growers in the Eastern U.P. and Northeastern Lower Peninsula. We encourage greater inter-agency cooperation, and an all-out effort to fight the advance of

this insect pest by the Michigan Department of Agriculture, MSU Entomology Department and Canadian and Wisconsin regulatory agencies.

#### GYPSY MOTH

The gypsy moth is a growing problem for Michigan agriculture. The moth has been identified in several counties. Damage caused by the moth does not present a favorable atmosphere for tourists. Control measures must be taken to halt the spread and eliminate the gypsy moth.

We support the Michigan Department of Agriculture in its efforts to eradicate the gypsy moth, using the most economical, scientific methods available.

#### RESEARCH AND PROMOTION FOR MICHIGAN PLUMS

The Michigan purple plum industry has experienced a production growth pattern from less than 10 percent of the national crop to its present 25 percent. At the same time, the amount of the plum crop which is being processed has gone from approximately 25 percent to over 70 percent without any significant increase in demand. The balance is consumed through fresh market outlets. These factors have placed pressure on the market price for plums and resulted in low prices to growers.

It has become obvious to many Farm Bureau members and the Michigan Plum Growers Marketing Committee that an investment into research projects and promotion-publicity programs for plums must be considered and implemented to provide a profitable and viable future. New handling techniques, new products for plums and new marketing systems will be important to the future of the plum industry.

We support the Michigan Plum Growers in the consideration and implementation of a Plum Industry Research and Promotion Program under Public Act 232.

#### CALFHOOD VACCINATION

Michigan presently requires calfhood vaccination for brucellosis of female beef and dairy breeding stock imported into the state or sold from one farm to another within the state.

Since Michigan is brucellosis free, and one of only three states with this strict regulation, we believe we should maintain our present calfhood vaccination program. To aid in maintaining this law, we believe the indemnity should be paid only to owners of calfhood vaccinated animals.

#### PROCESSED MILK TEMPERATURE

The school milk program is important to Michigan dairy producers and the nutrition of Michigan's youth. High quality milk must be kept refrigerated. Processed milk should be moved directly from cooler to cooler and not be allowed to sit. The current processed milk temperature requirement of 45 degrees Fahrenheit should be strictly enforced for the benefit of the consumer.

We ask County Farm Bureaus to work with their County Health Departments and school boards to enforce the temperature requirements of processed milk in school milk programs.

#### MILK HAULING

We urge the Michigan Public Service Commission to review its position which requires MPSC regulations of certain milk hauling operations in the State. Since that position means that some farm-to-market milk hauling is regulated while other farm-to-market milk hauling is not, the result is an inequitable situation both for dairy farmers and milk haulers.

We firmly believe that the intent of the current law was to exempt from regulation the hauling of milk from farm to market, since all other agricultural commodities are exempt in this fashion. Thus, we believe the MPSC's interpretation of that law to require regulations in some instances is contrary to what clearly was intended to be a general farm-to-market exemption for milk transportation.

We also pledge our support to any effort designed to remedy this current inequitable situation.

#### MICHIGAN STATE FAIR

We recognize the need to create a better understanding and appreciation between the agricultural and industrial producer and the user or consumer through the Michigan State Fair. Because of its location, the Michigan State Fair is within relatively easy access to the majority of Michigan residents and offers the unique opportunity to bring the producers and processors of food and consumers together. We further recognize the need to make the fair program more youth oriented.

We urge the Michigan legislature and the Governor of the state of Michigan to fund the necessary improvements to bring the various buildings, facilities and systems of the Michigan State Fair up to acceptable Michigan standards.

#### INSPECTOR INTRODUCTION AND IDENTIFICATION

We recognize the vital role that food inspectors play in assuring the public wholesome food. However we are concerned with unknown visitors on our farms. We urge that all inspectors present themselves to the farm owner, manager or someone in charge, presenting identification which clearly identifies who the inspector represents and the reason for inspecting the premises. We urge that inspectors introduce themselves prior to the inspection.

# Labor

## LABOR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

Farm employees are concerned over the lack of laws and procedures to deal effectively with the problems associated with farm-labor unionization.

The unbridled use of violence and coercion in the field of labor relations in agriculture has reached such a serious level in several states that action must be taken by state legislatures and the U.S. Congress to restore order and bring about orderly procedures that will protect the rights of workers, farmer-employers, and the consuming public.

We continue to prefer that farm labor relations be governed by a separate act and a separate administrative board, since we feel that the National Labor Relations Act was not written with agriculture in mind and was not designed to handle the unusual problems involved in producing crops and livestock.

Both farmers and consumers need some protection against strikes and boycotts during critical growing and harvesting periods, since they can destroy an entire year's income for farmers and result in the loss of needed food and excessive prices for consumers.

However, we would support the inclusion of agriculture under the National Labor Relations Act with amendments to recognize the unique characteristics of agricultural employment with these major guidelines:

1. Prohibit secondary boycotts
2. Preserve the right of states to enact laws relating to compulsory unionism
3. Include workable provisions on bargaining units
4. Prohibit strikes by workers during critical periods of growing and harvesting.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Unemployment insurance is a social insurance program to compensate employees for their loss of earnings at times of involuntary unemployment.

However the original intent has been so defiled by regulation and interpretation to allow the act to become an enrichment program.

Unemployment insurance should be used only to compensate employees who are involuntarily unemployed.

Unemployment insurance payments should not be paid to persons on strike or who voluntarily retire.

The present extended period during which benefit payments can be paid (65 weeks) discourages many from seeking gainful employment. The period of payment should be reduced to a more realistic period.

Michigan farmers must compete in U.S. and world markets. Therefore we would oppose a state program for agricultural employers and employees which provide more extensive coverage than that provided in the federal unemployment insurance act.

Farm employers who will not qualify under the federal guidelines should continue to be allowed to voluntarily provide unemployment insurance for their employees.

We would support a program whereby an overdraft in the Michigan fund due to agricultural employment be paid from Federal unemployment insurance funds.

## MINIMUM WAGE (STATE)

Minimum wages should not be increased during a time of high unemployment. Increasing wages discourages those employers who have work available from hiring employees.

Piece rates as a method of payment allows for the many variable situations found in agricultural employment and are essential to provide employment opportunities for family groups, vacation time jobs for students, retirees and certain types of handicapped persons.

We oppose any change in the present minimum wage law affecting the payment of piece rates for agriculture.

Agricultural crop and livestock production is dependent on biological processes which are not controllable by agricultural employers. Overtime wage payments for agriculture and many other industries are not economically feasible or practical. We oppose any attempt to impose overtime wage payments upon agriculture by amendments to the present minimum wage laws.

At no time should the State Minimum Wage rates exceed the Federal Wage in order to prevent Michigan farmers from being put at an uncompetitive wage disadvantage.

## MI-OSHA

We believe that health and safety hazards do exist on farms. We encourage all farmers to become aware of the occupational hazards and voluntarily adopt safety programs on their farms. We believe the basic premise of the Occupational Safety and Health Act that all employers know what is required by OSHA is a faulty premise. Therefore, we favor safety educational programs and non-penalty first time inspections.

We believe that the employee also has a responsibility and should be subject to penalty for failure to observe the safety standards.

It is imperative that judgment be exercised, particularly in those instances where capital expenditures are required to abate violations.

We commend the members of the Michigan legislature for recognizing the unique problems of agriculture by providing an advisory committee of which at least half of

the members shall be persons who devote a major portion of their time to agricultural operations. The Occupational Safety Standards Commission shall consult with the advisory committee before a safety standard is made applicable to agricultural operations.

We will oppose, proposed MI-OSHA standards which are more stringent than federal standards.

We recommend that Farm Bureau develop an economic impact statement, including a detailed cost benefit study, relating to the continuation of MI-OSHA as compared to repealing Public Act 154 permitting Federal OSHA to assume jurisdiction in Michigan.

## EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PROGRAMS

There are still some crops which have not yielded to mechanization, until mechanization can be adapted to all crops, there will be a need for hand labor if production of these non-mechanized crops are to be continued.

We urge that legislation be enacted to legalize the temporary importation of unskilled laborers for crop harvest and other field work. This would provide for the employment of foreign workers to supplement available farm labor in order to maintain full production of crops.

## EMPLOYMENT OF ILLEGAL ALIENS

Farm employers do not have access to the scientific technology necessary to determine the validity of passports, work permits, or other evidence often presented as proof of legal entry. Therefore, agricultural employers should not be held liable or responsible for the burden of proof of the legal status of their employees.

We deplore the harassment of migrant workers by government agencies which without warning demand immediate proof of age and citizenship of many migrants who are in fact citizens.

## SEASONAL LABOR HOUSING

We recommend that all migrant labor camps be inspected by trained employees of the State Health Department, so that all camps will be licensed according to the same interpretation of the rules and regulations as provided by Public Act 289.

At the present time, Public Act 289 places the full responsibility of maintaining a migrant labor camp upon the employer. We urge that Public Act 289 be amended to require the occupants of a farm labor camp to assume the responsibility for the misuse of a housing unit during their occupancy.

We favor faster tax write-off of investments in farm labor housing. Obsolete, unused, and abandoned farm labor housing should be removed from sight.

We recommend that regulations be adopted which would require workers to leave a camp within a reasonable time (one week) after the work on the farm is completed.

We recommend that the provisions of Public Act 289 be adopted as the safety standard for farm labor housing by OSHA and/or MIOSHA.

We oppose the application of Public Act 230 to seasonal agricultural labor housing.

## WORKER'S COMPENSATION

It is recognized that worker's compensation is necessary in today's society.

However, agricultural employers are concerned about the misuse and abuses which have crept into the administration and benefit schedules of the worker's compensation program. We strongly urge that steps be taken to reduce those practices which increase the cost of providing worker's compensation.

Providing worker's compensation imposes a financial burden upon farm employers who must meet competition from producers in other states where such coverage is not required.

The nature and makeup of the work environment and the types of employees employed in agriculture present a special problem. Farmers employ many workers who are unemployable in industry.

The predominance of part-time help on farms, the geographical dispersion and the fact that most seasonal farm workers work for many different employers during the course of the year present difficulties in reporting, rating, medical care, rehabilitation and auditing.

Short term employments which generate low, total yearly payrolls, under the present system, require excessive minimum premiums to provide coverage.

We recommend that the present minimum premium be replaced with a uniform low, reasonable, constant fee, sufficient to cover the cost of issuing the yearly policy plus the rate times the payroll as a means of determining the total cost of providing worker's compensation.

We believe benefits should be related to the wages of the employee on the job where the injury occurred.

We suggest that a separate state annual average weekly wage for agricultural employment be established as a basis for benefit payments to agricultural employees.

Minimum benefit payments for short term, low paid employees, if not related to the earnings of the job where and when the injury occurred, will become an enrichment program, contrary to the theory of worker's compensation which is earning replacement and will cause severe hardship for employers of part-time employees.

In addition we recommend that no person shall be considered an employee of an agricultural employer if the person is a spouse, child, or other member of the employer's family who is dependent upon the agricultural employer for more than half of his support.

We commend Farm Bureau Insurance Group for providing the leadership to reduce premiums by reclassification and division of payroll for agricultural employers and urge Farm Bureau to continue to develop ways and means to further reduce premium costs.

## EMPLOYMENT OF YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE

We believe that minors should be encouraged to continue their education. However, during school vacation time we believe it is desirable that minors be allowed to work at productive and gainful employment. We oppose any further restrictions upon the employment of youths in agriculture.

We oppose any attempt to bring agriculture under the Michigan Juvenile Employment Act.

# Law

## RURAL HEALTH CARE

Many communities are faced with a shortage of physicians to provide needed medical services. Rural communities are especially affected by the shortage of physicians. Ample financial support must be given to training programs at our teaching hospitals to encourage Michigan medical students to take their internship and residencies in Michigan.

We commend the Michigan Health Council for its efforts to place medical physicians into service in our state. We also urge that the Michigan Health Council develop a system which would assure Michigan rural youth the opportunity to ENTER Michigan medical and dental schools, and to remain in rural Michigan.

We encourage that medical facilities be strategically located and staffed to assure rural residents adequate medical coverage.

We support legislation to expand the use of physicians assistants in Michigan.

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN SCHOOLS

Alcohol-related traffic accidents involving 18-20 year olds has increased 170 percent between 1971 and 1975. The lower drinking age has brought the alcohol problem to our high schools in disastrous proportions, not only in school sports and social events, but in the classroom. The "trickle down" effect, meaning that 18-year-olds are purchasing liquor for younger teenagers, has created a serious problem. We therefore recommend legislation to raise the legal drinking age to 20.

## WELFARE

Welfare is a necessary part of our system for those who cannot sustain life without assistance. Welfare is the largest part of the state budget and the amount is rising yearly. This program has been spiraling in scope and cost, and suffering from abuse, fraud, and mismanagement. We support welfare for those who need it. However, many reforms are needed. We recommend:

1. Able welfare recipients be required to enroll in an educational program and/or engage in some type of public service work as a criteria to receive welfare funds.

2. Educational programs to help many welfare recipients become aware of nutritional and health needs, along with basic economics.

3. Continual evaluation of welfare programs to be sure that only those in need receive aid, and that existing regulations are carried out.

We believe that granting of welfare to strikers is not in keeping with the basic philosophy of any welfare program.

We urge legislation to reform the welfare system to eliminate abuse, prevent fraud, and correct mismanagement to prevent waste of tax dollars.

## NO-FAULT AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

We support the general principles inherent in Michigan's No-Fault Insurance law, which became effective October 1, 1973, in that persons injured in automobile accidents now receive economic compensation more quickly and equitably.

There remains, however, aspects of the law which: 1) Restrict rights and responsibilities of the individual and 2) Unnecessarily increase claims costs of No-Fault and, ultimately the insurance premiums paid by motorists.

For these reasons, we recommend legislative action to amend certain provisions of the law:

1. Presently, the law provides that Unlimited Medical and Rehabilitation benefits be paid to accident victims. We support establishment of a maximum benefit amount per victim, such as \$100,000, for the purpose of better controlling high claim costs.

2. We believe the "At-fault" driver in an accident should be made responsible for all damage caused to the property of others.

3. We believe that car accident victims should be compensated for medical expense through their auto insurance policy; not their Health & Accident policy (such as Blue Cross-Blue Shield). Health & Accident insurance premium could then be reduced.

4. Application of the No-fault law to motorcycles should be redefined. At present, motorcyclists are not required to purchase mandatory No-fault insurance, but are eligible to receive No-fault benefits if they collide with an automobile. If motorcyclists are to benefit from the law, they should pay their fair share of the cost.

5. We urge the State Legislature to redefine parts of the law which, because of ambiguity, are in danger of being interpreted by the Courts far more liberally than the law's original intent.

**RESPECT FOR LAW**

If we are to preserve the concept that our government is one of laws, not of men, we must insist on adherence to those laws and respect for properly constituted authority. We do not condone the flaunting of laws in the search for solutions to social or economic problems. We support our local police and will work to keep them independent and on a local basis. We support central communications systems to assure faster and more efficient service from our police departments.

While lawlessness becomes more prevalent in the U.S., some court decisions provide greater protection to the accused than to society. Some judges and parole boards allow criminals to be turned loose to prey on society, thus making the task of law enforcement more difficult. We are opposed to an automatic early parole.

We believe that punishment is a deterrent to crime. We favor reinstatement of capital punishment for the crime of first degree murder. We urge judges to fit the punishment to the crime, incarceration is not always the answer. We urge use of prisoners to accomplish community improvement projects. Whatever the punishment it should be handed out immediately.

We favor a more positive emphasis on educational rehabilitation of inmates confined to penal institutions that will afford them a better opportunity to assume a constructive role in society and assist in preventing their future confinement.

We propose more strict enforcement of laws protecting private and public property, both rural and urban, from losses due to riots, vandalism, and looting and urge prosecution of offenders. Early action to quell such activities is essential.

We urge citizens to carry out their responsibility to help law enforcement officers by offering pertinent information and assistance. Such citizens should be given protection by law.

We also urge support and expressions of confidence to our law enforcement officers and urge that they be given protection from liability when performing their duties.

We urge passage of state and federal legislation to provide that any person who, while out on bail waiting trial in a felony case, is arrested as a suspect in another felony case shall have his bail revoked and be returned to custody.

We believe that penalty for taking a hostage should be the same as for kidnapping.

Many believe the alarming increase in crime and violence can be linked to excessive exposure given by the news media to such acts. We urge those responsible for handling of reporting and presentation of entertainment which involves crime and violence to exercise restraint and good judgment.

**COURT REFORM**

There have been several comprehensive studies of the judicial system in Michigan containing recommendations on the selection of judges, financing of courts, functions of courts, tenure of judges and establishment of new courts. Some reports have contained a version of a Supreme Court Justice selection system known as a variation of the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan. More than 28 other states have adopted various versions of the plan in the last 15 years.

Presently Michigan's Supreme Court is called "Non-partisan," but the method of nominating candidates at political conventions is far from nonpartisan. Presently candidates, with the exception of incumbents, must depend on political bosses and parties for nomination. This can lead to political commitments to special interest groups contrary to the public interests. Such a system does not provide for high standards of ability and experience.

We recommend:

-- Appointment of Supreme Court Justices and Court of Appeals' Judges through a merit selection system that would preserve the right of the people to have a voice in the selection of judges.

-- Judges should, "run on their record" and be subject to a periodic regular vote for the designated term of office, thus giving the voter the opportunity to determine whether the judge should be retained.

-- Continued nonpartisan elections of circuit court judges.

-- Opposition to total funding and control of local courts by the State.

-- Consideration of limited state funding of election expenses for judges to help inform the voters and prevent commitments to any group.

These and other reforms should help lead to a better court system resulting in prompt and equitable justice to the citizens of Michigan.

**LEGAL COUNSEL - PROBATE**

The cost of legal counsel can be very costly. Proper estate planning promotes the smooth transition of ownership and minimizes the need for costly legal counsel. Wisconsin has adopted a system of allowing an individual the opportunity of working either with or without representation of legal counsel. This system has been used in Wisconsin for several years.

We urge Michigan Farm Bureau to study this concept of "Do it Yourself Probate."

**DIVORCE COSTS**

Parties in divorce cases pay only a portion of the total costs incurred during the proceedings. The remaining costs are paid by the county in which the case is heard. We believe the cost paid by the parties involved should reflect the true cost of the action and that the rate be uniform statewide.

**AGRICULTURAL LEGAL ADVICE**

Today, more frequently than ever before, farmers are becoming involved in situations where legal advice is required. It would be helpful if attorneys could be listed with an indication of their agricultural experience. Farm Bureau, in cooperation with MSU, could conduct seminars to acquaint attorneys with farm problems so the attorneys could better serve farmers.

**CASINO GAMBLING**

While legalized casino gambling may raise revenue for the state, we do not believe this is a stable, dependable or proper source of revenue.

We oppose the legalization of casino gambling in Michigan.

**JUVENILE CRIME**

Currently, if a minor living at home destroys or vandalizes property of another, the parents of the minor can be held liable for damages. The maximum that can be recovered is limited to \$1500.

We urge that the dollar maximum be eliminated so that full recovery can be obtained.

**NARCOTICS AND HARMFUL DRUGS**

The rapidly growing use of narcotics and harmful drugs must be stopped. We encourage massive, direct, and realistic education efforts to inform youth, parents, and others concerning the harmful effects of drug abuse. We oppose legalization of marijuana.

Courts should continue to strengthen penalties imposed on drug pushers.

Rehabilitation centers and drug information programs are now available to drug users in most parts of Michigan.

We support enforcement of laws to tighten the importation, manufacture, and distribution of narcotics and harmful drugs.

**FENCE LAW**

The current Fence Law was adopted in 1846 with only minor revisions since that time. Larger and highly specialized farm operations have changed the need for line fences between farms in many counties. We will support amendments to the Fence Law requiring the owners of livestock be responsible for the cost of fences separating livestock from adjacent farms where livestock are not kept.

If a non-livestock owner or his successors subsequently returns livestock to his side of the fence, he then would be liable for his equal share of the value of the fence as determined by the fence viewers.

All property being sold should have the line fence division agreement included on the abstract or deed.

**GUN CONTROL**

We believe our laws should place more emphasis on the crime and the criminal rather than on the gun. We oppose further expansion of registration of the firearms. We support mandatory imprisonment of any person convicted of a felony involving use of firearms.

**STATE INSTITUTIONS**

Michigan has 6 major penal institutions, 19 mental institutions, and numerous other correctional institutions and camps. Crimes committed at those institutions require local officials, such as the Prosecuting Attorney, judges, law enforcement agencies, and others to investigate and prosecute such crimes. This results in an unfair burden on local officials and the local budget. All citizens should share these costs equally. We urge that legislation be adopted which allows local units the opportunity to collect funds from the State to reimburse the County for costs incurred in investigating and prosecuting crimes committed within the State Institutions.

**RURAL CRIME PREVENTION**

Rural crime is rising at an alarming rate. Both the number and severity of incidents are increasing. Crime is spreading to the rural areas for several reasons. The increased mobility of the public, the vulnerability of the agricultural community and the increased awareness of crime prevention programs in the city have all tended to drive crime to the rural areas.

Adequate police service in rural areas can be an important deterrent to rural crime. We urge both state and local officials to develop long range crime prevention programs to better assist citizens in the rural areas to reduce crime. While we are concerned about crime in the cities, we are very concerned that the assignment of additional police to city areas seriously reduces police protection in rural areas. We urge adequate funding of police services in order that sufficient manpower can be allocated to rural areas.

We are pleased that Michigan Farm Bureau is currently developing a Rural Crime Prevention Program in cooperation with established law enforcement agencies and other interested groups. The program is patterned after "Operation Identification" which involves the marking of farm equipment, tools, and personal items,

with the owner's driver's license number, and is being developed specifically for Farm Bureau members. We support this program and urge that the Rural Crime Prevention Program be made available to members as soon as possible.

Currently many law enforcement agencies are developing crime prevention units. These units are staffed by competent law enforcement officers. We strongly urge that only law enforcement officers be used in crime prevention units. A law officer has more credibility with the public and has the benefit of experience in investigating crimes, making him qualified to assist citizens with crime prevention programs.

We appreciate the cooperation of the Farm Bureau Insurance Group in developing a reward program to help prevent rural crime. We urge that this program be incorporated in a total rural crime prevention package, and that it be revised with the reward increased to assist in deterring crime. We encourage Farm Bureau Insurance Group to continue to promote rural crime prevention programs and possibly offer economic benefits to insureds to reduce the opportunity for crime.

**SUNSET LAWS**

Michigan Legislators should be encouraged to follow the Colorado Sunset Law which terminates state regulatory agencies unless those agencies can justify their continued existence. Each administrator must re-justify every proposed expenditure, every clerk, and every agency activity for each new year. The result is that many governmental appropriations which had been simply renewed year after year with hardly a look, now are forced to run a critical budget to earn renewal.

**NO-SUNDAY HUNTING**

Local units of government in several areas of the state have adopted ordinances prohibiting Sunday hunting. These ordinances have been maintained with the support of local citizens and until recently applied to both private and state owned lands. However, the Attorney General has now ruled that such ordinances do not apply to state owned lands. Private landowners living in areas where Sunday hunting is prohibited have observed increasing trespass problems on their lands located adjacent to state owned lands where such hunting is now allowed. We will support legislation to allow local governmental units to specifically include state owned lands in ordinances prohibiting Sunday hunting.

## Farm Bureau

Our Farm Bureau is a farm organization. It must be an aggressive organization geared to serving commercial farmers with bold and imaginative programs. The building and maintaining of a bold and aggressive farm organization depends heavily on attracting the best in farmer leadership. This leadership must be active at all levels of the organization, from community groups through state officers. The organization must maintain the best type of employees to carry out the wishes of the members.

The primary purpose of Farm Bureau should be to serve the needs of active, producing farmers. However, in serving these needs, we will undoubtedly develop policies and establish many programs and services which will attract some non-farm people to our organization.

We should welcome the support of non-farm people who wish to join our farm organization and support the policies which are set forth by our farmer-members.

The authority and responsibility for determining who shall be a member and the classification of membership should remain with the county Farm Bureau boards.

The right to vote in Farm Bureau should continue to be limited to regular members. We further endorse the policy of determining the number of voting delegates to the state annual meeting based on Regular member count, and urge this policy be extended to the American Farm Bureau Federation.

**MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY**

We are proud of our organization. As members, it is our responsibility to uphold and promote a positive attitude toward the programs and policies we adopt.

Farm Bureau is a democratic organization with every member having the right to participate in making recommendations and decisions. The opportunity to participate is available to members by attending Community Group Meetings, County Annual Meetings, and the State Annual Meeting. We are pleased that our members take this responsibility seriously.

However the right to participate carries with it the responsibility to support the decisions of the majority. This requires a sense of organization discipline which can only be self-imposed by the member.

We encourage our members to study, discuss, and recommend changes in policy when appropriate. WE ALSO REQUEST THAT MEMBERS GIVE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT TO ALL MATTERS OF FARM BUREAU POLICY AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN PROPERLY APPROVED.

**FARM BUREAU-LEGISLATURE**

The November 2 election resulted in many new people being elected to the Michigan Legislature and the U.S. Congress. Many of those elected have no background in agriculture.

We urge the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors,

and County Farm Bureau Boards of Directors, Women's Committees, Young Farmer Committees, Legislative Committees, other state and county committees and individual members to become acquainted with their state legislators and congressmen to assist them in every way possible to understand the importance of Michigan agriculture, its problems, and Farm Bureau policies passed by the delegates at this annual meeting.

#### MEMBERSHIP GOAL

As a result of dedicated work on the part of hundreds of Farm Bureau members, membership in Michigan Farm Bureau has increased for nine consecutive years. Growth in membership is fundamental to the strength and well-being of our organization, even though the responsibility for membership growth lies primarily with County Farm Bureaus. We encourage Farm Bureau leadership at all levels to keep the importance of membership work on a first priority basis.

We approve the 1977 membership goal of a one member increase over 1976 goal for each County Farm Bureau, and a one member increase over 1976 final membership for Michigan Farm Bureau.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND GOOD CITIZENSHIP

There is a growing movement toward regional government. We strongly oppose any shift of local control from township, city, and county levels to a regional type government. Farm Bureau members gave enthusiastic observance to our great nation's bicentennial. We urge all of our members to move into the future displaying this same bicentennial spirit, national pride, and support for our form of government. However, good citizenship means more than voting, oratory, and displaying patriotic symbols. It involves being informed on issues, willingness to defend and to explain our system of government, and courage to act within our political system. The apathy developing in our country enforces the truism that "all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

A good citizen is willing to become involved. Involvement may include personal sacrifice, such as time away from family and job. We feel it is an honor and privilege to serve as a juror in our local judicial system. The obligation extends to all eligible citizens.

Good laws begin where good lawmakers are elected. We urge all members to actively endorse and support political candidates of their choice or consider seeking public office themselves.

#### COUNTY NEWSLETTER SERVICE

The County Newsletter Service, initiated in July, 1975, by the Michigan Farm Bureau, has grown from five pilot counties to 36 county Farm Bureaus currently participating in the program.

We believe the purpose of County Farm Bureau Newsletters - to inform, educate, encourage involvement and action, stimulate pride and gain support of members - is being fulfilled in most cases. We commend those County Newsletter Editors who have given of their time and efforts toward developing effective communications with their county Farm Bureau members. County Farm Bureaus participating in the service have found that providing regular information to members about their organizations has resulted in increased interest and participation.

We urge county Farm Bureau boards of participating counties to give support and direction to County Editors and their committees, and encourage other county Farm Bureau committees to use their Newsletters to promote county activities and projects.

#### COMMUNITY GROUPS

Our predecessors, the architects of the Michigan Farm Bureau, built the Community Group program as a structure to maintain the organization's grass roots effectiveness. For many years, it was recognized as the "backbone" of the organization, providing Farm Bureau with a two-way communications system between the members and county and state leaders and staff. Community Groups were a main source of policy recommendations and were vital contributors to policy execution. They offered an opportunity for leadership development of our members for active involvement in the organization and in their communities.

We believe that the strength of the organization still lies at the grass roots level and that the Community Group system is the best means of determining members' interests and needs. Recent changes in economy and in attitudes toward home and family living provide a healthy climate for Community Group growth.

We commend the Board of Directors of Michigan Farm Bureau for establishing a Community Group Advisory Committee with expanded responsibilities for making program recommendations. We also commend the board for initiating a program to revitalize the Community Group program. We believe strong emphasis should be placed on implementation of this program.

#### FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMER PROGRAM

We commend the state and county Young Farmer Committees for their new and innovative programs. An example of this is the new Outstanding Young Farm Woman Award given in cooperation with the Farm Bureau Women's Committee. Twenty-one counties have selected a county outstanding young farm woman in this first year of the program. Another example is the in-

creased involvement and close coordination with the Future Farmers of America and Michigan State University Institute for Agricultural Technology. Activities in this area include a meeting with FFA advisors on a state level by the state young farmer chairman and the Young Farmer Department manager. Several meetings with local FFA chapters were also held by County Young Farmer Committees. A meeting was also held with second year ag-tech students at Farm Bureau Center.

Young farmers are eager for meaningful involvement in the vital issues confronting agriculture. We must seek to satisfy that desire through involvement of qualified young farmers in all Farm Bureau activities.

A Young Farmer Program can only be successful if given the strong and active support of county leaders. This support can best be shown by taking an active interest in the appointing and guiding of a Young Farmer Committee which is advisory and responsible to the County Farm Bureau Board. Steps should be taken to provide young farmers easy access to participation in ALL Farm Bureau programs.

#### LOCAL AFFAIRS

Farm Bureau is widely recognized for its strong State and National Affairs Program. Members are proud to be associated with an organization that takes a strong stand on national, state, and local issues, and follows through with effective action on problems which affect them at all levels. A strong effective Local Affairs Program builds County Farm Bureaus.

We commend the numerous County Farm Bureaus which have worked on local issues, thus, providing a valuable service to their members. We urge all County Farm Bureaus to actively pursue local issues, thus, building a stronger, more viable organization which is serving members.

#### MFB GROUP PURCHASING, INC.

A newest Michigan Farm Bureau affiliate company, Michigan Farm Bureau Group Purchasing, Inc., was incorporated in February of 1976. The purpose of this new affiliate company is to administer a "Safemark" Group Purchasing Program for Farm Bureau members in conjunction with the American Farm Bureau Service Company.

This action was taken by our Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors after a strong recommendation for this action by the 1974-75 State Study Committee, approval by the delegates at the special delegate meeting in June of 1975, and thorough study by a research committee of the board.

Success of the Safemark program in other states over the last decade is phenomenal. In its current fiscal year the American Farm Bureau Service Company will have sales in excess of \$45 million in tires.

By thoroughly studying the operation of Safemark programs in several other states, the Board of Directors was able to develop a program that will assure maximum economic benefits to Farm Bureau members in Michigan.

This program is a County Farm Bureau program! County Farm Bureaus decide if they wish to participate in the program. County Group Purchasing Committees appointed by County Farm Bureau Boards play a key role in selecting and supervising Safemark Dealers and in promotion of the program among the county membership.

We are gratified that the Safemark program has moved smoothly into an operational stage. Forty-six County Farm Bureaus have signed participation agreements with Michigan Farm Bureau Group Purchasing, Inc. The first dealers were supplied with tires and batteries in early September. During the first two months of operation, 17 dealers were approved and stocked with inventory.

We commend the MFB Board of Directors for making this significant economic service to member program available to all Michigan Farm Bureau members on a "for members only" basis. We challenge all County Farm Bureaus participating in this program to maintain strong active Safemark committees. The county committees are a very vital factor in the ongoing success of this program.

#### ORIENTATION OF EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS

The employed representatives of Michigan Farm Bureau and all of its affiliated companies represent Farm Bureau in general when contacting members around the state and the public at large.

Uninformed or misinformed employees or agents may contribute to a poor or weak image of Farm Bureau, either in answers given to questions or statements made to other people when the information involves companies other than their own or when they have not had an opportunity to be oriented as to the policies of their own company.

We recognize that efforts are made to inform employees about the programs of Farm Bureau and all affiliates through a regular liaison program. In addition, employee orientation seminars have been conducted regularly since 1972 by the Farm Bureau Liaison Committee to create among employees an understanding of the objectives and philosophies of our Farm Bureau family. To date, over 800 employees and agents have attended the seminars. Due to the turnover of personnel, the seminars should be a continuing effort. We request that they continue to receive high priority attention.

#### MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION

MASA has established itself as the primary source of information for MASA members regarding the complex rules and regulations which dictate employment requirements on the farm. We strongly urge the continuance of MASA's activities with adequate finances to provide staffing at the same efficient level it is currently operating.

We commend MASA for its recognized leadership in moderating the development of realistic OSHA safety standards. MASA consistently offers strong factual testimony at public hearings relative to proposed MIOSHA and OSHA standards, Farm Labor Housing, Worker's Compensation and other labor related subjects. Several members of the state legislature and legislative committees depend upon MASA to provide factual information relative to proposed agricultural labor legislation.

MASA is acknowledged for its leadership in developing a positive and effective attitude toward Farm Labor Management on the part of farm employers, farm employees and government regulatory agencies.

Farm labor information is important to all Farm Bureau members who employ farm labor. MASA supplies this information in an understandable manner and organized into a notebook that is continually updated as new information becomes available. We are pleased that MASA membership more than doubled in 1976. We urge all Farm Bureau members who employ any farm labor to join MASA in 1977.

#### MEMBER-TO-MEMBER MARKETING

The sale of Michigan fresh and frozen fruits, Florida citrus, HiDensity Orange and Grapefruit juice, and other products has pioneered a new member-to-member marketing concept. These programs have received excellent support from Farm Bureau members throughout the state and nation.

We appreciate the MACMA efforts to expand the direct sale of top quality products to Farm Bureau members through its new Direct Markets Division.

We urge this new MACMA Direct Markets Division to give priority attention to a sales program for Michigan products to Farm Bureau members in other states.

Member-to-Member marketing holds a great future potential as a market for our products and as a service to our members, but we must never forget that strict quality control is vital to success.

#### FARM BUREAU MARKETING PROGRAMS

We continue to recognize agricultural marketing as a major concern of farmers. We urge Farm Bureau at the county, state and national level to actively support sound marketing programs and marketing legislation on a top priority basis.

We are proud of our marketing affiliate, MACMA, and continue to support its involvement in marketing products for the betterment of producer members.

We commend MACMA for aggressively seeking and obtaining accreditation as the marketing agency for several commodities under the Michigan Marketing and Bargaining Act, P.A. 344. We are gratified that the provisions of the Act have proven to be a practical means of arriving at fair market prices.

We also urge MACMA members to continue to improve the financial position of their marketing association by investing in additional shares of MACMA capital stock.

#### GRAIN AND BEAN MARKETING

We commend the Michigan Elevator Exchange Division of Farm Bureau Services for maintaining aggressive leadership in the state in grain and bean marketing. We especially note their effective efforts in the development of a container terminal at Saginaw. Increased use of unit trains has enabled them to better keep pace with today's farm harvest.

The new MEE "hot line" which permits any farmer to call this number and receive up-to-the-minute market reports is a valuable service to farmers.

#### SERVICE TO MEMBERS

Valuable economic services are a prerequisite to continued membership growth. We recommend that Michigan Farm Bureau and its affiliate companies continue to develop additional economic services for members only that will benefit the organization and its members.

We commend Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative for developing and financing the \$5.00 member certificates which will be issued again this year with every 1977 membership. We urge every member to take advantage of this certificate and redeem it at their local FBS-FPC outlet.

#### SPECIAL STUDIES

The primary responsibility of Michigan Farm Bureau staff is service to members. Many activities, including research of various descriptions, fall under the heading of service to members. Several requests for special studies and research have been made. These include:

1. Plum Industry - During the past few years, many Michigan plum producers have experienced difficulty in marketing their plums. Therefore, we ask that the Market Development Division of Michigan Farm Bureau undertake an intensive study concerning development of plum markets.

2. Dairy Pricing - Many requests have been received from dairy producers for a new milk pricing system. Several independent investigations regarding possible alternative pricing formulas have been conducted. We ask the Market Development Division of Michigan Farm Bureau to investigate and report on the feasibility of these alternative milk pricing plans.

3. Sweet Cherry Brining - The brining sweet cherry industry has suffered severe setbacks with the banning by FDA of Red Dyes No. 2 and No. 4. Therefore, we urge the Market Development Division of Michigan Farm Bureau to work closely with the sweet cherry industry to either restore the use of Red Dye No. 4 or develop new methods for sweet cherry growers to market their produce.

Major results of these studies should be reported to the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors and also to the delegate body at the 1977 annual meeting.

#### COORDINATION OF AFFILIATE COMPANIES

Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliate companies share a common goal - to serve farmers. We continually strive to have all affiliate company patrons members of Michigan Farm Bureau, and to have all Michigan Farm Bureau members patronize their affiliate companies. We must continue this effort.

In the meantime, we have many Farm Bureau members who are excellent potential customers or policyholders for affiliates. We also have affiliate patrons and policyholders who are excellent prospects for Michigan Farm Bureau membership.

We urge County Farm Bureau Membership Committees and local Affiliate Company personnel to work closely together in sharing prospect lists.

Agreements signed between county Farm Bureaus and Farm Bureau affiliate companies have been used effectively to clearly define the responsibilities of the parties involved. It is of utmost importance that every county Farm Bureau Board review their affiliate company agreements annually. The review will help to create a better understanding of the duties of both parties and lessen the chance of misunderstanding.

#### HEALTH & SAFETY

Because of our concern for the welfare of our families and employees, we encourage Farm Bureau Women to conduct action projects regarding safety and health. We believe the efforts of Farm Bureau Women in preparing farm families to meet emergency situations through first aid training, farm first aid kits on every farm, their goals of safety on the farm, in the home, and on the highways, as well as preventive health care, with special emphasis on cancer detection, deserve the full support of all members.

We commend Farm Bureau Women and Community Groups for the promotion of a Fire Safety Program, including smoke detectors and fire escape plans, and urge continued support of this project.

We commend Farm Bureau Women for the fact that many Farm Bureau Women leaders are now serving on various state, regional and local commissions and committees regarding health and safety, and we urge continued participation in these efforts.

We urge Farm Bureau women's continued cooperation with the Michigan Agricultural Services Association to inform and assist members to meet the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

#### HEALTH CARE

We recognize rising health care costs are a major concern of Farm Bureau members. For the over 35,000 families enrolled in the Michigan Farm Bureau Member Group, these costs are out-of-pocket costs. They have no employer to pick up the cost as a fringe benefit. In some cases, the cost of our present coverage is becoming nearly prohibitive. The "Econo-Plan" offered this year as an alternative to our comprehensive plan is worthy of consideration.

We commend the MFB Board of Directors for establishing a Health Care Study Committee. This Committee is made up of representatives from each Farm Bureau district and is charged to:

1. Study the current Blue Cross-Blue Shield contract and evaluate the coverages offered and services rendered.
2. Review alternative health care plans.
3. Analyze the cost to Michigan Farm Bureau of servicing present or prospective health care programs.
4. Report recommendations to the MFB Board.

#### FARM BUREAU COMMUNICATIONS

As more and more decisions, directly or indirectly affecting agriculture, are being made by those with little or no knowledge of farming, the need increases for understanding and support of our industry by the non-farm public. We are pleased that Michigan Farm Bureau and most county Farm Bureaus have recognized this need and have worked diligently to meet the challenge through effective communications.

We are proud that Farm Bureau at the state and national levels, and especially at the local level, is recognized as the "voice of agriculture" by the news media and the general public. This recognition is the result of consistent efforts by Farm Bureau leaders to establish themselves as reliable sources of timely and pertinent information.

We recommend that Michigan Farm Bureau and county Farm Bureaus continue to use all possible avenues of communication to share the story of agriculture with all citizens.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE

We are pleased that Michigan Farm Bureau continues to lead in presenting the story of agriculture to our non-farm population. The understanding and support of urban people on issues which affect our industry is vitally important. We believe that this understanding and support, and a growing appreciation for an efficient, productive agriculture, has increased because of an aggressive, effective information program on both the state and county levels of our organization.

We are proud that Farm Bureau has a reputation as a reliable, credible news source and the fact that our organization is recognized as the spokesman for agriculture in our state. The "Agricultural Backgrounders" held jointly by the Information and Public Relations Division and county Farm Bureau leaders and their local news media are especially effective in establishing a working relationship with members of the press on the local level.

Daily and weekly information regarding agriculture and Farm Bureau, through radio programming, a weekly editorial column, and news releases have continued to receive widespread acceptance. We are proud that television stations turn to Farm Bureau when they desire information on agriculture. We are pleased that our leaders and members have appeared on news programs, in documentaries, and as guests on other types of television shows.

The most effective public relations for agriculture, however, is done by farmers themselves. We are proud of the Farm Bureau Women Speakers' Bureau project. We congratulate many counties for carrying on activities such as Rural-Urban meetings, farm visits, working with schools, mall displays and county fair booths.

We salute the Farm Bureau members who participated in the Michigan State Fair project. By volunteering their time and effort, these members were able to meet with consumers and tell about agriculture on a one-to-one basis. Farm Bureau members statewide appreciate the job done by the persons who carried on the project.

We encourage Farm Bureau at the state, county, and local levels to continue to stress a positive program of improving the image and public understanding of agriculture and asking all members to avail themselves of all opportunities to promote agriculture.

#### LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The success of every united Farm Bureau effort depends upon the dedication and effectiveness of its volunteer leadership. Our organization has a responsibility to provide its members with the training needed to assume leadership roles, information to broaden their understanding of the Farm Bureau family, and opportunities to realize their leadership potential.

No other organization offers such broad opportunities for the leadership development of its members as Farm Bureau does, and every effort should be made to maintain and expand this intangible, but vitally important, membership benefit.

We are pleased that Michigan Farm Bureau has an aggressive program in leadership training and recommend that this program be a continuing program at all levels of Farm Bureau.

#### CONSUMER UNDERSTANDING

Farm Bureau members constitute one of the largest consumer groups in the state. Farm Bureau members probably have more at stake in the consumer movement than any other group. We buy great quantities of steel, rubber, and many other products for our farm businesses and are most concerned with the quality of these products.

Farm Bureau Women have made progress in creating a better understanding of agricultural problems among their urban counterparts. We urge that the state and county Farm Bureau Consumer Committees continue to be active in working on consumer issues.

#### ESTATE PLANNING

Estimates are that more than 60 percent of the population has not even taken the basic step of preparing a will for the transfer of their property at death. State and federal laws are such that a large percentage of the estate will be devoured by taxes without proper planning. We recommend that Michigan Farm Bureau continue its program of information to the members on estate planning problems and point out the many techniques of transferring property to heirs with the least possible tax obligation. This program is especially important since the passage of major changes in the federal estate tax laws.

#### LOCAL COMMODITY PROMOTION

County Farm Bureaus have done an excellent job of commodity promotion on a local level. We commend County Farm Bureaus, and particularly Farm Bureau Women, for conducting effective promotion of Michigan agricultural commodities through shopping malls, fair displays and other local efforts. We urge continued and expanded efforts by County Farm Bureaus in this promotion, since it results in more member involvement as well as promotion of our commodities.

#### COMMODITY DIVISION APPROACH

The Commodity Division Approach (CDA) is one way Farm Bureau members can address commodity issues with one united voice within Farm Bureau.

The American Farm Bureau Federation has initiated a two-phase structure to institute the CDA concept. Under Phase I, commodity advisory committees were established. Michigan is proud to have appointed representatives on eight of these important committees.

Phase II of the CDA calls for commodity divisions to be activated. The Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors has adopted the second phase for soybeans. Twenty county Farm Bureaus in the major soybean-producing areas of Michigan have established county soybean divisions, with action committees at the state and county levels. The primary purposes of a commodity division are to provide for special staff assistance for programs such as special newsletters, commodity tours and meetings. They are organized within the Farm Bureau structure and do not conduct marketing - bargaining functions. The commodity divisions are financed by an assessment of division members in addition to their regular Farm Bureau dues.

We believe that the CDA is an effective organizational method to serve the specialized needs of members. The CDA approach should be extended to other commodities where a need to serve the specialized interest of members is not fulfilled. We recommend studies be made to investigate the feasibility of commodity divisions in the coming year, to be reported at the next annual meeting.

Michigan Farm Bureau should also strive to work closely with other organizations or groups of growers who express an interest in working with Farm Bureau.

#### WE COMMEND FOR UNSELFISH SERVICE

Many of our fellow farmers are serving agriculture and our State as members of boards, commissions, committees, and advisory groups on which agricultural representation is important to all of us.

Often this service is rendered without any reimbursement for time and expenses involved.

We commend these people and recognize them for their unselfish service to agriculture.

We especially commend our dedicated County Farm Bureau leaders and dedicated staff members for their efforts, many times beyond the call of duty. Their assistance and guidance has helped make Michigan Farm Bureau the effective voice of agriculture.

#### FARM BUREAU WOMEN

Farm Bureau women have developed and conducted effective "action-type" projects that are of concern to farmers. We encourage their continued efforts, especially in such activities as legislation, political education, public relations, consumer understanding, leadership development, safety and health, and local affairs. We also encourage Farm Bureau women to work closely with county Farm Bureau boards of directors in expanding our communication efforts with consumers and within Farm Bureau and in developing the participation of more women in the total Farm Bureau program, thereby building a strong farm family organization. We believe that every effort should be put forth to institute programs that interest and involve young farm women.

#### STATUS OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

The policies adopted at the four previous annual meetings are hereby reaffirmed except insofar as they have been modified or supplemented by later policies, including those adopted at this annual meeting. All other policies shall be deemed to have lapsed except insofar as the Board of Directors may specifically find that such a prior policy provides the only basis for action on a current problem.



Lawrence Boger, Provost, Michigan State University, told County Farm Bureau Presidents that he advocates the development of a price policy that will support good prices, while not creating large amounts of surplus. He was guest speaker at the County President's Banquet, part of the Michigan Farm Bureau's 57th Annual Meeting. Boger also disputed the supposition that American agriculture is the most efficient in the world. Boger challenged Farm Bureau leaders to provide a new kind of leadership to solve problems of the future.





Sister Thomas More Bertels, noted speaker on agricultural affairs, spoke before both the Annual Meeting membership campaign managers banquet and the MFB Women's Annual meeting. She advocates the formation of a national food policy, managed by members of the food industry.

# MSU's Hoeffler says at Annual More Research Funds Needed to Increase Michigan Yields

Application of university research is the only way to get Michigan crop yield increases up to a par with those in the rest of the country, the acting dean of Michigan State University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources told delegates attending the 57th Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

"Michigan's yields are not keeping pace because of a higher percentage of small farms in the state and because of less irrigation," Dr. J.A. Hoeffler pointed out. "However, the primary reason is the failure to adopt the most successful varieties of high producing crop

varieties to Michigan soil."

Research is needed to adopt these varieties to Michigan, Hoeffler said. Yet now, when the research is needed the most, the State legislature continues to cut back funds for the University Research Experiment Station.

"Michigan is 40th in the support of education totally and 49th in funding of higher education," Hoeffler pointed out. This leaves the main source of agricultural resource for the state, the Michigan State University agricultural experiment station, at a big disadvantage.

Budget reductions for the past five years have killed off

the enthusiasm of the experiment station researchers, Hoeffler said. Instead of keeping an initiative for new developments for the state's agriculture, 27 faculty members have resigned to take better positions with other states. The funds are needed to keep top researchers attracted to Michigan States just haven't been provided.

It is such a shame that MSU has to be at such a disadvantage when the state funds allocated to have the experiment station operating at best efficiency would make up no more than four-tenths of one percent of the total state budget," Hoeffler said. Never has the need been greater for research and never has the funding of this research been so uncertain."

Hoeffler feels that there is no other place where the consumer gets a greater investment for his dollar than in agricultural research.

"But even when advances are made in the laboratory, they have no value until these techniques are used by producers. Putting new techniques into practical application is what the Cooperative Extension Service is all about. But, it needs money to operate efficiently."

Any expense for agriculture is justified for what agriculture does for the country, Hoeffler said. He feels that the main force that has kept the country's economy stable is the balance of trade of agricultural products to counter the cost of oil imports.

## County FBs Must Take Strong Stands

If County Farm Bureaus take aggressive stands on key agricultural issues, they will have no trouble in recruiting new members, a nationally renowned speaker on agricultural affairs told participants in a membership campaign managers banquet. The banquet was held as part of the 57th Annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

"Farmers will be attracted to an organization that shows it can take a strong stand that will let the true feelings of producers be known," Sister Thomas Moore Bertels said. "We must show farmers that agricultural

organizations are not merely collectives of people and programs grouped together for financial gain only. These organizations are really designed to protect the producer and to develop power for the individual producer."

However, the strength of the power depends on the ability of the organization's members to mobilize its "people power," she said.

"Agriculture has to have an organized base of power, and that's what agricultural organizations are all about," Sister Bertels continued. "Everyone has to get in and work to make agriculture

strong." This power base must exist both at the top and the bottom. County members of an organization must not rely on just leadership from the top of the state organization. They must have the commitment to face gut issues at the county level and carry their decisions through to the state level."

This power and commitment is essential, because agricultural organizations must be the ones to provide the managerial guidance to develop national land and food policies, Sister Bertels emphasized.

"The management of such policies must come from within the food industry system. It's the responsibility of agricultural associations to

provide such direction so that the desires of the agricultural community are understood and incorporated in such policy."

Farm organization members must also be the ones to defend those groups during times of criticism. They must also fight misinformation about the issues they are involved in, Sister Bertels emphasized.

"When the agricultural structure is under attack, it's easy to join in the criticism.

Instead of following this mass instinct, members must stay within the organization to keep it strong. It's the only way farmers can work to keep an organized base of power working for agriculture," she concluded.

## MSU's Whittwer Gets MFB Distinguished Service Award

The assistant dean of Michigan State University's college of agriculture and natural resources, Dr. Sylvan Wittwer, was honored for "distinguished service to agriculture" by the Michigan Farm Bureau Thursday evening (December 2) at the Civic Auditorium in Grand Rapids. Dr. Wittwer was presented the award at the annual banquet of the farm organization's four-day convention, which began on Tuesday and ends Friday.



In presenting the award, Elton R. Smith, president of the Michigan Farm Bureau, cited Dr. Wittwer, who also serves as director of MSU's agricultural experiment station, "for leadership in science to aid American agriculture and the people of the world."

"As director of the MSU experiment station, Dr. Wittwer has stimulated research into all segments of agriculture," Smith said. "His dynamic leadership can be seen in the number, variety, and magnitude of research being conducted in livestock, crops, energy

conservation, mechanical harvesting, and other areas of agriculture."

Wittwer, who received degrees at Utah State College and the University of Missouri, served in the Missouri Horticulture Department for five years prior to joining the staff at MSU in 1948. He has served in his present position since 1965. Wittwer has helped establish research facilities in Europe, Africa, India, Mexico, Ceylon, South America, and South Korea, as well as international programs through foundations and the United Nations.

## "Dedicated Dozen" Praised at Annual

As a part of its membership campaign managers' banquet, Michigan Farm Bureau honored the membership campaign managers whose counties reached membership goal earlier than other county Farm Bureaus.

Known as the "Dedicated Dozen," these managers were presented awards by MFB president Elton Smith.

"The 1976 membership campaign offered the biggest challenge Farm Bureau has faced in many years," Chuck

Burkett, director of MFB field operations said. "Once again, counties accepted the challenge with typical determination and turned that challenge into opportunity."

The most honored manager was Fran Motz, Clinton County, who was a member of the Dedicated Dozen for the sixth straight year. Clinton placed first in membership in the 1,301 member and over category.

Other dedicated Dozen award winners were:

Gerhardt Kernstock, (Bay - 2nd - 1,301 and over); Tom Atherton (Genesee - 3rd - 1,301 and over); Jim Vantine, Sr. (Oakland - 1st, - 801-1,300); Jim Cronin (St. Clair - 2nd - 801 - 1,300); Virgil Wiltse (Isabella - 3rd - 801 - 1,300); Ron Wood (Mason - 1st - 301 - 800); Waino Rajala (Hiawathaland - 2nd - 301-800); Glenn Miller (Wayne - 3rd - 301-800); Foster McCool (Kalkaska - 1st - 1,300); Elenor Honkala (Iron Range - 2nd - 300); and Gary Lathwell (Benzie - 3rd - 1-300).



The "Dedicated Dozen" line up. They are (from left) Ron Wood, Virgil Wiltse, Fran Motz, Ed Anderson for Waino Rajala, Gerhard Kernstock, Frank Schwiderson for Elenor Honkala, Jim Vantine, Sr., Richard Sharland for Glen Miller, Tom Atherton, Don Nugent for Foster McCool, Jim Cronin and Gary Lathwell.

## FPC Annual

# Cooperative Strength Needed to Assure Fuel Needs

More than 800 stockholders, dealers and their families attending the 27th Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting heard that product and liquid fuel sales were up again for the 12th straight year.

At the same time however, there was a substantial reduction of the gross profit margin.

Part of the reason for this drop is restrictive government regulation of the petroleum industry," Don Armstrong, executive vice president of FPC said in his address at the meeting.

Armstrong feels that government should take off price control so that the marketplace can take care of itself.

"But the main reason for the reduction was due to a deliberate reduction in gross margins by the FPC Board of Directors and management staff," Armstrong pointed out. "After careful consideration, we felt capital investment was necessary to help FPC maintain a level of competition. Such competition is important at the retail level, and this means that FPC must keep its

supply system open, and keep prices competitive. To do this, FPC must successfully compete for fuels needed for agricultural production," Armstrong pointed out. "This is really the only way that FPC can assure adequate fuels to supply members and patrons now and in the future."

"Cooperative strength is the only way we will be able to obtain the fuels needed for today and the future. A united cooperative effort is needed now, more than ever for fuel integration and supply distribution," Armstrong

cited.

FPC's participation in the purchase of a CF industries refinery in East Chicago, Indiana, with eight other regional cooperatives is a giant step toward the integration goal. Armstrong felt that 50 percent of FPC's fuel supply will eventually come from this refinery, which can produce 5 million gallons of fuel a day. The refinery will also help to increase patronage dividends in 1977, Armstrong added.

"Another link in the fuel integration chain is provided by the FPC Crude Oil Division," Armstrong said. Two new wells were discovered by division personnel in the Illinois basin. Crude oil production is another necessary link in the oil chain. Six wells are scheduled to be drilled in 1977."

Elton Smith, President of FPC, told the Annual Meeting attendees that fuel integration is the solution to maintaining an adequate supply of fuel at all times.

"If another embargo were to come, cooperatives would get fuel allocations. But we would not know for sure if we could get all we need. We cannot trust the fate of our energy needs to government. We need to integrate to get

basic and supply ourselves. The fuel supply situation remains shaky and demand for more fuel is causing imports and prices to go up. If we are to continue to provide adequate supplies of fuel to our dealers and patrons, we must continue our policy of aggressive, foresighted leadership through farmer involvement in the integration process. Integration is necessary to make farming more profitable. That is what the cooperative organization is all about."

Smith pointed out that cooperatives allow farmers to get more control over sources of farm inputs. They provide producers with the means to control their own destinies.

-FPC Highlights of the Year:

-Increased sales of custom diesel fuel over the previous years amount by almost a million gallons.

-Increased tire and battery retail sales in spite of an industrywide tire strike. The newly implemented cash and carry program was helpful in stimulating the sales.

Elton Smith, William Brewer, Richard Wieland, and Alwin Marion, were elected to the FPC Board of Directors.



## Supply Report

By Greg Sheffield

### GENERAL

Farm Bureau Services, Inc. and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. reported large increases in sales to patrons. The reports to patrons also showed how the companies are getting more basic in farm supply inputs. We do this through our cooperation with interregional co-operatives such as CF Industries, fertilizers, CF Refinery, and FPC-E, Inc., liquid petroleum, crude and exploration. Universal Cooperatives, a vast variety of hardware, tires, batteries, accessories, pesticides and numerous other farm inputs, as well as two research co-operatives, CRF, livestock, and FFR, new, improved seeds.

### HARDWARE

Steel prices have increased 6 percent. With the national attention given these increases, farmers should be aware that sheet steel, as well as other products across the board containing steel, will be increased in price. Farm Bureau Services still has some lower priced inventories available at dealers, so farmers should order at once to beat the price increases. Right now there is a hesitancy by buyers which is bound to result in a great deal of back ordering and delivery problems because of the strong demand expected this spring.

The Farm Bureau buildings program was slowed because of the cold weather season. Winter time is, therefore, an excellent opportunity to plan ahead for your expansion decisions. Farm Bureau Services has excellent technicians and "Buildings Engineer to assist you. Contact your nearest Farm Bureau building center dealer.

Water softeners have been well received by farmer patrons and we are setting up a new Key Dealer program. These dealers will be showing

you how water softeners more than pay for themselves in a short time by preserving equipment, using less soap, benefitting health, cleaner clothes.

### FERTILIZERS

Farm Bureau Services led the way by decreasing fertilizer prices starting last November 30. Now fertilizer prices, especially on phosphates, are excellent. Farm Bureau's fertilizer price advantages are expected to continue throughout the balance of the winter. But, stronger prices by spring are anticipated. Farmers definitely should order their fertilizer now during the winter months to help assure delivery and try for the price advantages of the slow winter season. Another good reason for ordering now and taking delivery, if you have storage, is there will be a 4 percent freight increase. This can mean about \$125 more per carload.

### PESTICIDES

A bright note is that Farm Bureau's atrazine herbicide is cheaper by about 20 percent under last year. A continuous delivery of pesticides will be coming into our system from now through spring. The prices on most pesticides, other than atrazine, are expected to be about the same or higher.

### SEEDS

Alfalfa seeds are extremely high in price because of a shortage of certified alfalfa seed. Wholesale costs have been boosted and seed will remain in tight supply. Arrange with your Farm Bureau Services dealer at once for your needs.

The bookings for corn seed are over and dealers are now well supplied. However, many farm sales have been consummated very early. Every farmer intending to plant corn should be making plans with his dealer if he has not already bought seed.

### FEED

NU PRO Dairy Feed, Farm Bureau Services' exclusive, scientific feed concept is being promoted at farmer meetings across the state. The NU PRO Dairy Feed regulates the amount of both soluble and insoluble protein enabling higher producing cows to give even more milk. Dairymen are alerted here to this unique and startling breakthrough accomplished by cooperative research. Check with your local dealer for the time and place of his NU PRO dairy meeting. Here the whole concept will be explained and your questions can be answered.

Feed sales and the manufacturing of feed at the Battle Creek plant continue at an increased pace. Good buys on superior Farm Bureau feeds are encouraging many new patrons. A trend toward older patrons to expand their enterprises and increase purchases is also noted. LSA, Liquid Silage Additive, has proved very successful with more farmers using it. They are reporting accomplishments of the advantages promised and are extremely happy with LSA.

### ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCTS

With the winter season upon us now, cold weather can take a serious toll against unprotected animals. Farm Bureau Services has a huge variety of proven animal health products at excellent prices at dealer locations.

### A NEW AGRI RADIAL TRACTOR TIRE...

Was shown at the recent annual meeting and product show. This huge, rear tractor tire proved a show stopper with its ability to deliver 18 percent or more acres per gallon of fuel. Its flotation is almost equal to dual tires in the same regular size and traction is increased up to 17 percent. More road wear, 40 percent, is achieved on hard surfaces.

## Record Sales News Highlights FBS Annual

Highlights of the 47th Annual Meeting of Michigan Farm Bureau Services, Inc. included the announcement that the company had achieved a record level of sales of nearly \$246 million in the Product Show more than 80 exhibitors and 2000 participants.

Also Lohen Black, Frank Crandell, Bruce Liepprandt, Richard Wieland, Andrew Jackson and Arthur Bailey were reelected to the FBS Board of Directors. Don Armstrong, Executive Vice President pointed out that some 800 Annual Meeting attendees, at the previous record sales level had been set in 1974 when \$230 million in net sales were recorded.

"However, the net profit margins were down somewhat from earlier years due to PBB feed settlements, competitive market pressures and reduce inventory value reductions of several items," Armstrong explained. "More than \$37 million in settlements have been made so far on the PBB contamination issue."

In spite of the PBB controversy, fiscal year 1976 feed tonnage sales were up 6 percent over the previous year's total, Armstrong noted.

"In fact, feed sales remain up all through the PBB

crisis," Elton Smith, President of FBS, told annual meeting attendees. "This showed that FBS patrons showed faith in their cooperative. The whole issue is really a family matter, and the farmers in the family have really pulled together."

Armstrong also praised the show of confidence.

"FBS can't continue to supply high quality grower's needs without support from its members. Continued growers support means that farmers have learned the advantages of cooperative marketing.

"With continued member support, the goal of complete cooperative self-sufficiency is not too far off."

Other 1976 FBS highlights were:

-A 26 percent increase in fertilizer tonnage sales over last year. Total plant food distribution was up 33 percent.

--Michigan elevator exchange grain sales reached over 43 million bushels, 31 percent higher than last year.

-The retail division had a record sales year of \$39.8 million, up \$1.4 million over last year. 69 percent of the sales came from movement of farm supply items. The balance is realized from sales of grain and beans.

# Parsons Top Young Farmer

An Osceola County dairy farmer was honored by the Michigan Farm Bureau as the "Distinguished Young Farmer" for 1976. The presentation was made to George L. Parsons, Ewart, during the farm organization's 57th annual meeting in Grand Rapids, Wednesday evening, December 1. The award presentation highlighted day-long activities for young farmers.

Parsons and his wife, Sandra, operate a 550 acre family farm. They will receive an all-expense paid trip to the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in Hawaii in January, where Parsons will compete with other state award winners for national honors.

Twenty-five year old Keith Eisemann received second place recognition in the annual contest. Eisemann farms cash crops and



George Parsons (Osceola County) and his wife Sandra, hold Parson's award for being the "Distinguished Young Farmer" for 1976. The couple operate a 550 acre family farm near Ewart.

livestock in Blissfield, Lenawee County. Roger Bloss of Schwartz Creek, Genesee County, was named third place award winner.

# Smith Re-elected

Elton R. Smith of Caledonia, Kent County dairy farmer who has headed the state's largest farm organization since 1964, was re-elected as president of the Michigan Farm Bureau Friday, December 3. The action took place during the reorganizational meeting of the 16-member board of directors in Grand Rapids, following the close of the Michigan Farm Bureau's 57th annual meeting.

Also re-elected were Dean Pridgeon, Montgomery, Branch County, vice-president, and John Laurie, Cass City, Tuscola County, third member of the board's executive committee.

Voting delegates to the organization's annual meeting also re-elected: Larry DeVuyst of Ithaca to represent District 8, and Richard Wieland, representing District 10. Vice president Pridgeon represents District 2, Laurie represents District 6 and Elton Smith also represents District 4.

Re-elected to serve as at-large directors were James Sayre of Belleville and Walter Frahm of Frankenmuth, and Mrs. Andrew (Claudine) Jackson was re-elected to represent the Farm Bureau Women on the board of directors. Newly-elected was Robert Rottier of Fremont in Newaygo County. Rottier will represent the young farmers of the organization.

Other officers re-elected were: William Wilkinson, East Lansing, secretary; Max D. Dean, Okemos, treasurer and chief financial officer, and Robert E. Braden, Byron, was reappointed administrative director and assistant secretary.



Gerald Geurink and his wife Joan accept the FBS "Feeder of the Year" Award presented at the 57th MFB Annual Meeting. He received a plaque and a cash award of \$1,000. The Geurink herd ranks second in the Ottawa County Dairy Herd Improvement records. Feed department manager John Williamson made the presentation.

# Geurink Named FBS Top Feeder

Farm Bureau Services' "Michigan Feeder of the Year" is Ottawa County dairy farmer Gerald Geurink. He was presented the top state award December 1 following the annual meeting of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. in Grand Rapids. He was congratulated by Farm Bureau Services President Elton Smith and Executive Vice President Donald Armstrong, and presented with a plaque and cash award of \$1000.

Geurink, who was previously named top feeder in Farm Bureau District IV, was selected for first place honors from among winners in eleven Farm Bureau Districts statewide.

Feed Department Manager John Williamson said top feeders are selected by a panel of cooperative managers and officers "for their high herd producing records, and outstanding leadership both in the farming business and in their respective communities."

Geurink farms 200 acres. He milks 40 cows, and maintains a 52-head replacement herd of heifers and calves. Geurink's milking herd average 19,355 pounds of milk for 12 months, with 664 pounds of butterfat. The Geurink herd ranks second in the Ottawa County Dairy Herd Improvement Association records.

State runner-up in the Feeder of the Year Competition is Larry Crandall of Calhoun County, Farm Bureau District II. Crandall is also an outstanding dairy farmer, with a milking herd of 130 and total herd of 270. Crandall's herd averaged 17,700 pounds of milk for a 12-month period, 688 pounds of butterfat. He farms 800 acres. The Crandall herd ranks number one in the 100-cow-plus category of the Calhoun County Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

Crandall has been secretary and treasurer of his local Michigan Milk Producers Association for the past five years.



During the 57th MFB annual meeting, new officers of the Young Farmers State Committee were elected. Robert Rottier (right) was named as chairman. He was also elected as the Young Farmer delegate to the MFB Board of Directors. Jim Cronin was elected the committee's 1st vice chairman (middle), while Dave Peckins named 2nd vice chairman.

# MFB Names Top '76 Communicators

Two farm broadcasters and a newspaper columnist were honored as "Agricultural Communicators of the Year" by the Michigan Farm Bureau on Thursday, December 2, in Grand Rapids. The recognition took place during the organization's 57th annual meeting.

Herb Schmidt, farm director for WBCM radio, Bay City, was named top communicator and received a "Gold Mike" award for his "year-round efforts to build bridges of understanding between farm and non-farm people."

For the second consecutive year, Karl Guenther, farm director for WKZO and WKZO-TV, Kalamazoo, was the recipient of the "Bronze Mike" award. Evelyn Stringham, author of the

"Farm Wife" column in the Jackson Citizen Patriot, was awarded the Bronze Quill award. Both were cited for "outstanding services in promoting the understanding and appreciation of Michigan agriculture."

The three news people were picked by judges from 30 nominations submitted by county Farm Bureau units throughout the state. All nominees were recognized at the local level during county Farm Bureau annual meetings in October.

In presenting the awards, Larry DeVuyst, Ithaca farmer who serves on the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors, paid tribute to news media representatives who have helped farmers tell the story of agriculture to the non-farm public.



Herb Schmidt, farm director for WBCM Radio, Bay City (left) was the recipient of the MFB "Gold Mike" Award. This award is presented to the agricultural communicator who is considered to have made the greatest contribution to agriculture during the year.

# Michigan Marketing Outlook

## Corn, Soybeans and Wheat

Soybeans and soybean meal have pushed higher in this fall's trading among reports of a short crop in the U.S. and worldwide with continued good demand. Soybean oil has still slowed the movement of soybeans to what many analysts are predicting will be a \$7.00 local cash price.

The picture thus, remains favorable at least until spring 1977 when farmers' intentions for the new crop year become firmer. Meanwhile, the soybean market has helped corn prices turn around to a more positive basis. In addition, several factors could come to bear on corn prices before next spring and create a new market psychology:

1. Less corn (5-10 percent) planted in 1977
2. Low subsoil moisture in key corn producing areas
3. Improved livestock feed price ratios
4. Larger hog number thus, larger demand and
5. General support from soybean markets

It does not appear that any dramatic price moves, up or down, are eminent in the corn market. Many analysts look for a slight weakening of price through January with improvement following into March as more information concerning the points listed above becomes available.

### WHEAT

Good news is hard to come by these days in U.S. wheat markets. Argentina is making more world market sales than any of its competitors. Their competitive

prices are probably the single most important reason for Argentina's dominance.

Australia is currently estimating that their 1976-77 wheat crop, which is now nearly harvested, will be about 10 million tons. This would be a 15 percent increase in production and will surely put pressure on the Australian Wheat Board to become more competitive in export markets.

Our neighbor to the north, Canada, also has a record crop this year (1976) with 864 million bushels. They are busy completing wheat sales to Peoples Republic of China under a three year agreement.

The latest U.S. crop estimate now also places 1976 production at a record 2.147 billion bushels or 13 million bushels more than the 2.134 billion bushels produced in 1975. U.S. export activity has reached a virtual standstill at this time. It is expected that even Poland and the Soviet Union will import only the minimum quantities of U.S. grain as per their recent agreements. Many of these factors are likely to cause the U.S.D.A. to lower their export estimates for 1976-77.

The brightest spots in the U.S. wheat market at present are soybeans, foreign sales by our competitors and farmer resistance to low prices. Strong movements in soybean prices eventually spill over into wheat markets thus, pulling wheat prices up. Secondly, as U.S. competitors sell more wheat, world stocks

will eventually decline leaving whatever is left in a more desirable position. Finally, farmers are still holding pretty tight to the 1976 crop. Sooner or later, this is bound to cause some price movement. Thus, while the overall picture is somewhat unfavorable at the present time, market forces should prevail and bring some price relief even if its only a few brief rallies.

## Fruit

### Red Dye No. 4

As many already know, the only remaining artificial food coloring used in the U.S. is under attack. Red Dye No. 4, which was approved for use in food in 1971 and in drugs in 1974, is manufactured by the allied chemical company. A study conducted for allied chemicals and completed last February showed that a "statistically significant" number of tumors occurred in mice fed low, medium and high levels of the coloring.

Also known as Allura Red AC, the Dye is used in such foods as ice cream, candy, and soda pop to color them red, brown, purple or orange. A Food and Drug Administration official, Dr. Adrian M. Gross, has stated that on the basis of the study completed for Allied Chemical Company, the Dye should be banned.

Meanwhile, the Food and Drug Administration plans to have the study evaluated by an interagency panel, "a process that could take as

long as two years," according to the report.

### APPLE JUICE MARKET

According to Tom Butler, Manager, Michigan Processing Apple Growers, the Michigan Processing Apple Growers continue to pursue their complaint against Indian Summer, Inc. for their breach of contract with the association regarding the price of juice apples. Growers should be sure that the base price for juice apples is \$4.00-cwt. delivered to the plant and that sales are being made to processors in Michigan for \$4.00 delivered, with some sales taking place at \$4.50 delivered.

### X-DISEASE IN PEACHES

In the future, inspectors from the Plant Industry Division of the Michigan Department of Agriculture will be marking peach trees that show visual symptoms of x-disease. This is a new program for 1977 and, while all the details have not been worked out, the information is intended for growers information only, and no compulsory removal of diseased peach trees is contemplated.

## Beef

The Cattle On Feed report was issued December 14th and reflected the optimism that the industry is beginning to generate. The report had two major points of interest that are significant.

With the lower corn prices and the optimism rejuvenating throughout the industry there were 2.2 million calves placed on feed in November which was 10 percent more than a year earlier and the largest placement for any November in history. The interesting point here is that even with November's record the total placements were down 3 percent from a year earlier.

Probably the most significant point in the report was that 1.3 million head of cattle went to packers from feed lots in November which is up 13 percent from a year earlier. If you compare the increased slaughter to the prices paid to the farmers for November you find that even with the significant increase in volume going to slaughter that prices are continuing their steady climb.

We should have the majority of the available calves on feed by the end of this month and our next cattle on feed report will indicate a further reduction in total cattle in our feed lots which can only mean higher prices down the road.

## Southern Michigan MMO Hearing Jan. 4

Proposals to change location pricing and other provisions in the Southern Michigan federal milk marketing order will be considered at a public hearing in East Lansing, Michigan, Jan. 4, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m., in the Hospitality Motor Inn, 3600 Dunckel Road (Jolly Road Exit at I-469).

R.W. March, dairy official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service said one of the proposals would increase from the present 8 cents to 10 cents a hundredweight (46½ quarts) the amount that handlers must pay producers for delivering their milk directly from farms to plants in the Detroit metropolitan area.

Several other proposals would revise the rates under which milk is priced at the various plant locations ac-

ording to how far it must be shipped from the plants to reach the market's principal population centers, where the bulk of the bottling (Class I) milk is sold. Present allowances (location adjustments) to handlers would be increased to reflect the increased costs of moving milk from country plants to city processing plants.

It is also proposed that a distributing plant would continue to be regulated under the Southern Michigan order until the third straight month in which it has sold more of its milk in another market.

Another proposal would allow a dairy farmer quarantined from shipping milk because of a chemical residue in his milk or dairy cows to retain his previously established "base" for a 12-month period beginning with the February following the lifting of the quarantine. Mr.

March explained that monthly deliveries by a producer during August - December are averaged out to make his monthly base. Then in the following February through January, the producer is paid the order's uniform base price for milk delivered up to his base amount, but a lower price for any excess milk.

USDA will evaluate the hearing evidence and decide whether the proposed changes should be made. To make any change, a two-thirds majority approval by affected dairy farmers is required.

Copies of the hearing notice detailing the proposals may be obtained from Market Administrator C.T. McCleery, 2684 W. Eleven Mile Road, Berkley, MI 48072; or from the Dairy Division, AMS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC.

# DEBENTURES

### INTEREST ON DEBENTURES 5-10-15 year maturity

8%	5 Year Maturity	\$100.00 Minimum Purchase
8½%	10 Year Maturity	\$100.00 Minimum Purchase
9%	15 Year Maturity	\$100.00 Minimum Purchase
8¾%	10 Year Maturity	\$1,000.00 Minimum Purchase
9½%	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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FARMERS PETROLEUM

## MASA Cites Need for More Members

MASA's new operations manager, Don Shepard, has accepted the challenge of increasing MASA's membership to 1,000 during 1977. To accomplish this goal, Shepard encourages all Farm Bureau members to note what MASA has accomplished in the past year and what the organization needs support for in 1977.

"MASA activities benefit all of Michigan agriculture, but especially those who employ farm laborers," Shepard points out.

During 1976, MASA was instrumental in preparing and giving testimony on:

-MIOSHA safety standards application to agriculture for powered industrial trucks. MASA approved of this legislation and its position prevailed.

-MIOSHA safety standards application to agriculture for personal protective equipment. MASA opposed this legislation, but lost. The standards are expected to go into effect April or May 1977.

-MIOSHA standards on tractor roll-over protection and machinery guarding. MASA opposed these proposals because they were more stringent than federal standards and included retrofit requirements. The organization's position prevailed, and the state is expected to adopt the federal standards soon.

-Federal OSHA proposed field sanitation facilities regulations. MASA opposed this legislation. As of January, 1977, the issue is unresolved.

-Proposed federal OSHA regulations that would bring year-round employee housing under OSHA jurisdiction. MASA opposed these proposals and its position prevailed. However, with new OSHA proposals, the issue remains unresolved.

-Cleaning up the Workman Compensation bill. MASA supported this move by making numerous suggestions such as the establishment of realistic minimum benefits. The issue remains unresolved.

-"Piece rate" method of payment. MASA opposed the doing away with this system. Its position has prevailed to date.

"MASA also sponsored 45 labor information meetings covering 60 counties and 3,000 farmers in cooperation with local county Farm Bureaus," Shepard said. The organization also provided an extensive labor consulting service and conducted an expanded reporting service through Michigan Farm Bureau Radio Network.

"Our goals in 1977 are to provide new member services, sponsor a Michigan agricultural labor conference, and to establish a labor relations advisory committee," Shepard said.

"We also want to continue the county labor information and membership meetings, the labor relations consulting service, continue to offer broadcast labor reports, and above all, to continue to monitor state and national agricultural labor relations legislation."

Though the current membership has been able to support such activities in the

past, the addition of new members will provide the revenue to expand all MASA services to Michigan agriculture, Shepard explained. Anyone who is interested in joining should contact the MASA headquarters at the Michigan Farm Bureau Center in Lansing. The address is 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

## FBS' Callum Dies

Farm Bureau Services, Inc. and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. mourn the death of Farm Supply Division Vice President William E. Callum, Jr.

Callum, 53, passed away December 9 at a Lansing hospital following an extended illness. He had held his position with the two farmer cooperatives since 1967. In an address to em-

ployees, Executive Vice President Donald Armstrong said, "It is with deep sorrow that I must inform you of the death of Bill Callum. . . his dedication and active participation on the Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum management team has been much appreciated and will be missed."

Callum is survived by his wife Dolores and 3 children.

# Full Fertilization... Assures A Better Total Crop Profit

## Fertility Helps Solve Crop Stress Problems

Test results from a leading midwestern university confirm that fertilization does affect crop stress. Under-fertilized crops tend to be thirstier crops. By the same token full fertilization helps crops deal with stress caused by overabundance of water. A program of Full Fertilization with quality Farm Bureau fertilizer is the best way to assure high crop yields and better profits.

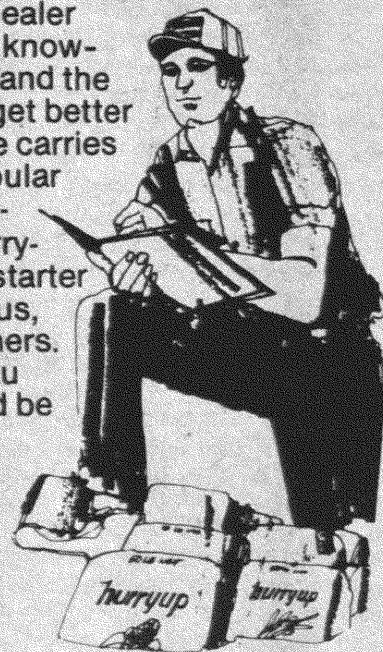
### Get Ready for Spring Now and Save

Your Farm Bureau dealer can work out a Full Fertilization program based on your soil conditions. You can order and take your fertilizer now, to be sure you have the proper type and amount when you need it this Spring. You save dollars per ton because of our Winter discounts . . . You save time with fewer planting delays.



### Farm Bureau Means Total Service

Your Farm Bureau dealer is a pro. He has the knowledge, the products and the service to help you get better total crop profits. He carries the full range of popular and effective fertilizers — including Hurry-up™ high analysis starter fertilizers, anhydrous, bulk-blends, and others. Ask the Farm Bureau people today . . . and be ready this Spring!



Where Your Farm Comes First

**Farm Bureau**  
FARM BUREAU SERVICES, INC

# DISCUSSION

## TOPIC

by KEN WILES  
Manager Member Relations

It has been said many times that "behind every great man is a woman." This may be true in some situations, but in Farm Bureau it is not.

In Farm Bureau, the women are not behind. They are in leadership positions, making things happen for their organization. Here in Michigan, it has become a tradition to call on members of the women's committee when a job needs to be done.

Farm Bureau women are concerned citizens of their communities, knowledgeable about the issues which affect their world and their way of life. They are confident in their ability to protect the good things in their life, and in their power to bring about changes for the better.

While the women's liberation movement gained momentum in the 70's, most farm women were ahead of their times. "Liberated from what?" most would ask. If liberated means being free to "do your own thing" and able to function as a first class citizen within their world -- these rights are already theirs.

Farm Bureau women have no identity problems. They know who they are -- full-time partners in a business enterprise where there is no discrimination against a woman driving a tractor or helping to deliver a calf.

And off the farm, the women take no back row seat in public affairs and in their farm organization's activities. Well versed on current affairs which affect their chosen way of life, they are wherever the action is. They are a legislative leader traveling to the Nation's Capitol or Lansing to discuss issues of importance with their Legislator. They attend their County Annual Meeting and serve as delegates at State and National Conventions to take an active role in deciding what the policies of their farm organization should be. They are at local stores promoting the products produced on their farms. When their urban counterpart took up picket signs and marched to the marketplace with the demand for food price role back, Farm Bureau women went to action. Because they knew that boycotts and price controls could mean food scarcity and higher prices, they took their own "weapon" -- truth -- to the arena of public opinion.

In the supermarkets, at shopping malls, in the schools . . . they told the amazing story of a productive agriculture. Through a Speakers' Bureau, they shared with urban groups the facts about food production and food prices. The Speakers' Bureau teams made friends throughout the state as they told thousands of urban people, "we are proud to be farmers!" Their effectiveness was acknowledged when they were recognized as regional winners of the Michigan Agricultural Development of the Year Award during Michigan week, 1974.

Farm Bureau has long been an avenue of action for farm women in Michigan. From the very beginning, back in 1919, women had a place in Michigan Farm Bureau, through a "Department of Home Economics." In 1921, Mrs. Edith Wagner of Monroe County, was elected to the Board of Directors of Michigan Farm Bureau.

In 1939, women became active in membership, legislative work, and in 1944, at the 25th Annual Meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau, they asked for a "official" part of the

program. The voting delegates agreed and they have never been sorry for this decision.

At first, other State Farm Bureaus could not imagine how women could have any part in a farmer's organization. Women should be content to stay home and do the chores instead of having an active part in building a strong Farm Bureau.

Michigan explained that without men and women working together as a family unit in building and maintaining a strong farm organization, the job could be only partially done.

Michigan was a leader, setting the pattern of success which was followed by other State Farm Bureaus and the AFBF. Later, this women power would help Michigan gain the coveted Golden Eagle Award for outstanding programs.

With the challenges of a changing agriculture in the early 70's, farm women found they, themselves, had to change. When their farm organization said, "we need a new you," Farm Bureau women answered the challenge. The "new you" included a more positive, stronger voice in the public arena. They were proud to be a part of the fantastically productive agriculture and realized the need to tell others about it.

-- The new you told the farmer's side of the food price story in an eyeball-eyeball contacts with consumers in supermarkets.

-- The new you developed outstanding commodity promotions in urban shopping malls and at fairs to spread the good word about a productive, effective agriculture.

-- The new you joined in the consumer movement of the 70's. Farm Bureau women promoted understanding by becoming active in the consumer movement.

-- The new you formed a positive image of agriculture -- of farmers who are proud of their profession.

-- The new you actively engaged in leadership training. Annual training seminars give hundreds of women the "know how" to carry out effective projects on the County level.

Farm Bureau women believe that surfacing and training leaders is vital to their farm organization. They know that Farm Bureau is people.

The Washington Legislative Seminar, sponsored each year by Farm Bureau women, provides a leadership opportunity for County Farm Bureau leaders to visit with their Congressman about issues of importance to agriculture. The contacts Farm Bureau Legislative leaders make in our Nation's Capitol do much to promote understanding of farm problems by our own elected officials.

Many County Farm Bureau Women's Committees believe that leadership training begins with our youth, and they work hard each year to sponsor high school students attendance at the Young People's Citizenship Seminar, another Farm Bureau project. This annual event provides young people with an opportunity to learn about our American political and economic systems from the finest teachers available. The students have a learning experience which equips them to take their place as the leaders of tomorrow.

Farm Bureau women also provide scholarships for college students to continue their education towards careers in the

medical and agricultural related fields.

Farm Bureau women placed top priority on working towards a goal of a first aid kit on every farm and in every farm home in Michigan. They also sponsored first aid training so that one person in each farm family will be equipped to handle emergency situations. Farm Bureau women were instrumental in getting the SMV legislation passed and sold thousands of the emblems to farmers.

Their concern for health reaches far beyond their own homes and communities, as far as India and South Africa. Through the Associated Country Women of the World, of which Farm Bureau women are members, women in jungle villages are taught child care, nutrition, and hygiene.

That Farm Bureau women are involved far beyond the boundaries of their own farms can best be illustrated by listing the outstanding achievement in activities which won four County Women's Committees recognition at the recent Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

Chippewa County -- The Farm Bureau women in Chippewa County have made a special effort to work with local organizations and businesses and include these leaders as resource people. In cooperation with the County Board, they conducted a Meet the Candidate Meeting. Many Chippewa women wrote letters to Congressmen and Legislators on the estate tax legislation, as well as OSHA regulations and land use. They conducted a neighborhood watch program, participated in the membership campaign, worked on petitions for the bottle bill, and held a self-protection program for women.

Mason County -- The goal of the Mason Women's Committee was to strengthen Farm Bureau by involving more women to Farm Bureau activities. They did this through an agricultural display at a county fair and a float for the July 4th parade. They sponsored an open information meeting on farm labor regulations and conducted farm tours for school children. Several women participated in local radio programs, discussing agriculture. A cancer detection program was held for all women in the county. The women also wrote many letters to Congressmen on key legislative issues.

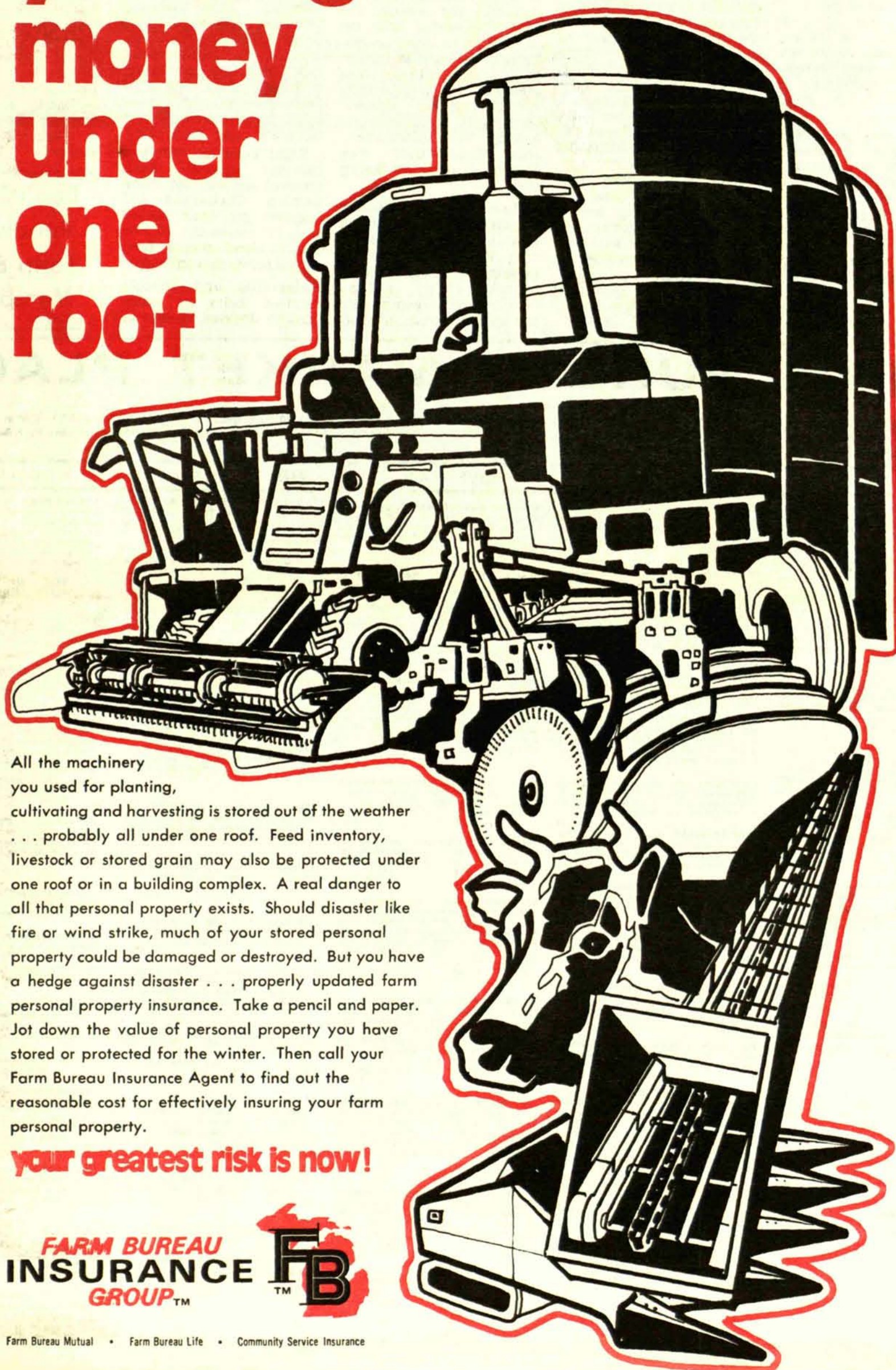
Jackson County -- Several women in Jackson County serve on various committees of the County Farm Bureau. They sponsored a women for the Washington Legislative Seminar, assisted with an agricultural float for the Rose Parade in June, and a booth at the Jackson County Fair. They presented two nurses scholarships, studied their county government, wrote many letters to Legislators on important issues, and conducted projects on safety, commodity promotion, and rural urban understanding.

Sanilac County -- The Sanilac Women's Legislative activities included participation in the Lansing and Washington Legislative Seminar, co-sponsorship of a Meet the Candidate Meeting, and attendance and testimony at hearings. They presented the story of agriculture through a mall promotion with other counties, a display at the county fair, farm tours and bean day. Members of the Speakers' Bureau talked to several organizations as well as to 1300 students in the county. They cooperated in selecting and sending several students to the Young People's Citizenship Seminar, held a farm labor information meeting, and wrote many letters to Legislators on matters of concern to farmers.

Unlike many organizations, the women are not an "auxiliary of Farm Bureau;" they are an intricate part of it. Farm Bureau women can be found in leadership positions throughout the organization -- on County and State Boards and important committees. Leading -- not leaning -- can be their motto.



# you've got a lot of money under one roof



All the machinery you used for planting, cultivating and harvesting is stored out of the weather . . . probably all under one roof. Feed inventory, livestock or stored grain may also be protected under one roof or in a building complex. A real danger to all that personal property exists. Should disaster like fire or wind strike, much of your stored personal property could be damaged or destroyed. But you have a hedge against disaster . . . properly updated farm personal property insurance. Take a pencil and paper. Jot down the value of personal property you have stored or protected for the winter. Then call your Farm Bureau Insurance Agent to find out the reasonable cost for effectively insuring your farm personal property.

**your greatest risk is now!**

**FARM BUREAU  
INSURANCE  
GROUP™**





Your Farmers Petroleum Dealer Announces

**NEW**  
**Low Cash & Carry**  
**Prices on Tires**

For Cars, Trucks and Farm Implements

Where Your Farm Comes First

**Farm**  
**Bureau**  
FARMERS PETROLEUM

SEBEWAING FARMERS CO-OP / EATON FARM BUREAU CO-OP, Charlotte  
COOPERSVILLE CO-OP ELEVATOR / FARM BUREAU OIL, Coldwater / HEMLOCK FARMERS CO-OP  
FARMERS CO-OP ELEVATOR, Hudsonville-Vriesland / LENAWEE FARM BUREAU OIL, Adrian  
FARMERS PETROLEUM CO-OP, Scottville / CHESANING FARMERS CO-OP  
FARMERS PETROLEUM CO-OP, Cassopolis / RUTH FARMERS ELEVATOR  
FARMERS PETROLEUM CO-OP, Comstock Park / FARMERS PETROLEUM CO-OP, Caro  
FARMERS PETROLEUM CO-OP, Jonesville / FARMERS PETROLEUM CO-OP, St. Johns  
SAGINAW FARM BUREAU OIL CO. / WASHTENAW FARMERS OIL, Ypsilanti  
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FARMERS PETROLEUM CO-OP, Traverse City / FARMERS PETROLEUM CO-OP, Emmett  
MARSHALL FARM BUREAU OIL / ELKTON PETROLEUM CO-OP / BUCHANAN CO-OPS, INC.  
THUNDER BAY FARMERS CO-OP, Lachine / ELLSWORTH FARMERS EXCHANGE

# PASSENGER CAR TIRES!

TUBELESS RADIAL & BIAS PLY



Co-op

## MARK X

**\$35.<sup>22</sup>**

BR78 x 13  
(plus \$2.11 FET)

Total steel armored protection.

- 2 Steel belts
- 2 Radial body plies
- Superior ride and control
- Longer life
- Better all-around tire performance

SIZE	PRICE	FET
BR78 x 13	35.22	2.11
FR78 x 14	40.83	2.69
GR78 x 14	42.10	2.89
HR78 x 14	45.32	3.07
GR78 x 15	42.97	2.97
HR78 x 15	46.51	3.15
LR78 x 15	49.64	3.47



Co-op

## MARK V RADIAL

**\$28.<sup>12</sup>**

BR78 x 13  
(plus \$2.03 FET)

Belted radial construction at popular prices. A great buy!

- 2 Fiberglass belts
- 2 Radial Polyester carcass plies
- Longer wear at turnpike speeds
- High damage resistance
- Flexible sidewalls

SIZE	PRICE	FET
BR78 x 13	28.12	2.03
ER78 x 14	31.66	2.45
FR78 x 14	32.81	2.63
GR78 x 14	34.35	2.80
GR78 x 15	35.22	2.88
HR78 x 15	37.41	3.07
JR78 x 15	38.44	3.19



Co-op

## SPD POLY

**\$20.<sup>71</sup>**

A78 x 13  
(plus \$1.74 FET)

A safe, long mileage tire at a price that fits any budget!

- Polyester cord resists "thumping"
- Resistance to bruises at high speeds
- Lateral gripping power on turns
- Safe stopping power
- Tire wear indicators

SIZE	PRICE	FET
A78 x 13	20.71	1.74
B78 x 13	21.22	1.84
C78 x 13	21.86	1.98
C78 x 14	22.34	2.04
E78 x 14	22.84	2.25
F78 x 14	24.60	2.39
G78 x 14	25.64	2.55
H78 x 14	26.84	2.75
J78 x 14	28.07	2.96
F78 x 15	24.73	2.43
G78 x 15	25.67	2.58
H78 x 15	27.13	2.80
J78 x 15	28.91	3.00
L78 x 15	29.52	3.08



Co-op

## DIRECTOR 120

B78 x 13  
(plus \$1.82 FET)

**\$23.<sup>59</sup>**

Long life, all purpose tire.

- 2 Polyester plies
- 2 Fiberglass belts
- Increased stability
- Soft, comfortable ride
- Excellent steering control

SIZE	PRICE	FET
B78 x 13	23.59	1.82
B78 x 14	24.07	1.98
E78 x 14	26.97	2.27
F78 x 14	28.84	2.43
G78 x 14	29.09	2.60
H78 x 14	31.61	2.83
G78 x 15	30.50	2.65
H78 x 15	32.09	2.87
J78 x 15	33.57	3.03
L78 x 15	34.63	3.14

**LOW, CASH AND CARRY PRICES FOR MOUNTING AND**

TOUGH, DEPENDABLE  
**TRUCK TIRES**

TUBE TYPE AND TUBELESS - RADIAL AND BIAS PLY



Co-op

**COUNTRY SQUIRE**

**\$53.<sup>49</sup>** Tubeless Truck Tire  
10 x 16.5 - 8 ply  
(plus \$4.88 FET)

Wide, low truck tire with maximum traction, dependable performance on all surfaces.

- Strong nylon cord
- Tough, massive tread
- Advanced design

SIZE	PLY	PRICE	FET
10 x 16.5	8	53.49	4.88
8 x 17.5	8	43.46	4.35



Co-op

**COUNTRY SQUIRE**

**\$32.<sup>28</sup>**

Heavy Service Tube Type  
700 x 15 - 6 ply  
(plus \$3.16 FET)

Long on mileage and safety. Strong nylon cord and tough, massive all-weather tread delivers great stability.

SIZE	PLY	PRICE	FET
70015	6	32.28	3.16
82520	10	88.29	7.18
90020	10	104.37	8.29



Co-op

**FARM N' MARKET**

**\$24.<sup>23</sup>** Nylon Tube Type  
670 x 15 - 6 ply  
(plus \$2.42 FET)

The quality tire for highway, farm and delivery service.

- Modern 5-row tread design
- Strong nylon construction
- Buttress pillars for added strength
- Shoulder ventilation for cooler running

SIZE	PLY	PRICE	FET
670 x 15	6	24.23	2.42
700 x 15	6	29.88	2.83
700 x 15	8	33.96	2.96
600 x 16	6	27.16	2.29
650 x 16	6	30.21	2.58
700 x 16	6	32.53	2.91
750 x 16	6	35.55	3.30
750 x 16	8	40.86	3.59
700 x 17	6	38.68	3.27
750 x 17	8	47.68	4.01
700 x 18	8	47.03	3.80
750 x 20	10	59.94	5.01
825 x 20	10	78.33	6.19
900 x 20	10	91.12	7.29
1000 x 20	12	119.24	9.08



**\$52.<sup>10</sup>**

Co-op

**CARGO CARRIER RADIAL**

78 Series Tube Type  
GR78 x 15 - 6 ply  
(plus \$3.02 FET)

A radial truck tire that delivers long mileage and easy handling. • 3 carcass plies • Dynacor rayon cord • 2-belts of steel cord

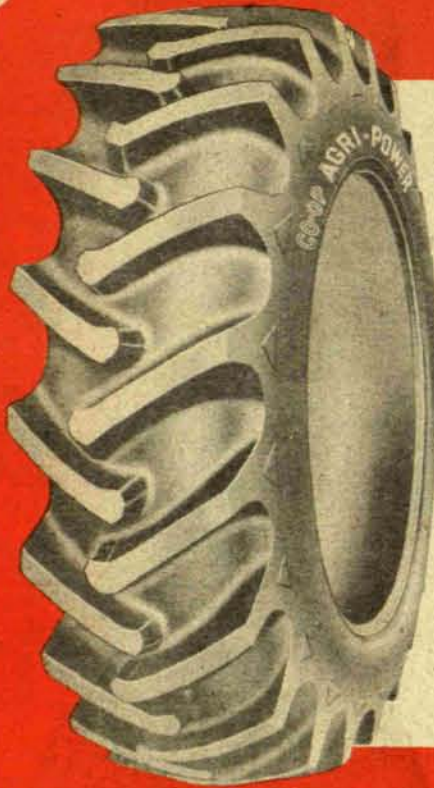
SIZE	PLY	PRICE	FET
GR78 x 15	6	52.10	3.02
HR78 x 15	6	55.88	3.69
LR78 x 15	8	65.33	4.27

**CO-OP MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS**

**FINANCING EXTRA**

All prices are suggested

# TRACTOR & FARM IMPLEMENT TIRES



Co-op

## AGRI-POWER

**\$182.<sup>80</sup>** 18.4 x 34 - 6 ply  
(plus \$10.65 FET)

Nylon cord construction resists impact damage. Built with 30-degree angle lugs to reduce wheel slippage and save fuel. Provides up to 20% more drawbar pull than conventional tractor tires!

SIZE	PLY	PRICE	FET
18.4 x 34	6	\$182.80	10.65
18.4 x 38	6	\$197.43	11.59
18.4 x 38	8	\$226.79	12.47

(Many other sizes available)



Co-op

## PLOW TAIL WHEEL

**\$18.<sup>36</sup>** 350 x 12  
(plus 40¢ FET)

The extra heavy duty tread absorbs shocks, cushions the plow and keeps furrows straight. Continuous rib tread design for free rolling, nylon cord for extra service.

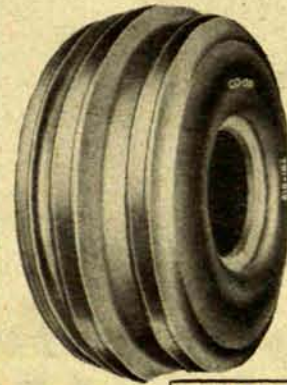
Co-op

## TRI-RIB \$53.<sup>61</sup>

Heavy Service Front Tractor Tire

1000 x 16 - 6 ply  
(plus \$2.68 FET)

A nylon cord tire for extra protection against field hazards, moisture, barnyard acids and alkalis. Wide, three-rib design stabilizes steering control. Extra-thick sidewall protects against stubble gouging and snags.



SIZE	PLY	PRICE	FET
400 x 15	4	14.57	.53
500 x 15	4	16.18	.67
750 x 16	6	30.55	1.64
1000 x 16	6	53.61	2.68
1100 x 16	8	69.93	3.70

Co-op

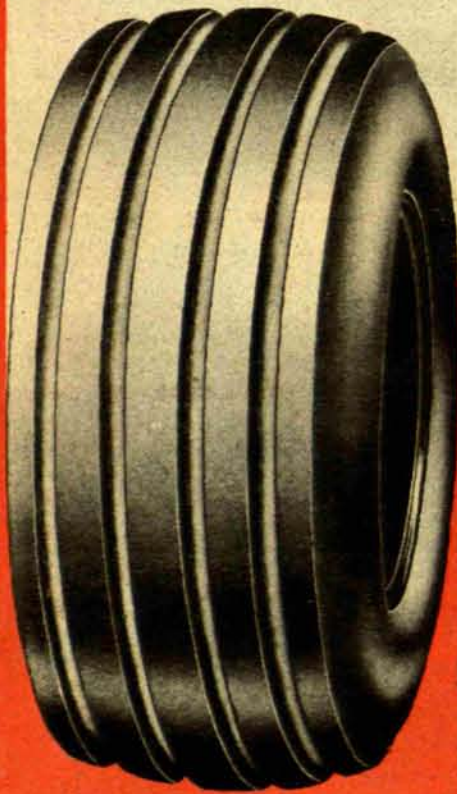
## AGRI-SERVICE \$34.<sup>96</sup>

Flotation Wagon Tire

11L x 15 - 8 ply  
(plus \$1.62 FET)

A free-rolling implement tire design for extreme flotation. Deeply grooved tread gives more stability for trailing farm implements.

SIZE	PLY	PRICE	FET
11L x 15	8	34.96	1.62
12.5L x 15	8	45.14	1.92
11L x 16	8	36.56	1.73



Co-op

## SUPER POWER PLUS

Rear Tractor Tire

**\$338.<sup>24</sup>** 20.8 x 34 - 8 ply  
(plus \$15.17 FET)

An original Equipment tire with proven performance under rugged conditions.

- Superior strength
- Extra impact resistance
- Long Life
- Greater tire economy

SIZE	PLY	PRICE	FET
24.5 x 32	10	487.96	21.04
20.8 x 34	8	338.24	15.17
23.1 x 34	8	444.16	17.89

(Many other sizes available)



All prices are suggested

## BATTERIES & CHARGERS

Co-op

### BIG T BATTERY



Dependable all-weather starting power for tractors and farm machinery. Over twice the overcharge resistance required by industry standards. Heavy duty construction, specially reinforced corners and walls.

Co-op

### ENGINE STARTER/CHARGER

This quick engine starter and charger can turn over engines with discharged batteries. Uses ordinary house current for starts and rapid charging of 6, 8 or 12-volt batteries. 20-100 amperes. Uses heavy-duty transformer and has new style very high density Selenium rectifiers.



Model 600205A