

Hike Proposed Primary Roads

Chairman of the House Transportation Subcommittee has proposed a transportation plan that would include programs for bridge replacement, upgrading primary roads, and highway safety. To fund the programs, James Howard (D., N.J.), the plan's author, proposed an increase in the federal gasoline tax by three or four cents per gallon. The present tax is four cents per gallon.

The additional gas tax, Howard said, would generate \$3 to \$4 billion annually in the highway trust fund. He suggested annually between \$1 and \$2 billion additional for upgrading the primary highway system.

Transportation secretary

Brock Adams, continues to talk about an overall "transportation account" to replace the highway trust fund. Farm Bureau and other highway - user groups are wary of any such plans, since many advocates of such a change in funding have in mind diverting highway - used tax funds away from highways and using them for other purposes.

Earlier this year, John C. Datt, AFBF Washington, D.C., office director, wrote Brock Adams, urging a \$1 - billion increase in planned obligations for highways for fiscal 1973. In the letter, Datt said, "We understand that the highway trust fund is fully capable of financing at this level of expenditure."

AFBF Seeks Change in Estate Tax Law

The American Farm Bureau Federation is seeking repeal of last year's newly enacted estate tax provision applying a capital gains tax to the appreciated value of property transferred by reason of the owner's death.

Representative Omar Burleson (D., Tex.) of the House Ways and Means Committee, is the principal sponsor of the FB-sought legislation (H. R. 2674). Last

year, he and Senator Carl Curtis (R., Neb.) were leading sponsors of FB's estate tax proposals of which major portions were enacted into law to ease the burden of estate taxes on family farms and small businesses.

The Burleson bill would repeal the new cost-basis carryover on property for estate taxes. As of January 1, all heirs are required to value

(Continued on page 2)



How well prepared is your community to handle health emergencies? Many Michigan rural counties have only marginal ambulance service, instead of the most modern life - sustaining services offered by Emergency Medical Services units like the one shown above. More fatal accidents occur in the country than in the city, because rural residents do not get proper care in time. It's been estimated that 3,000 lives could be saved each year if there was a comprehensive EMS program throughout rural Michigan.

Emergency Natural Gas Act Very Inadequate, Grant Says

American Farm Bureau Federation President Allan Grant has termed the Emergency Natural Gas law of 1977 "woefully inadequate," but "a move in the right direction."

The new law, which vitally affects farmers and ranchers, allows President Carter, through April 30, to order interstate pipeline companies to divert gas from areas of adequate supplies to

areas of shortages. Also, the law allows the President to authorize, through July 31, the sales of natural gas to interstate pipelines at a rate above the ceiling imposed by the Federal Power Commission.

Prior to its passage, AFBF urged Congressional members to "weigh carefully, the benefits of long - term total deregulation of new gas." In letters to the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Power and to the Senate leaders responsible for energy legislation, AFBF's Washington, D.C., office director, John C. Datt, expressed FB's concern for a possible short - term solution to the long - term natural gas shortage.

Datt pointed out that "natural gas provides nearly 40 percent of the energy utilized by the food and fiber sector of our economy. Adequate supplies," he stressed, "must be provided if production goals are to be met. Legislation with limited short - term provisions will not meet the full range of needs brought on by the natural gas shortage, and therefore, falls short of solving the problem."

Due to price increases in natural gas exploration, development, and production,

development of new sources has lagged, and, Datt emphasized, "short - term legislation will do nothing to alleviate the long - term natural gas shortage."

In the letters, Datt referred to S. 256, introduced by Senator James Pearson (R., Kans.) and Senator Lloyd Bentsen (D., Tex.), and H.R. 2088, introduced by Representative Robert Krueger (D., Tex.) and Representative Clarence J. Brown (R., Ohio). He said both meet the "long-term goal of improving domestic supplies of natural gas and the short - term goal of attempting to minimize immediate shortages. The Krueger - Brown bill offers the best hope for progress on new gas supplies," he said, and urged its early enactment.

The next opportunity for enactment of permanent decontrol legislation may come in April, when President Carter has indicated he will send a comprehensive energy program to Congress. Representative John Dingell (D., Mich.), chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Power and an opponent of permanent price deregulation, has given

(Continued on page 2)



Michigan Farm Bureau leaders presented Gov. William Milliken with a copy of MFB's 1977 resolutions on February 22. During the meeting some of the resolutions on the state's most critical problems were discussed, such as land use, Single Business Tax natural resources and others. Making the presentation to the governor were: (left to right) Ron Nelson, local affairs specialist, Bob Smith, senior legislative counsel, Jack Laurie, newly appointed MFB vice president, Gov. Milliken, Elton Smith, MFB president, Robert Braden, MFB administrative director and Albert Almy, director of the MFB Public Affairs Division.

From the Desk of



The President

Choirs or Crickets Farm Labor Knowledge a Must

I am pleased with reports of good attendance at labor information meetings being held by MASA and county Farm Bureaus throughout the state. In my estimation, agricultural labor issues are near the top of the list of challenges we, as farmers, will face in the days ahead. Only by being organized, well-informed and active in getting our side of the issues known, will we be able to maintain Michigan's high-ranking position in American agriculture.

The avalanche of regulations that affect agricultural employers has already created economic havoc and threatened our ability to produce at a profit. Farmers have had to become farm labor management experts, equipped to deal with wage and hour laws, the Occupational Safety and Health Act regulations, housing standards, unionization, strikes, boycotts, labor contract negotiations, liability and unemployment insurance, farm labor records, and anti-discrimination laws.

We must be prepared to fight the increased efforts -- which are sure to come -- by both our state and federal governments to bring agriculture under many of the general industry labor rules as fast as legislation can be formulated. Farmers simply must have input in deciding these issues because only those involved in agricultural production understand the special situation of agriculture -- how, unlike other industries, it is entirely dependent upon the biological process, controlled by temperatures, rainfall and sunlight.

There are many agricultural labor issues looming on the horizon, the most critical of which are: Will agriculture come under the National Labor Relations Act? Will the State of Michigan include agriculture in its Unemployment Compensation program? Will agriculture continue to be exempt from paying overtime? Will "piece rate" continue to be an accepted method of paying for agricultural labor? Will the state minimum wage continue to be higher than the federal minimum wage? Where is Michigan's Workmen's Compensation program headed and will we be able to compete with states that exclude agriculture?

These vital issues were -- and will continue to be -- discussed with Michigan legislators during Farm Bureau's legislative seminars held during February and March. We will have the opportunity to discuss the national issues during our visits with Congressmen this month on the Washington legislative seminar, sponsored annually by Farm Bureau Women. How well-informed we are when we communicate with our lawmakers will determine our effectiveness as spokesmen for agriculture.

The time farmers took to be well-informed, when they testified last fall at the hearing on MIOSHA's proposals for more restrictive farm machinery standards than the federal regulations, produced positive results. It proved that we can be a powerful minority if we are willing to invest the time and effort it takes to be knowledgeable spokesmen.

Farm labor issues are emotional issues because of all the human factors involved. Farmers become frustrated and angry at being told what, when and how to do things on their farms under threat of penalties if found in violation of regulations. The public views farm laborers as underdogs in need of the protection of more government regulations. Bureaucrats look at agricultural labor issues as political plums filled with the juice of regulatory powers. Because of the emotional nature of these issues, we need to make a special effort

DONNA Momma Would Have Said "For Heaven's Sake"

One sure way to get designated "Fink of the Week" is to drop a big pile of what we call "routed mail" on someone else's desk, which they've just cleared, on a Friday afternoon. This mail includes a myriad of news releases and publications from outside organizations, the state and federal government, and other state Farm Bureaus. We're supposed to read it, initial it and pass it along.

It's not that we don't like to read it and become well-informed on what others are doing. Rather, in our world of constant deadlines, it's at the bottom of our priority list. I must confess to sometimes "cheating" by initialing and passing along without reading. But every once in awhile, there's something in that pile which makes me glad I did "take the time" and which I feel a strong urge to share with you.

Such was the case with an article written by the editor of Northeast Agriculture, C. M. Wilson. Mr. Wilson wrote this just prior to his retirement from Farm Bureau employment and if you've been around this organization as long as I have, his style may remind you a lot of Don Kinsey, a former Michigan Farm employee who retired in the 60's.

"Last month I went from Washington, D.C. to Honolulu in just about thrice the time it took Mama and me to go to the first Farm Bureau meeting I remember.

"It was probably sometime in 1916 or 1917 when I helped Mama hitch our black mare to the buggy and drive to the meeting. As I recall it, the meeting was about nine miles from where we lived; we got there a little before noon, had dinner, after which I sat on Mama's lap and sucked my thumb. We got home, I suppose, in time to help Papa and my two older brothers do the chores.

"The Farm Bureau meeting in Honolulu was different. It cost more, for one thing. In this issue of Northeast Agriculture we

estimate that farmers of the country spent something like \$20 million on the trip to the Islands . . . that's a heady figure; it tells a great deal about the change that has taken place in the last 60 years.

"The subject material for Farm Bureau discussions has changed, too. Mama went to the meeting to learn how to squeeze more eggs out of our flock of chickens; the more eggs she had to trade for groceries, the more she could flavor our diet with salt, pepper and maybe even an orange for each of our stockings at Christmas.

"It was in 1925 that I played my first role in a Farm Bureau meeting. I was in the eighth grade and we were learning how to debate. One Winter Saturday our township Farm Bureau had an all day meeting at the school house. The business meeting was held in the morning, after which we had a big dinner. The county agent was the after-dinner speaker. When he got done three other kids and I debated ourselves blue in the face.

"The subject for debate was 'What breed of chicken is the best?' Frances Thedens and I mixed it up pretty good. Her Mama raised White Leghorns and mine had Plymouth Rocks. Frances argued that the skin on a Plymouth Rock was too tough and I argued that White Leghorns were too scrawny to be fit to eat.

"The top speakers at the Honolulu meeting talked about World trade and how to feed the people of the World. There was a great deal of talk about the Farm Bureau's job in the legislative field . . . how the devil do we break the stranglehold the labor unions have around the country's neck . . . how do we get out of the trap of excessive regulations by the federal government? There was no talk at all about how to produce more eggs, but there was a lot of talk about how to market them.

"The process of learning has speeded up, too. Through

to communicate with solid facts and rationale so others will interpret correctly what we are saying.

Remember the two friends who sat on the front porch enjoying the sunset and the sounds of a September evening. The warm night brought clearly to them the sound of crickets chirping in the open field across the road and the music of the church choir practicing the Sunday anthem down the street.

"My, don't they make beautiful music together?" asked the one who heard the choir singing.

"Yes," responded the other, listening to the crickets. "And to think they do it by rubbing their hind legs together!"

When we talk about farm labor issues, we must make certain that we know, and our listeners know, whether we're discussing "choirs or crickets."

Be informed -- then act! Your future, the future of Michigan agriculture, depends upon it.

Elton R. Smith

the use of slide projectors, microphones, charts, computers, wire services, speedlines, radio, television . . . the average Farm Bureau member who went to Honolulu, or even those who stayed at home, probably learned more about World trade in three days than Mama learned about chickens in a year and a half.

"Mama has been dead for a number of years. She'd have had something to say about the Farm Bureau meeting in Honolulu; probably something like 'For Heavens Sake!'"

Gas Act Contd.

assurances to House members that the issue of permanent decontrol will be considered by his subcommittee when it acts on the President's comprehensive proposals in the spring.

Estate Tax Contd.

inherited property as of the date of purchase by the decedent or its value as of December 31, 1976.

Under the previous law, heirs to property assumed the value as of the date of death of the owner, rather than the original purchase date. When the property was sold, capital gains were paid based on the date-of-death value.

The new provisions will have heirs pay more taxes than previously if and when they sell inherited property that increases in value from its fair market value as of last December 31.

This cost-basis carryover estate tax provision was included by the Senate-House conferees in the Tax Reform Act of 1976

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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**Farm
Bureau**

MFB Board Reorganized - Laurie New Vice President

In a special meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors today (2-22-77), John G. Laurie, a Tuscola County farmer, was elected vice president of the organization. Laurie replaces recently - elected James Sayre, who resigned from his board positions as vice president and director-at-large for health reasons.

Laurie operates a 700-acre farm near Cass City, specializing in dairy, feed grains, navy beans and wheat. He graduated from Michigan State University in 1962 with a B.S. degree in Agricultural Economics and was a member of the first class of MSU's Kellogg Farmers Study Program. He

has served on the Michigan Farm Bureau board since 1966 and has been third member of the organization's executive committee since 1970.

Taking Laurie's place on the board's executive committee is Larry DeVuyst of Ithaca who has served on the Michigan Farm Bureau board since 1973. DeVuyst operates a 700-acre farm specializing in cash crops and hogs. He was recently appointed by the governor of the Farm Credit Administration to a three-year term on the 7th District Farm Credit Board, servicing Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

Replacing Sayre in his

position as a director - at - large will be Bruce Leipprandt, Huron County farmer. Leipprandt operates a 1040-acre farm near Pigeon and specializes in cash crops, dairy and beef. He has served the Michigan Farm Bureau in various positions including county president and member of the state policy development committee.

New District 2 Director and Director-at-Large

With the resignation of Dean Pridgeon as vice president of Michigan Farm Bureau and the appointment of Jack Laurie to that post, come two other changes in the MFB Board of Directors.

In its February 2 meeting, the Board named Lowell Eisenmann of Blissfield as District 2 director. Pridgeon had also served in this capacity.

Eisenmann had previously been a Director at Large. Micheal Pridgeon, of Montgomery, will assume the at-large position. Pridgeon is a past Branch County Farm Bureau president.

DeVuyst Named FCB Director

Larry L. DeVuyst, Ithaca, Mich., was sworn in as director-at-large on the 7th (St. Paul) District Farm Credit Board, at the Board's January meeting in St. Paul, Minn.

The seven-member board sets policies for the Federal Land Bank of St. Paul, the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of St. Paul, and the St.

Paul Bank for Cooperatives.

DeVuyst, a cash grain farmer, was appointed to his position on the Board by the governor of the Farm Credit Administration, an independent executive agency of the federal government charged with supervising the lending units of the Farm Credit System.



Burgee O. Amdahl, president of the St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives, (left) administers the oath of office to Larry DeVuyst, Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors. DeVuyst joined the 7th District Farm Credit Board at its January meeting. He was appointed to a three-year term on the Board by the governor of the Farm Credit Administration.

Grant To attend MASA Labor Program

Allan Grant, the California beef cattle and field crops farmer who serves as president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, will come to Michigan on April 14 to participate in an Ag-Labor Conference. In the first of what is hoped to be an annual event sponsored by the Michigan Agricultural Services Association, Grant will discuss current and future agricultural labor issues and review AFBF policies dealing with labor.

The conference will be held at the Hilton Inn (next to Farm Bureau Center) in Lansing, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and adjourning at 3:30 p.m. All interested farmers are urged to take advantage of this opportunity to become well-informed on a subject that affects their business operations.

Other labor specialists scheduled to appear on the conference program are: Maynard Dolloff from the U.S. Department of Labor,



Allan Grant

Dr. Dan Kruger of Michigan State University's Labor and Industrial Relations Department, and Dr. Allan Shapely of MSU's Agricultural Economics Department.

Dolloff, who serves as the liaison between the Department of Agriculture and OSHA, will discuss "How agriculture got where it is with OSHA."

Further details regarding the Ag-Labor Conference will appear in the April issue of the Farm News.

March 1-15 Blue Cross-Blue Shield Sign-up time

If you are enrolled in Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan, or if you wish to enroll, this is the time to do it. Between March 1 and March 15, you will have the opportunity to enroll in the program, enroll new family members you may have neglected to enroll during the year, or you can make changes on your existing coverage.

This year you can choose the comprehensive plan with Master Medical which will cover practically all of your medical expenses. Or, if you don't use many medical services and wish to save on your rates, you can choose the Econo-Plan. The Econo-Plan requires you to share the

costs of hospital and medical expenses and it does not include Master Medical.

If you are a retiree, the same options are available to you under the Complementary Coverage program.

If any of your children, between 19 and 25 years of age, are unmarried and still depend on you, they may be added as riders on your policy at this time. It is much more economical to insure them this way than to take out an individual policy.

Your Farm Bureau secretary can handle any new enrollment or any other changes for you. Be sure to take care of this important matter March 1-15.



Ag Day is a time for some serious thought about agriculture in America.

Agriculture Day...always the Monday closest to the first day of spring...honors a mighty important industry: Agriculture.

□ Feeding and clothing the nation and the world. Creating jobs in manufacturing, processing and distributing farm supplies and products. Small wonder agriculture is such a vital factor in the strength of the American economy. □ PCAs have been part of agriculture since 1933...farmers and ranchers meeting their own credit needs, cooperatively. PCA people are proud to see agriculture get the recognition it deserves.



Production Credit Associations of Michigan

Farming is everybody's bread & butter



CAPITOL REPORT

Governor Milliken has presented the Legislature with his budget proposals and, through a special message, proposals on transportation. The 1977-78 General Fund-General Purpose Budget recommendation is \$3.65 billion. This portion of the budget, however, only makes up about half of the total budget which will amount to \$7.638 billion! The General Purpose Budget is the portion of the total that is within the control of the Legislature. The rest of the budget is made up of various types of earmarked funds such as, school aid, transportation, etc. 47 percent of the total State Budget will be spent for local governments such as school aid, local government revenue sharing, etc. 30 percent goes into services for individual citizens and 17 percent is required for administration and operation of government. 5 percent is for capital out-lay projects and 1 percent to pay for past debts.

The major budget items continue to be in the areas of education and social services. The total amount for State aid to school districts (K-12) will be approximately \$1.59 billion. However, the total cost of the K-12 school system is over \$3.2 billion when local school tax revenues are considered. The total increase over the current year will be 6.9 percent, providing there are no additional millage increases. One item

in the school aid proposal of over \$60 million increases the state's contribution to the Teacher Retirement System to a total of \$277.4 million. Provision is also made for an \$8.7 million increase to extend the bonding millage tax relief reimbursement. Other school aid provisions include monies for intermediate districts, vocational education, special education, other special programs and transportation funds.

Social Services is the second largest expenditure of state government totaling nearly \$2.5 billion. This includes Aid to Dependent Children, Medicaid, Protective Services for Children and several other welfare type programs. There is projected a 212,000 case load level. This represents a decrease of 6,000 from the average monthly case loads during the current year. ADC case loads have declined in each of the last nine months. Declines are also expected in case loads for supplemental security income and general assistance programs. Medicaid is the fastest growing portion of the Social Services Budget. It will take nearly \$65 million just to meet increased costs due to inflation, and another \$47 million plus because of the increased use of the service and higher case loads. Social Services expenditures are second only to education.

The Department of Agriculture budget is only

\$13.4 million, representing a meager \$485,000 plus dollar increase over the current year. Much of this budget, in reality, is for consumer protection. Some of the agriculture provisions should be of concern to farmers.

For example, the Crop Reporting Service will not be able to continue its present level of service to producers of numerous commodities. Such information is essential to marketing programs.

Funding for fruit and vegetable inspection is cut \$119,450. This means that farmers and others using the service will have to pay higher fees. This is a legitimate state expense since such inspections benefit both consumers and producers. Farmers and other users presently pay 35 percent of the cost. \$50,000 is cut from the commercial feed inspection program to be made up from increased inspection fees. Farm Bureau is concerned about these reductions along with other changes in the budget.

On the other hand, \$41,600 is recommended along with two positions to meet the additional responsibilities required by the new amended Grain Dealers Act also known as the "Price Later" Act. Another \$40,000 is recommended along with one position to serve as staff assistant for the Michigan Council on Rural Development.

A \$77,500 increase is recommended for the

International Trade Program. The Department of Agriculture and Commerce are cooperating on this program plan.

The Higher Education Budget contains the recommendations for the Extension Service, up \$704,000 and the Agricultural Experimental Station, up \$673,292. While these appear to be good increases, they do not meet the needs, especially in agricultural research. There has been a steady erosion of these programs for several years. Many top level scientists and researchers have been lost to other states. Michigan agriculture has many problems that only research together with adequate Extension Service can answer. Governor Milliken has recognized this problem and recommends that over a 3 year period, additional increments be made. Recent studies indicate that Michigan agriculture is steadily losing ground in productivity when compared to neighboring states. There are a variety of reasons; including serious disease problems, in some crops, and need for improved varieties.

Some other General Fund - General Purpose Budget for various departments including: Executive branch, \$1.9 million; Legislative, \$32.6 million; Judicial, \$26.2 million; Public Health, \$54.4 million; Mental Health, \$316.7 million; Corrections, \$107.9 million; Natural Resources,

\$35.2 million; Labor, \$20.7 million; \$10 million is recommended to operate a youth employment program; Attorney General, \$9.6 million; State Department, \$10.6 million; Treasury, \$28.8 million; Management and Budget, \$31.4 million; Civil Services, \$4.7 million; Civil Rights, \$6.7 million; State Police, \$55.1 million; Military Affairs, \$5.4 million; Licensing and Regulations, \$6.9 million; Commerce, \$12.2 million; Grants, \$62.7 million. It should be remembered that total budgets may be larger due to federal or earmarked funds.

The Governor's budget message also included a proposal for a "Budget Stabilization" or rainy day fund. He said that it is possible that \$128.8 million could be diverted for this purpose. \$96.6 million would be used to improve the state's "cash flow" problem and \$32.2 million would be available in future years for periods of recession.

The above is only a brief summary of the governor's budget recommendations. The appropriation committees of the House and Senate will now begin the long, complicated and controversial consideration of the 1977-78 state budget.

Milliken's Transportation Message Includes Single Fund Concept

Governor Milliken's special message to the Legislature on transportation recognized a very serious situation with a need to upgrade Michigan's total transportation program. However, many of the specific recommendations will be most controversial.

The message outlined total needs, including the following:

Highways - The Michigan interstate network is more than 93 percent complete. Costs of road construction have more than doubled since 1967 - not only labor costs, but basic materials, such as asphalt, cement, etc. Michigan has 118,000 miles of county roads, municipal streets and state highways. Deterioration of bridges is a particularly critical problem. Nearly half of the 10,500 bridges are inadequate or will become so within the next 20 years. Many already have limited use or are closed. The number of vehicles is growing rapidly. In 1976, there were 1,230,000 more vehicles than

five years earlier, a 22.5 percent increase.

Public Transportation - As fares do not and will not pay all operating costs, subsidization will be necessary. To raise fares would discourage ridership. The Governor said that reliable public transportation is a necessary public service, not only for those who do not have other means of transportation, but for energy saving reasons and to remove peak-hour traffic congestion in urban areas.

Railroads - Many miles of railroad tracks on lines subsidized by state and federal funds need upgrading. The state has preserved more than 900 miles of freight lines which were threatened with abandonment and has bought a part of the Ann Arbor Railroad, including rolling stock, and is funding ferry service across Lake Michigan and the Straits of Mackinac.

Air Transportation - Current backlog of projects

already approved is more than \$84,000,000. There is a need to improve air service to Northern Michigan. There are 21 certified airline airports. All of them have had an increase in passengers. 1976 was a record year with 10.5 million passengers, 10 percent over 1975.

Water Transportation - There are 22 ports on four of the five Great Lakes. A \$400,000 study is in progress. It is expected to show a major need for port improvements to make Michigan competitive with other ports.

Non-Motorized Transportation - There are more than 3,000,000 cyclists in Michigan. Contracts have totaled over \$3,000,000 for bikeways along state highways. When completed, there will be more than 120 miles built since 1973.

State Police - The Governor pointed out that the freeways have been described by some as "crime corridors". Crimes are committed on the highways.

They also serve as escape routes from other crimes. He proposed that necessary funds be appropriated to permanently patrol the Detroit freeways and extend present expressway patrol areas so that State Police will be on all 9,400 miles of the trunkline system. This would include several cities in addition to Detroit.

The Governor proposed that there be created a "single transportation fund" along with a six-member State Transportation Commission, which would have the power over the use of gas and weight tax monies for "all" purposes. There would be advisory committees on aeronautics, public transportation, rail, highways, roads and streets, non-motorized, and waterway and port development. Recommendations of the Commission could be accepted or rejected, but not modified by the Legislature. This will be extremely controversial.

Presently, the Motor Vehicle Fund, which was created many years ago and was an achievement in which Farm Bureau was a leader, was made up of constitutionally earmarked funds, primarily gas and weight funds, with those funds committed to highways

- state, municipal, county and local. Shifting to a single fund, especially with limited total funds, would result in further decline in the highway system and monies being spent on other modes of transportation such as mass transit, rails, water, air, etc. The position of Farm Bureau, along with such organizations as counties, townships, road commissions, etc., is that the highway fund should continue and any funding necessary for public transportation should be in a separate fund with its own revenue-producing program. The message recommended increasing transportation revenues \$148.8 million a year. This is to be accomplished by increasing taxes on gasoline by 2c, to 11c a gallon. Other fuel taxes would also be increased. Weight taxes would increase 40 percent for commercial vehicles and 33 percent for trailers. Motorcycles would be increased from \$2.50 to \$10.00.

A new revenue system for licensing cars was proposed; and that is that the licenses be based on the value of the car instead of the weight. One advantage of the value tax would be that it would be deductible from Federal

(Continued on page 5)

NATIONAL NOTES Albert A. Almy

New Farm Program Considered

As predicted earlier in this column, the first major agricultural issue to be considered by the 95th Congress is new farm program legislation. The current Agricultural and Consumers Protection Act of 1973 will expire at the end of 1977. Failure to enact a new law would mean that permanent provisions of previous farm programs — some going back to the 1930's — would become effective.

The base from which Congress will begin consideration of new farm program legislation is the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977. This bill has been introduced by Senator Herman Talmadge (D-Georgia), who is Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. The Talmadge Bill contains the following provisions:

1. A five year life expiring at the end of 1982;
2. Establish actual cost of production as the basis for target prices;

3. Establish authority for loan rates at not less than 75 percent of the cost of production. Under certain conditions the Secretary could set loan rates at not less than 90 percent of the prevailing world price;

4. Extend the wool incentive payments, milk marketing orders, pesticide indemnity program for dairymen and beekeepers, and the School Lunch Program;

5. Reform the Food Stamp Program. Several features which now permit non-needy to participate would be eliminated, such as denial to college students receiving support from non-eligible households and replacing allowable itemized deductions with a standard deduction;

6. Revise the Food For Peace Program (P.L. 480). Included is a provision authorizing the President to waive the requirement that 75 percent of the Title I com-

modities go to countries with a per capita GNP of \$300 or less if the designated countries are unable to use their allocated quantity.

7. Extend for three years authorization for appropriations for EPA to regulate pesticides through administration of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act;

8. Specify that federal funding for food and agricultural research equal at least one half of one percent of domestic expenditures on food plus gross agricultural exports.

The Senate Agriculture Committee began hearings on the Talmadge Bill on February 22. Representatives of farm organizations were asked to testify on February 23 and American Farm Bureau Federation President, Allan Grant, was the first to testify. His testimony included the following major points:

1. Support for a five year

extension of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 which will expire on December 31, 1977;

2. Support for continuation of the loan rate, target price and escalator provisions of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973. Support for the escalator clause included continuation of the present formula for reflecting changes in production cost;

3. Opposition to continuing the disaster payment provision of the Agriculture and Consumer Act of 1973, beyond December 31, 1977. To replace this provision, support was indicated for an expanded all-risk crop insurance program provided by private insurance carriers and reinsured by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

The hearings on the Talmadge Bill are scheduled to run into mid-March. The Agriculture Committee will then decide what changes are necessary before reporting

any bill to the Senate floor. Most Washington observers expect major changes will be recommended.

Meanwhile, the House Agriculture Committee began hearings on a new farm program, on February 17. The American Farm Bureau Federation and other general farm organizations testified on February 22. Unlike the Senate hearings, the House Agriculture Committee did not schedule its hearings around any specific legislation.

Michigan Farm Bureau members are urged to follow closely the development of new farm program legislation. Any farm program that Congress may eventually pass to replace the current Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 will have considerable influence on the production and marketing opportunities or virtually every farm or in the years ahead.

MFB Supports H.B. 4115 in Latest PBB Controversy

The PBB issue has now become a full fledged issue leading to the 1978 governor's election.

All scientific evidence and tests still support the present .3 ppm tolerance level for PBB. According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, this is a "100 fold margin of safety". A person would have to eat 30,000 pounds of meat containing three tenths ppm to be harmful to health!

The legislative problem is to assure the public that no animal containing any PBB reaches the market.

Representative Paul Porter (D-Coldwater) and Quincy Hoffman (R-Applegate) and others introduced H.B. 4115. The House Agriculture Committee at its meeting February 17, considered the entire problem and reported the bill out to the House of Representatives with recommendation that it be passed. This favorable consideration was by a vote of 8-0.

H.B. 4115 provides an effective means of dealing with any herd that may still be contaminated by PBB and would remove all contaminated animals from the market. Major provisions include:

1. Require that the Department of Agriculture shall test or cause to be tested each herd of livestock suspected of being contaminated. At least 24 hours notice to the owner would be required before testing.

2. Require that the Department of Agriculture shall destroy and provide indemnity for animals testing above the current 0.3 ppm tolerance. Also, upon request of the owner, the Department shall destroy and provide

indemnity for animals testing below 0.3 ppm.

3. The indemnity would be paid upon the fair appraised value of animals BEFORE their contamination.

Farm Bureau strongly supports H.B. 4115 for the following reasons:

1. Authority to test all animals suspected of PBB contamination would be provided. Such authority does not now exist.

2. All herds would be removed from quarantine because animals testing above 0.3 ppm of PBB would be destroyed.

3. Owners of animals testing below 0.3 ppm of PBB could have their animals removed if they believe such levels of contamination are causing herd problems, pose a health hazard of any other reason. This provision would be discretionary with each herdowner.

4. Indemnification would be provided at the appraised value of the animal before

contamination whether they test above or below the 0.3 ppm tolerance. No animal with low level contamination would need to be sold at the lower salvage prices because the owner would be paid the full appraised value before contamination.

5. Owners of contaminated animals could resume normal operations while reserving their right to pursue further legal action against the responsible parties.

6. This program could eliminate all contaminated animals from the market with the least disruption to farmers.

There are several other bills that have been introduced on PBB. One is S. 108 which is in the Senate and has been reported out by the Senate Committee. This bill would give the Department of Agriculture the authority to go in and test animals. Another is H.B. 4109 by Spaniola - D, that would lower the tolerance level on PBB

Smith Says Ag Commission 'Caved In' on PBB

The president of the Michigan Farm Bureau accused the Michigan Agriculture Commission of "caving in" to political pressures to lower PBB tolerance levels.

Elton R. Smith, Caledonia dairy farmer who heads the Michigan Farm Bureau, said the action causes alarm to both consumers and farmers.

"The Michigan Department of Agriculture has twice considered proposals to lower the tolerance levels of PBB and both times, after public hearings and reviewing all scientific evidence, found the present tolerance level to be safe."

Referring to the Commission's earlier decisions to maintain the .3 ppm tolerance levels set by the Federal Food and Drug Administration, Smith said consumers may interpret their reversal as an indication that their food is presently unsafe.

STATE STATUS
1976-1977 Membership
Comparison
as of February 16, 1977

	(2-19)	
	1977	1976
Goal:	61,589	61,586
New:	3,446	2,600
Renewals:	56,952	55,594
TOTAL:	60,398	58,194
Percent of Goal:	98.07	94.49
Needed for Goal:	1,191	3,392

from 0.3 to 0.02. This would create havoc with many farmers who have already gone through the PBB problem and are back in production. S. 63 would create a "toxic committee" to moderate any problem with toxic materials that may occur in the future. There are two PBB loan bills for low interest loans. One in the

Transportation Contd. (Continued from page 4)

income tax, whereas the present fee system is not. It also would recognize that many very light cars with high price tags do not adequately support highway needs. The effect would be, for drivers not itemizing Federal returns, an average of \$16.00 per year more for plates. Drivers itemizing deductions would pay an average of \$11.73 more.

One reason for increased gasoline taxes is that revenues have not kept pace with needs, some due to increased mileage and also energy conservation, etc.

Another proposal that is certain to be controversial is the recommendation to shift \$31,000,000 from transportation revenues to finance the State Police. The breakdown of the \$144.8 million revenue increase would include: \$42.4 million for county roads, \$23.4 million for street purposes and municipalities, and \$48 million for State transportation programs including public systems.

Farm Bureau policies, approved by the voting delegates, that apply to this issue would also oppose any "further diversion of non-motor vehicle funds for highway use," including "law enforcement" and "op-

position to diversion of highway funds for other modes of transportation. Separate funds should be provided. "Any increase in revenues should be met through user taxes or other revenue sources rather than return to the old system of taxing farmland to build roads." The policy states that local matching requirements for local roads should be decreased as should the local matching funds for bridge replacement. It is also recommended by Farm Bureau policy that "the counties' share of motor vehicle funds should be increased. Present formula is 44.5 percent for the state with 8 percent of the mileage (9322 miles), 35.7 percent to the counties with 75.9 percent of the mileage (88,048 miles) and 19.8 percent to the cities."

Also, many counties have an increasing burden due to large areas of public recreation lands, as adequate roads must be provided for this traffic. With the elimination of many miles of railroads and the continuing need for rural development, good highways and local roads are essential for farm-to-market transportation and to maintain the total Michigan economy.

Critical Issues '77 Series

Local Input Needed to Preserve Ag Lands

Second of A Series on Land Use

This article is the second of a critical issues '77 series on land use. The first article, published in the February edition, dealt with the application of P.A. 116 contracts and agricultural zoning to help preserve farmlands in Michigan.

"Land use policies are only as good as the data put into them."

This philosophy has led to concentrated efforts by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service, Michigan State University, and many local governmental units to employ the latest methods for the identification of prime and unique agricultural land. Once this land has been identified at the state and local level, zoning ordinances or incentive programs, such as P.A. 116, can be utilized to retain the vital land use for food production.

Progress on all forms of land use identification could lead to development of specific statewide land use plans in the future, such as measures to manage flood plains and wetlands.

"The land use data we now have is fragmented, inconsistent and often dated", says Larry Folks, assistant chief of the DNR's Land Resource Programs Division. "It is our objective to make better land use data available so that manageable land use plans can be established at all levels of government."

Folks says that the state

has a responsibility to provide the best data for local governmental units, and establish certain guidelines to help classify lands. Then it is up to the local units.

"The best land use legislation possible would be a failure without local involvement," Folks points out. "Eighty to ninety percent of the responsibility for implementing effective land use programs rest on local government and members of these communities."

It is not that the state agencies are "passing the buck." It is just felt that the more levels of input there are, the better identified the land use problems and opportunities particular area would be.

Also, not all of the State has been surveyed in the detail that is necessary to provide accurate information to all local governmental units.

"We really don't have a uniform picture of land use in Michigan," Folks says. "That's due to not having a really adequate data base."

One tool the DNR is using to formulate the data base is a land cover-use classification. This system has seven levels of classification for the major types of land use. Each level of classification provides more specific data, so that ideally anyone checking to see how a piece of land is classified can get the most accurate picture of its use.

"Unfortunately, not much of Michigan has been surveyed in such detail," Folks

points out. "Though we have been incorporating all present data into the classification system, a tremendous amount of field work needs to be done. This field work takes a tremendous amount of time and money."

The DNR is coordinating efforts with the U.S. Geological Survey toward implementing a comprehensive topographic mapping program throughout the state to provide another element of a statewide data

base, but this method is also limited by time and financial considerations.

A faster and less expensive way to get accurate, detailed land use data is through aerial photography. The DNR and Michigan State University have access to both satellite land imagery and high altitude photos from the National Aeronautics and

(Continued on page 8)

Correction

There was an error in the story entitled "Zoning, P.A. 116 Must Be used to Preserve Ag Lands." The error occurred on page 6, fourth column, last line in the second paragraph. The copy reads "The property is also exempt from special assessments for sewers, farm draining --". It should have read "non-farm drainage."

Queen's Column

By Bunny Semans

Hello everyone! I hope this publication finds all of you dug out and thawed out!

I have to admit the storms had some good points for us. I did get a chance to do some "put off" jobs such as cleaning cupboards and closets. We also had some extra family time for crafts and games.

Reading is a favorite "extra time" pleasure of mine and I recently came upon an article which disturbed me very much. It was an article recognizing a policeman for saving the life of a small child. The child had been ill with a high temperature when he suddenly quit breathing. The parents bundled him into the car and drove toward the hospital, while also calling for help on their CB. The policeman received their call for help, met them at a corner and applied mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Another time a child had choked and stopped breathing. He was called to the house and again was successful in reviving the

child. Another time he was too late.

I could only think, as I read this, how fortunate the two parents were who received help in time, but how tragic they did not know some very basic first aid. I don't think I would want to know how many deaths and-or permanent disabilities occur each year because people have not taken the time to learn basic first aid.

Farm Bureau Women have always stressed Safety and Health, with emphasis this year on first aid. If your county Farm Bureau Women are giving first aid classes, please make an effort to attend and take a friend! If you have taken a first aid class in the past, consider a refresher course. The more familiar a person is with the proper response, the more precious time is saved.

Remember, at any time you could be the difference between life and death to someone, maybe someone you love. Please take the time to be prepared and urge someone you know to also take the time.

Critical Issues '77 Series

Emergency Medical Services Essential for Rural Michigan

Second Of A series on Rural Health

What if you had an accident and no one came to help? Many rural residents have lived to tell about this frightening experience; some have not.

"An Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program is a high-priority necessity in rural areas, not just an expensive "luxury service", says Mike Amble, Executive Secretary of the Tri-County Emergency Medical Services Council. The Council coordinates the EMS programs in Ingham, Clinton and Eaton Counties.

"In nearly all cases, a well equipped and well trained EMS UNIT can get to a victim faster and provide more life-sustaining functions than many existing ambulance services can offer."

Most rural ambulance services are geared to getting a victim to a hospital as fast

as possible, with minimum care before he gets there, Amble points out. Technology and advanced medical practices spawned by the Korean and Viet Nam wars have proven that a more successful means of preserving life is to provide as much care at the scene of the accident as is possible.

"Here's where the advanced emergency medical technician, or paramedic, has a big advantage over the ambulance attendant with even advanced first aid training," Amble says. "The paramedic has been trained to recognize specific illnesses and injuries and, with the help of communications with a physician, can make diagnostic decisions and take action to stabilize the patient through chemical and mechanical means. The ambulance driver-attendant

with first aid knowledge can stop bleeding, administer oxygen, prevent further injury, and make the patient more comfortable at best."

First aid training, although useful, is really only suited to household situations, Amble points out. The EMS training is specifically geared to mobile medical treatment.

For example, a paramedic can recognize that the victim has suffered a cardiac arrest. Then he must decide whether to use an electronic stimulus or a direct injection of a drug. He is legally able to take either course. With help from communications with the physician; he can take many other life-sustaining actions that previously only a physician in a hospital had the knowledge or legal ability to perform.

Having just ambulance attendant care available for

(Continued on page 8)

Fertilizer Shortage Possible This Spring

Because of the potential for fertilizer shortages this spring in the Midwest, farmers are urged to purchase their fertilizers at the earliest possible opportunity, says John Sexson, manager of Farm Bureau Services Plant Food Department.

"Severe winter weather has caused transportation problems that could prevent the accumulation of adequate supplies of nitrogen and phosphorus materials at Midwest distribution points this spring," Sexson points out. "Also, the chronic shortage of natural gas has cut back the production of ammonia needed for the production of nitrogen-based fertilizers. The combination of these factors create the potential for fertilizer shortages and higher prices in the spring."

Normally, fertilizer materials are shipped by river in the fall and winter in

anticipation of the heavy spring demand, Sexson says.

"Last fall, the low water levels in the Mississippi and Ohio rivers prevented barges from carrying fertilizer materials at full capacity. Now, the rivers are frozen, preventing any barge traffic. This means that possibly the water terminals in the Midwest may not have their normal supplies. This gives us as much concern as the natural gas shortage."

Because of the natural gas shortage, production of anhydrous ammonia has been cut back 32 per cent from last year, Sexson adds.

"Naturally, any shortage of ammonia will affect the production of nitrogen materials," he says. "Anhydrous ammonia is a base for all the nitrogen fertilizers except ammonium sulfate. How serious this problem will become depends on how long the shortage of natural gas will last."

New Recreational Trespass Act Requires Sportsmen to Get Consent

As of April 1, 1977, Michigan farmers and their landowners will benefit from a new law which requires sportsmen to obtain written permission before they enter private land for recreational purposes.

Known as the "Recreational Trespass Act", or P.A. 323, the law is a break-through for farmers because it requires that sportsmen must obtain written consent from farmers, regardless of whether the farmland or connected farm woodlots are fenced, enclosed or posted.

Other landowners must fence, enclose or post, their properties before the act is valid for them.

To help both the landowner and sportsman utilize the act more efficiently, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division has developed a "Sportsman Land Use Pass". The pass consists of a ticket that is filled out by both the sportsman and the landowner. It describes the activity for which written permission is being given, contains basic sportsmanlike rules of conduct, describes the property to be used, gives the sportsman's license or vehicle registration number, and the signature of the consenting landowner. The stub of the ticket, listing the sportsman's name, home address, auto license number, and the date issued, is retained by the landowner.

The Land Use Passes are available free from the Michigan Farm Bureau Public Affairs Division, Farm Bureau Center in Lansing. They are also available at county Farm Bureau offices. Members may fill out the accompanying coupon if they wish to have the passes sent directly to them from the Public Affairs Division.

"P.A. 323 covers hunting, fishing and operation of snowmobiles and off-road vehicles," says Albert Almy, Director of the Public Affairs Division. "All law enforcement agencies are expected to begin enforcing the law April 1."

Under the new law, any law enforcement officer can make an arrest upon the landowner's complaint. The nearest peace or conservation officer should be notified at once of any violations that are noticed on the landowner's property. In a proceeding for a violation of the law, the presence of a person on any farmlands or connected farm woodlots without written consent of the owner or his agent constitute a prima facie evidence of unlawful entry. Enforcement and prosecution of violations

of the law is vested with the prosecuting attorney.

"We expect full cooperation from all persons covered by the Recreational Trespass Act," Almy emphasized. "The Michigan United Conservation Clubs has pledged its cooperation and is

participating in the distribution of the Land Use Pass. MUCC and other cooperating organizations are to be commended for their recognition of the fact that the use of private land for recreational activities is a privilege."

R-9162 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Law Enforcement Division
SPORTSMAN LAND USE PASS

In return for the privilege of hunting , fishing , operation of snowmobiles , ORV's , or other , on your land, I agree:

- To observe the rules of safe gun handling
- Not to shoot in the direction of buildings or livestock
- To leave gates as I find them
- To use care in crossing fences

and conduct myself in a sportsmanlike manner

Date(s) _____ Description of Property _____
Signature of Sportsman _____
License or Registration No. _____
Signature of Landowner _____

TO BE RETAINED BY LANDOWNER

User's Name _____
Home Address _____
Car License No. _____
Date _____

Order Your Land Use Passes Now

Name _____

Address _____

Number of Passes _____
(in booklets of 100)

Clip and mail in envelope to:

Public Affairs Division
Michigan Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 30960
Lansing, MI 48909

OBEY THE LAW — PROTECT AND CONSERVE WILDLIFE
Good Law Enforcement is Everybody's Responsibility

You are urged to report violations to conservation officers, or to the nearest DNR field office. If unable to contact an officer, use the following TOLL FREE NUMBER to report violations DAY OR NIGHT:

1-800-292-7800

ATTENTION LANDOWNERS:
A landowner is not liable for injuries to fishermen, hunters, trappers, campers, snowmobilers, motorcyclists or other recreational users who use his lands if a fee is not charged and if the injuries were not caused by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the landowner. (Sec. 1, Act 201, P.A. 1953, as amended by Act 177, P.A. 1974.)

Thank you for providing this recreationist an opportunity to use your land.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Law Enforcement Div. Lansing 517-573-1230

FBIG Sponsors Ag Labor Seminar

The unique legal problems of the agricultural industry, especially in the areas of farm finance, will be discussed March 19 at a seminar at the Cooley Law School in Lansing.

The seminar is the second in a series of agricultural law programs started last fall by Cooley Law School with assistance from Farm Bureau Insurance Group.

The first program in the series, held last October 19, provided an intensive review of farm estate planning.

The second seminar, entitled Farm Finance, will answer such questions as: What are the commercial sources of credit at favorable interest rates available to farmers? Should farm equipment be leased or purchased? What has been the effect of the 1976 Tax

Reform Act on farms? What protection is there for the farmer and the creditor in the event of economic or natural disaster?

Several other questions of farm finance relating to land, crops, machinery and livestock will also be answered at the March 19 seminar. Scheduled speakers include a bank vice-president, an agricultural economist, a Federal Land

Bank official and other experts in farm finance and agricultural law.

Although the program is geared to practicing attorneys, other interested individuals are invited to attend. Cost of the seminar is \$35, which includes lunch for those who pre-register.

Send the registration fee to the Thomas Cooley Law School, 217 South Capitol Ave., Lansing, Michigan 48933, Attention: Prof. Quenda Story.

Important dates for: Michigan Farm Bureau Members

You can join
Blue Cross & Blue Shield
up to

Tuesday
Mar. 15

Your coverage
will be effective
beginning

Friday
May 20

Membership in Michigan Farm Bureau offers you very valuable benefits in the form of Blue Cross and Blue Shield Group Coverage. Coverage which provides the best possible health care protection for you and your dependents at reasonable group rates.

If you are already enrolled in the Farm Bureau's Blue Cross and Blue Shield Group Plan, now is the time to make any changes in your coverage. If you don't belong, and you are eligible, now is the time to join —before the enrollment period ends.



**Blue Cross
Blue Shield**
of Michigan

Belonging is a good thing to do

Certified Farm Markets Annual Takes "Can Do" Approach

"Our market is at the end of a dead end road; the bridge is out, yet 1976 was a good market year!" declared Bob Small, co-partner in River Valley Farms Market, Lawrence, Michigan. His "can do" attitude typifies the enthusiasm and high motivation of the group attending the Michigan Certified Farm Markets 4th annual meeting at Shanty Creek Lodge, Bellaire, Michigan. During the three-day meeting, February 7-9, these innovative and independent market operators demonstrated that their approaches to marketing are as diversified as the Michigan products they offer.

Exhibits, slides, round table discussions and critique sessions with visiting consultant, Ransom Blakely of West Lafayette, Indiana, provided opportunities for participants to share their problems and successes in display and market layout, publicity approaches.

Blakely also scheduled private consulting visits with several of the market operators.

Recognizing the value of practical experience, market operators Roger Porter, Bob Underwood, Jim Shelton, Pete Wiard and Paul Friday were among the "Certified" members who acted as resource speakers in the Tuesday workshops and panel discussions.

James Lincoln, Manager, Michigan Certified Farm Markets alerted the group to the possibility of revisions of the Michigan Highway Signs laws. "Early input on behalf of farm markets and the U-Pick industry can help to avoid highly restrictive rules and regulations", said Lincoln. He urged the operators to provide him with information which will be used to compile statistics for consideration by the Michigan Department of Highways and Transportation.

EMS Need Greatest in Rural Areas

(Continued from page 6)

rural accident victims is a factor that increases the rural accident victim's chances of dying before getting to the hospital by about 50 to 75 percent over an urban victim, Amble says. This kind of care is about all that is currently available to most rural Michigan residents. Some large rural areas have no emergency mobile treatment programs at all.

"Time is another major factor that increases the percentages against the rural accident victim," says Michael Hargreaves, director of the City of Grand Ledge's EMS program. "Irreversible brain damage can occur within four to six minutes after the human oxygen supply is cut off, so paramedics want to arrive no later than five minutes after the accident has occurred. This schedule is nearly impossible to meet in rural areas."

An EMS services vehicle might not be able to arrive within this time frame, but, with on-the-spot-treatment by an ambulance attendant with First-aid training, some body

functions can be restored quickly enough to reverse their terminal trend, Hargreaves says. There is a better chance for the victim if they are treated by a paramedic than by an ambulance attendant with first-aid training.

In spite of the advantages of an EMS program over a regular ambulance service and the inherent dangers of living in a rural area, the EMS concept has faced stiff opposition by the rural communities, both EMS directors say. "Farming has to be the most dangerous profession in the country," Amble says. "High-speed auto accidents are more apt to occur in the rural areas than in the city. Communications with the rest of the world could be cut off at the whim of the wind. Still, rural residents are willing to trust that their community has adequate emergency health services available at the drop of a hat. They are shocked and angry when they lose a family member because the service did not

exist."

Apathy, rather than monetary considerations, has been the biggest enemy fighting the expansion of EMS programs in rural areas, Amble points out. He cites many cases where community leaders would not even accept training programs from his organization because they felt the ambulance services offered provided adequate protection.

"Fear also causes much of these attitudes," Amble stresses. "Ambulance operators fear that their business will be affected if better services are available through other sources. Community leaders fear that outside people will be telling them how to run everything, and doctors and hospital administrators fear that there will be undue pressure forced on them to upgrade their services which will add financial burden. Such provincialism harms the health of the whole community."

(Continued on page 14)

Many Tools Employed to Find Prime and Unique Ag Land

(Continued from page 6)

Space Administration (NASA), and both institutions also utilize lower altitude infrared photography. Aerial photography provides a better perspective to see how land patterns are developing and can be used to identify a wide variety of land uses.

"NASA's satellite imagery program provides the most general perspective, and with computer processing techniques, also allows identification of how a piece of land as small as 1.1 acres square is being used," Folks says. "It can identify agricultural, urban and forest lands over areas as vast as 500 miles and still give land use data on small parcels of land."

Though the satellite data has its applications, high and low altitude infrared photography provides much more detailed land use information. It can actually be used to identify more than 50 land uses, including unique agricultural land.

"Regional Planning Commissions really only need to have about 24 uses identified," says Bill Enslin, director of the MSU Remote Sensing project.

The MSU Remote Sensing project, along with 18 others in the country is funded by a three-year NASA grant. That agency has provided the funds to study the practicality of the remote sensing concept.

Photo interpreters are able to pinpoint blueberry marshes, truck farms, orchards with infrared photography,



Members of Shiawassee County's Middleberry Township Planning Commission check to see where prime and unique agricultural lands have been identified on land use inventory maps provided by the Soil Conservation Service. Local input is vital to the success of any land use planning effort.

and other areas that the Soil Conservation Service classifies as unique agricultural land.

"Remote sensing also takes the subjectivity out of land use decisions," Enslin says. "You are removed from the political and financial influences that often slant land use interpretations." It helps remove also provides a more objective base from which the subjectivity can be made.

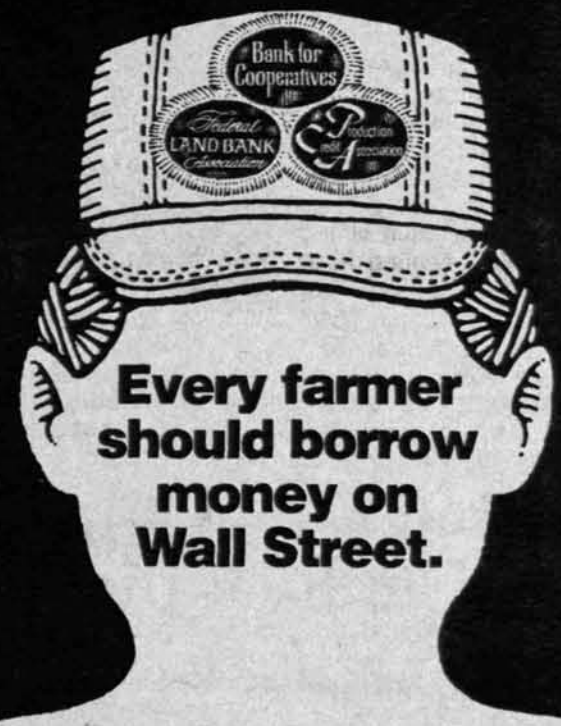
Such objectivity has already proven useful in some land disputes, the MSU researcher says. He feels that it is vital to be able to document the use of a particular section of land as definitively as possible. That way, if the use is ever challenged, evidence can be given as to why the land is best suited to its present use.

To help provide that detailed information for agriculture, the MSU photos

are "read" and the information showing unique agricultural land is being indicated on county Soil Conservation Service maps. This is part of a pilot project the SCS has contracted with the MSU Remote Sensing project.

The DNR has also enlisted the MSU unit for pilot study work. Though the agencies have no long range plans to implement the remote sensing concept on a statewide basis, they expect to make further use of this land use tool.

"Since its inception in Michigan, remote sensing has caught on," Enslin says. "Now the Michigan Department of State Highways and Transportation is using the concept to help compile environmental impact analyses when considering new highway routes. The Mason County SCS utilized remote



Every kind of farmer and rancher shares in the ownership of the cooperative Farm Credit Banks of St. Paul. So when your co-op borrows from the Bank for Cooperatives or when you do business with a Federal Land Bank Association or Production Credit Association, you're actually borrowing capital raised in the money markets of America...like Wall Street.

A lot of people think agriculture is a good investment. Individuals, banks, insurance companies, state and local governments. All kinds of people and businesses purchase farm credit bonds. Funds raised in capital markets are loaned to full- and part-time farmers and ranchers and their cooperatives...\$3.5 billion of loans in Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin as of early 1976.

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County FB Leaders Urged to Attend Legislative Seminars

The first of nine regional legislative seminars was held in Lansing Tuesday, February 15 for the Southeast Region - Macomb, Oakland, Livingston, Washtenaw, Wayne and Monroe Counties.

Meeting with members of the MFB Public Affairs Division, participants were informed of the Farm Bureau legislative programs and progress during a morning session. At noon, they had lunch with their District Legislators, at which time

each legislator introduced himself, told what committees he serves on, and what some of the issues were currently before the Legislature.

These annual seminars are held for each region during February and March and provide an opportunity for Farm Bureau leaders to meet with their legislators to discuss areas of concern with them.

Participants have the opportunity to visit the Legislature in session during

the afternoon.

The March schedule for the legislative seminars is:

- Southwest Region - March 1
 - West Central Region - March 3
 - Central Region - March 8
 - West Region - March 10
 - North, Northwest, Northeast, Upper Peninsula Regions - March 15
 - Saginaw Valley - March 29
- Anyone planning to attend the legislative Seminars in Lansing should contact their regional representative.



Discussing some issues of concern with Senator James DeSana (D-11th District) (right) are Monroe County Farm Bureau members at the Southeast Regional Legislative Seminar held February 15 in Lansing.

Smoke Detector Bought Through MFB Women Saves Life, Property

Donald and Lucille DeLong presented their six children with a Christmas gift which they hoped would never be used. Mrs. DeLong, who is chairwoman of the Tuscola County Farm Bureau Women's Committee, purchased smoke detection units for each of her six children. Promotion of the early detection systems is a current project of the Michigan Farm Bureau Women. It was daughter, Donna, who asked if it wasn't an awfully expensive investment to provide units for each of the children. "No," replied Mrs. DeLong, "not when you consider it could save your life".

On December 30, five days after receiving the smoke detector, the alarm unit alerted 21-year-old Donna to

dangerous smoke levels in her mobile home-beauty shop. Because of an early warning of the smoldering fire, Donna escaped without harm and damage to the mobile home was kept under \$500.

Donna and her sister operate a beauty shop in the mobile home. On the night of December 30, anticipating a busy day of appointments, Donna slept at the shop. A free-standing fireplace in the living room was left burning to provide auxiliary heat because of recent problems with the central heating unit. At about 5:00 a.m., the alarm unit was triggered by smoke gathering in the room. Seeing that a fire had begun near the fireplace chimney, Ms. DeLong immediately telephoned the fire depart-

ment. After notifying her parents, she escaped to safety. The father and brother soon arrived, working to extinguish the fire until the fire department arrived.

"I did not realize that early detection systems were so sensitive" said Donna. Although the batteries had been inserted, the unit had not yet been installed. The battery-operated warning system was laying on top of the television in the unopened box.

Following local newspaper accounts of the fire and Donna DeLong's safe escape, sales of the smoke detection units through the county Farm Bureau Women's Committee and the fire department increased dramatically.

Infrared Photography Eases Land Use Identification

(Continued from page 8)

sensing techniques to pinpoint the best marketing timber types. This information was mapped out so that the property owner could be identified and contacted. Several landowners were able to sell the timber on their land for a good profit. The lumbering industry also benefitted from not having to conduct extensive fieldwork to find suitable forestland.

"It's necessary that the Soil Conservation Service in Michigan will eventually utilize remote sensing as a part of its land inventory and monitoring program," Enslin says. "This is a nationwide program being conducted by SCS to inventory prime and unique agricultural land."

SCS is concerned about any actions that could possibly impair the productive capacity of American agriculture, says Art Cratty, State Conservationist of the SCS in Michigan. The agency has developed criterion for the identification of these lands, based on soil type.

Under the identification plan, the SCS in each state is allocated Federal funds to

inventory a certain number of counties each year. Last year the SCS conducted the inventories in Genesee, Grand Traverse and Ottawa Counties. It has funds to inventory Lapeer, Mason, Muskegon, St. Clair and Washtenaw Counties in fiscal year 1977.

"Federal funding limits the number of counties we can study each year, so we have been working on those counties which we feel have been subjected to the most urban pressure, Cratty says.

A major problem in classifying agricultural lands is defining just exactly what constitutes "prime" and "unique". The SCS now has adopted definitions as a part of its nationwide program for identifying these lands. The definitions are based primarily on soil type, but also consider the present uses of the land.

"It's hoped that the definitions of an outside, objective agency will be respected by all parties in defining the most important agricultural land in certain areas," Cratty says. "In this

way, land we identify as prime and unique agricultural land might be respected as that which can best be utilized for agriculture."

According to the SCS' definitions, prime agricultural land is that which is best suited for producing food, feed, forage, fiber and oilseed crops. This land would have soil quality, growing season and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields of crops economically when treated and managed according to modern farm methods. A specific description of the soil type for these particular crops is included in the prime SCS definition of farmland.

Unique agricultural land is that which is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops. Blueberry, fruit and vegetable crops are specific examples suited for production in unique lands. Again, specific definition of soils these crops are growing on has been included in the SCS definition.

(Continued on page 12)

Co-op Clinics Start March 8

Co op management through the team approach is the concept for the 1977 MAFC manager-director clinics. MAFC, in cooperation with the St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives and the Agricultural Economics Department of Michigan State University, are sponsoring these clinics during March for co-op managers and directors.

The clinics will be held on

March 8 in Grand Rapids, March 9 in Frankenmuth, and March 29 in Gaylord.

They will feature guest speakers from the MSU agriculture department and the St. Paul Bank for Cooperatives.

Managers and directors interested in attending any of these meetings should contact LA Cheney, MAFC director, at the Farm Bureau Center in Lansing.

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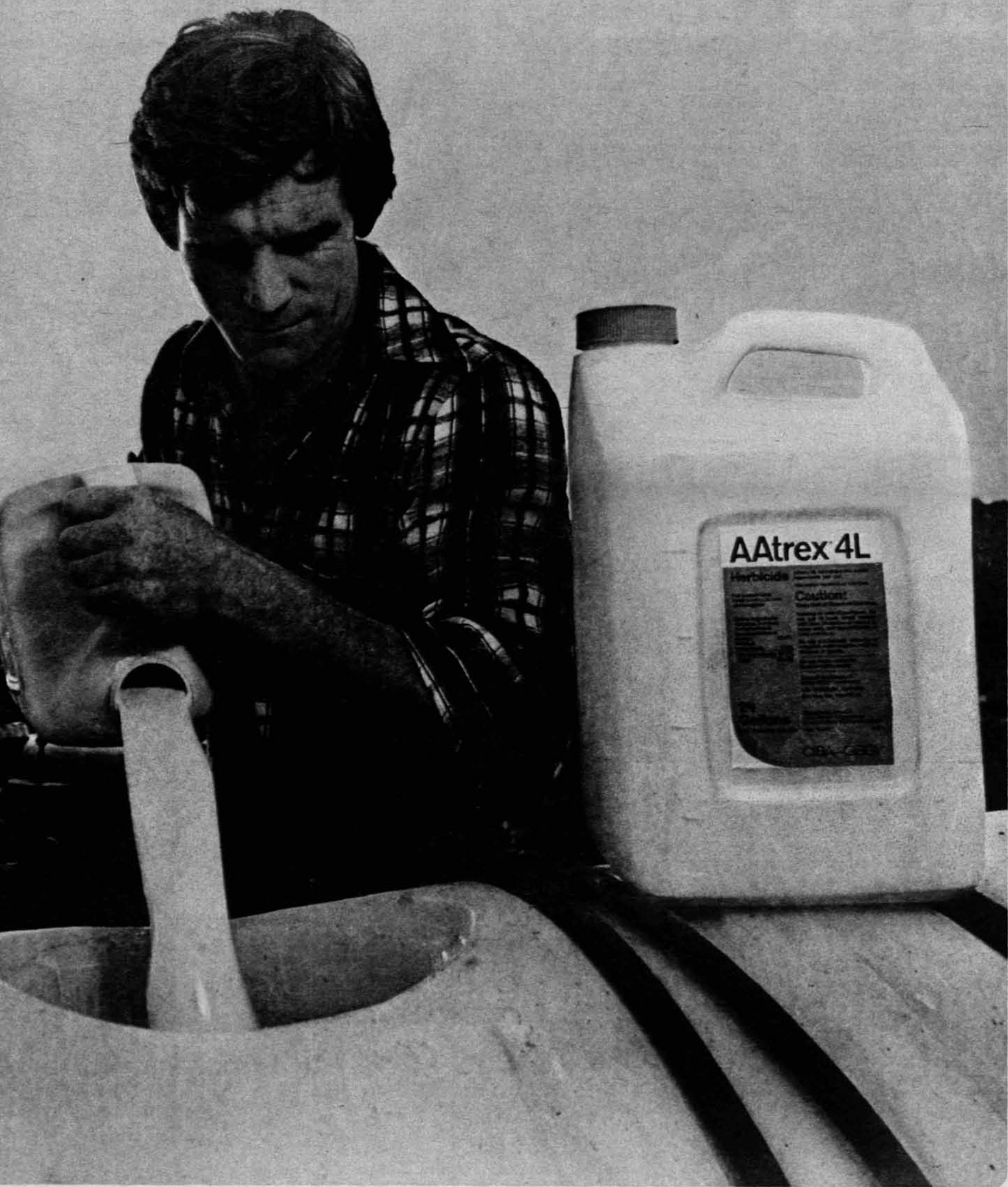
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Beware of Telephone "Pesticide Pitchmen"

Michigan farmers and consumers have been warned by the Michigan Department of Agriculture to purchase any needed pesticides only from reputable agents or firms they know.

A series of incidents involving telephone solicitations have created problems for some Michigan farmers, according to B. Dale Ball, MDA director. Reports

indicate contacts are also being made to homeowners and nurserymen.

The phony practice is being reported all across the midwest and eastern states. Usually, the company represented is headquartered in a distant state, and frequently products are shipped which were never ordered. Efforts to collect for the unwanted material are

accompanied by considerable harassment.

Dean Lovitt, chief of MDA's Plant Industry division

Lovitt said the department has been advised you need not pay for unsolicited goods received, nor is it legally necessary to pay for return of the product. "Your safest course," he says, "is to do business with people you know."

County FBs Can Help Provide Local Land Use Data

(Continued from page 9)

Also, the SCS land inventory and monitoring program requires a county soil survey. Modern soil surveys have been conducted in only 32 Michigan Counties. With the staff the Michigan SCS has available now, each county soil survey would cost over \$250,000 and take five years.

Some help may be coming to speed up the process of soil surveys through a legislation recently introduced by Senator Gary Byker (R-Hudsonville).

"The legislation is designed to provide for an inventory of the soil resources of the state by providing funds for additional soil survey manpower," Cratty explains. "The money would go to the State Department of Agriculture, which would employ ten soil scientists with the funds."

The soil scientists would work directly with the 18 federal soil scientists now in Michigan. The bill specifies that soil surveys would be made on a minimum of 3 million acres in the next ten years.

"Still, the process of soil surveys will be a long one," Cratty says. "Thus, what we really need is a faster method to identify prime and unique farm lands. We hope that we

will be able to employ the MSU remote sensing project in all of the counties designated for prime and unique land studies."

Even with satellite imagery, land use classification systems, soil surveys, the traditional topographic mapping process and remote sensing units, local input is still needed to provide an even more definitive description of how the land is being used, Folks says.

"We really cannot tell if land is in rotation unless someone tells us. It is something we cannot define with aerial photography," the DNR spokesman points out.

Cratty is even more emphatic about the need for local input.

"The SCS definition of prime agricultural land is based on a national set of criteria," he points out. "It is absolutely necessary that local people identify other agricultural land that is 'prime' from a state or local standpoint. The local or state 'prime' land should also be preserved for agricultural production, if at all possible."

To help local residents and governmental structures provide information on what they consider to be prime and unique agricultural land in

their county, the SCS provides a map to the County SCS office. Information obtained by the county office is integrated into a county map. This map is then used as an overlay on the land use maps containing land use data from all other sources. Both the SCS and the DNR utilize the local level land use information.

"County Farm Bureau leaders can help us and their communities by encouraging farmers to document land they want kept in agricultural production," Cratty says.

"The county SCS office should be made aware of any land use designations as soon as they are planned."

Pressures on agricultural lands are expected to increase throughout the state as urban pressure and high-way construction keeps expanding the population ever outward into rural areas, says Albert Almy, Director of Public Affairs for the Michigan Farm Bureau. "If these lands are to be kept in agriculture, people in agriculture are going to have to speak up now."

A statewide land use bill is now being developed in the legislature. The Michigan Farm News will take an in-depth look at this legislation in its April edition.

Baker to Farm Credit Board

Ralph E. Baker, a Hillsdale County Farm Bureau member, has been named vice chairman of the Seventh District Farm Credit Board.

Baker, who operates a dairy farm near Jonesville, has been a member of the credit board since 1975. He has also served as a director of the Hillsdale Federal Land Bank Association, and president of the National Federation of Federal Land Bank Associations.

Alice Wightman Dies

Mrs. Alice Wightman, Fennville, wife of Walter Wightman, former Michigan Farm Bureau president and AFBF director, passed away February 14. She had lived on their Allegan County centennial farm most of her life and was active in Farm Bureau Women's activities and her community. Her survivors include her husband, a son and daughter, and several grandchildren.

Safemark Program Update

During the inception of the program, our training by American Farm Bureau Personnel explained that most tires and batteries are purchased on a 10 mile radius from the dealers location. From the Community Group Reports that have been received, it would be determined that in Michigan this probably is near 15 miles in most cases.

A fair number of Community Groups invited the Safemark Dealers or a Safemark Committee Member to attend the Community Group meeting. These groups had their questions answered immediately and their reports would indicate their knowledge is excellent. This certainly is in keeping with the educational concept that is so useful in Community Groups. The attitude of these groups would indicate that the members were positive

and their information was accurate.

Not every size of tire or battery is manufactured in the Safemark line. The program is based upon volume in sizes which are used often and make group purchasing more effective. As of the first four months of operation, those tractor sizes which have been the ones most used are the 12.4-28, 15.5-38, 18.4-34 and 18.4-38. These particular sizes of tractor tires have been used very heavily in Michigan at the inception of the program. Undoubtedly many other sizes will be added through the spring buying.

Added to the list of dealers to make a total of 27 dealers in Michigan as of January 31, 1977, are Fowler Gas and Oil of Clinton County, Harder and Sons of Ionia County, and Lenawee Fuels, Inc. of Lenawee County.

Q&A Answerline

Q. The assessment on my property is too high. What type of information would most influence the Board of Review?

A. Prior to submitting any information you should check to make sure the description of the property is correct and that the buildings listed on that property is accurate. A lot of times the addition of the building is inaccurate or the size of building is not correct.

The type of information which is most helpful for Board of Review to make a decision is a comparison of property of structure which is recently sold at its selling price or an appraisal by an outside appraisal firm. Other evidence which may be of help is proof of offer to sell and proof of an offer to buy which is substantially lower than the asking sale price.

Other information would include that the property has a lesser value because of the negative factors such as a nuisance situation resulting in noise, odor, traffic, etc. thus lowering the value of the property or the failure on the part of zoning officials to enforce existing ordinance.

Problems with underground water or floor conditions may also cause possibilities for reconsideration of existing appraisal.

Other factors which could influence the appraisal are structural defects such as wall deterioration or other major problems.

Lack of maintenance such as failure to paint the building, maintain the roof, or failure to mow the lawn, probably could not be adequate evidence for adjustment in appraisal.

Each board operates autonomous, but has definite guidelines that are set by law.

A reasonable, logical presentation based on facts is the best case.

Diehl Named Ag Commission Chairman

David Diehl, an Ingham County Farm Bureau member, has been appointed as chairman of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture.

The Commission functions as a policy-making body for the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Diehl, of Dansville, has

been a Commission member since 1970. He has also been secretary of the board of trustees for Lansing Community College, a member of the Ingham County Intermediate Board of Education and a member of the Michigan State University Executive Alumni Board.

mfrn farmers of the week

QUALITY FARMING OPERATIONS • AGRICULTURAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Melvin Wong
500 acre Alpena County dairy farmer - president county Farm Bureau - vice president MMPA board - Secretary, Thunder Bay Farmers Co-Op - director of Alpena County Park Commission - member Long Rapids Twp. Zoning Board - past Long Rapids Twp. Supervisor.

Donald C. Keinath
380 acre Tuscola County cash crop farmer - director and Secretary - Treasurer Caro Sugar Beet Association - Vice President Michigan Bean Commission - member Crop Improvement Association - member St. Paul Lutheran Church.

John A. Tagget
950 acre Saginaw County cash crop farmer - director Federal Land Bank; Bay City - member Frankenmuth "People to People" - member "Top Farmers of America" - township supervisor - member Holy Family Church.

Gerald F. Larson
200 acre Ionia County dairy farmer - president county Farm Bureau - member of board for State Dairy Advisory Board - MMPA member - District Delegate to state - DHIA president - member Berlin Township Board - Clarksville Bible Church Trustee.

Larry DeVuyst
800 acre Gratiot County hog and cash crop farmer - member Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors - member Federal Land Bank Board of Directors, St. Johns - Member Board of Directors Farm Credit Bank of St. Paul - past county Farm Bureau President.

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First to Reach Membership Goal

MFB Presents the 1977 'Fabulous Fifteen'



Franklin Schwiderson
Chippewa County



Foster McCool
Kalkaska County



Elenor Honkala
Iron Range



Paul Koviak
Cheboygan County



Richard Nelson
Ogemaw County



Elmer and Rachel Michell
Osceola County



James Vantine
Oakland County



Bill Ruhlig
Wayne County



Henry Jennings
Genesee County



Roy Shankel
Gratiot County



Betty Traver
Ingham County



Ivan Sparks
Saginaw County



Ann Bogart
Isabella County



Gerhardt Kernstock
Bay County



Fran Motz
Clinton County

Closely paralleling 1973 when state membership goal was reached on March 7, the Michigan Farm Bureau membership campaign achieved 98.07 percent of goal on February 16, needing only 1,191 members to reach state goal, while at the same time being one of the top 20 state Farm Bureaus in percentage of membership goal.

Since January 19, three regions have reported regional goal, in addition to 20 county Farm Bureaus. With only a half hour separating them, Saginaw Valley and the Central Region, respectively, both reported goal on January 26, and the Southeast Region reported goal on February 10. In addition to Saginaw Valley having

regional goal, it is the first region to have every county over goal.

Those counties reporting membership goal after January 19 and their chairmen are:

In the 1-350 member category: Antrim County - Dean Veliquette, chairman; Cooper Country - Dan Linna, chairman; Montmorency - Duane Stevens, chairman; Benzie County - Gary Lathwell, chairman and Menominee - Gunter Kusig, chairman.

Reporting goal and securing a position in the "Fabulous Fifteen" in the 351-650 category are Ogemaw County - Dick Nelson, chairman; and Osceola - Mr.

and Mrs. Elmer Mitchell, co-chairman; and also reporting goal Midland County - Erna Varner, chairman.

Also reporting goal and a member of the "Fabulous Fifteen" is Isabella County - Mrs. Ann Bogart, chairman, in the 651-1200 member category Eaton County - Mrs. Arlene Weaver, chairman, and Jackson County - Mrs. Phyllis Haven, chairman, also reported goal in this category.

In the 1201-1500 category: Gratiot County - Roy Shankel, chairman; and Ingham County - Mrs. Betty Traver, chairman, both join the prestigious "Fabulous Fifteen," and also making goal, St. Clair County - Mrs. Linda

Cronin, chairman; Macomb County - Mrs. Betty Brodacki, chairman; and Monroe - Alvin Gaertner, chairman.

In the largest membership category, 1501 and over, three counties have reported goal since January 19, two of which join the ranks of the

"Fabulous Fifteen," - Bay County - Gerhardt Kernstock, chairman; and Clinton County - Fran Motz, chairman; Tuscola County - Mrs. Margaret Boyne, chairman; and Huron County - Gerald Elenbaum and Delbert Roberts, co-chairmen, also reported goal in this category.

Social Security Reports Due April 15

Anyone who received a Social Security check in 1976 and who earned over \$2,760 in 1976, must file an annual work report with social security. The report is due by April 15th. The only people not required to file this report are those who were over age 72 for the entire calendar year.

Earnings that count toward the \$2,760 limitation are wages from employment and net earnings from self employment. The income a person has from investments does not count as earnings. Interest, dividends, pensions, and rental income do not count as earnings.

People who earned over

\$2,760 in 1976, may have some of their social security benefits withheld. One dollar of benefits is held back for every \$2 a person earned over \$2,760 in 1976. There is an exception to this general rule that allows a person to be paid in some months no matter how much he earned for the calendar year. A full check can be paid for any month in which a person earned \$230.00 or less in wages or did not perform "substantial services" in self employment. Most farmers can be paid for any months in which they work 45 hours or less on their farms. Work of 45 hours per month or less is not considered to be sub-

stantial. The work reports can be obtained by calling or writing any social security office. All social security offices also have free pamphlets available. Some are of particular interest to farmers.

There is a pamphlet entitled; "If You Work After Retirement." This one helps explain how earnings affect social security benefits. It also explains the "substantial services" rule.

For more information about annual work reports, call or write your nearest social security office. They are listed in the phone book under Social Security Administration.

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Here's MSU Farmer's Week Schedule March 21-25

MONDAY PROGRAMS

MORNING

- 7:00-10:00 Pancake Breakfast, MABC Headquarters, East Lansing.
- 10:00 Michigan Dairy Herd Improvement Association Annual Meeting, Auditorium, Kellogg Center.
- 10:00 Michigan Guernsey Youth Group, 105 A & B, Kellogg Center.
- 10:45 American Dairy Association of Michigan Annual Meeting, Lincoln Room A & B, Kellogg Center.
- 10:45 Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders' Association, 101 Kellogg Center.

LUNCHEON

- 12:00 Dairy Breeds and Awards, Big Ten Room, Kellogg Center.

AFTERNOON

- 1:30 Dairy Breeds Association Meetings, Rooms 101, 104, 105 A & B, 106, Vista, Kellogg Center.
- 1:30 Michigan Dairy Herd Improvement Association Annual Meeting, Auditorium, Kellogg Center.

EVENING

- 7:00 Land Management Workshops for Landowners - Forestry, Auditorium, Brody Hall.

TUESDAY PROGRAMS

- 9:30 Agriculture and Open Space for Michigan, Agricultural Economics & Resource Development Program, Auditorium, Brody Hall.
- 9:30 Beekeeping Program, Lincoln Room, Kellogg Center.
- 10:00-12:00 Animal Husbandry Open House at Beef, Swine, Sheep and Horse Units.
- 10:00 Management Programs for Improved Herd Health, Dairy Program, Auditorium, Kellogg Center.
- 10:00 Poultry Science Game Bird Program, 105 Kellogg Center.
- 10:00 Poultry Science Egg Producers Program, 106 Kellogg Center.

- 10:00 Financial Management Workshop, Agricultural Economics Program, 104 A & B, Kellogg Center.

- 10:00-11:30 Poultry Science Youth Program, 110 Anthony Hall, page 65.

- 11:00 Multi-media presentation on College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Abrams Planetarium.

LUNCHEONS

- 11:45 Poultry Science, Big Ten Room, Kellogg Center.
- 12:00 Centennial Farm Association, Centennial Room, Kellogg Center.

AFTERNOON

- 12:00-3:00 Animal Husbandry Open House at Beef, Swine, Sheep and Horse Units.
- 1:00 Multi-media presentation on College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Abrams Planetarium.
- 1:00-4:00 Management Consultation center, Agricultural Economics Program, 104 A & B, Kellogg Center.
- 1:00-4:00 Land Use Research, Resource Development Program, Auditorium, Brody Hall.
- 1:30 Estate Planning for Farm Families, Agricultural Economics Program, Auditorium, Kellogg Center.
- 1:30 Beekeeping Program, Lincoln Room, Kellogg Center.
- 1:40 Small Organisms Versus the Farmer, Microbiology and Public Health Program, 217 Anthony Hall.

WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS

MORNING

- 9:00-10:00 Continuous demonstration of beef, sheep and swine management skills, Livestock Pavilion.
- 9:00 Annual Meeting of Michigan Sheep Breeders Association 103 Anthony Hall.
- 9:30 Michigan Wilderness and Natural Areas Advisory Board, Laboratory 2, Brody Hall, page 36.
- 10:00 Irrigation of Michigan Field Crops, Agricultural Economics & Agricultural Engineering Program, Auditorium, Agricultural Engineering Bldg.
- 10:00-12:00 Cash Grain, Agricultural Economics Program, 104 A & B and 105 A & B, Kellogg Center.
- 1:30 Farmers and Taxes, Agricultural Economics Program, Auditorium, Kellogg Center.
- 1:30 Big Implements to Go with Big Tractors, Agricultural Engineering Program, 116 Agricultural Engineering Bldg.
- 3:00-4:00 Parents Meet the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, 103 Anthony Hall.

THURSDAY PROGRAMS

MORNING

- 8:00-12:00 Career Hospitality Room, Open, Lower Level, University Auditorium.
- 8:30 BREAKFAST WITH GOVERNOR WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN Big Ten Room, Kellogg Center.
- 9:00 Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative Annual Meeting, Lincoln Room, Kellogg Center.
- 9:30-12:00 Telfarm Open House, 305 Computer Center.
- 9:30 Home Maintenance to Save Dollars, Agricultural Engineering Program, 116 Agricultural Engineering Bldg.
- 9:30 Michigan's Fifth Annual Conference on Land Use Policy, Auditorium, Brody Hall.

AFTERNOON

- 12:00-3:00 Animal Husbandry Open House at Beef, Swine, Sheep and Horse Units.
- 12:00-4:00 Telfarm Open House, 305 Computer Center.
- 1:00 Second Session FFA Convention; University Auditorium.
- 1:30 Home Maintenance to Save Dollars, Agricultural Engineering Program, 116 Agricultural Engineering Bldg.
- 1:30-3:00 Annual Horse Day Program, Auditorium, Veterinary Clinic.
- 1:30 Michigan Junior Livestock Assoc., 131 Anthony Hall.
- 2:00 How Agriculture and Food Policy Decisions are Made, Agricultural Economics Program, Auditorium, Kellogg Center.

BANQUETS

- 5:15 FFA, Shaw Hall.
- 5:45 Farm Management, Big Ten & Centennial Rooms, Kellogg Center.

FRIDAY

- 10:00 Michigan Milk Producers Association Annual Meeting, B108 Wells Hall.

AFTERNOON

- 1:00 Meetings of: Michigan Water Resources Commission, Multi-Purpose Room A, Brody Hall.
 - Michigan Forest Association, Multi-Purpose Room C.
 - Soil Conservation Society of America, Multi-Purpose Room B, Brody Hall.
- BANQUET**
6:00 MAPCO, Centennial Room, Kellogg Center.

Rural Apathy Prevents EMS Acceptance

(Continued from page 8)

Both fear and apathy trigger the argument that EMS Services are far too expensive for a rural community to maintain. Yet a number of such communities are successfully operating EMS programs without increasing tax bases.

Though Grand Ledge is more urban than rural, that community operates an EMS service through large portions of rural Eaton and Clinton Counties. The total annual gross cost of operating two fully equipped and manned vehicles full-time was \$51,000 in 1976.

"What people tend to forget is that we get a return by charging minimal prices for the services," Hargreaves points out. "Last year we brought in \$24,000 so our net operating expenses were about \$27,000."

Even if the EMS service saves one life, it will have more than paid for itself, Amble says.

"This is true on a financial basis as well as a humanitarian one," the EMS director points out. "The saved person will be able to work and pay taxes to the community. He might also be kept off the disability lists if emergency care reached him in time before permanent damage has occurred. It's hard to measure the value of a human life, but we estimate that the money put into an EMS program is returned to the community three-fold."

Michigan communities that have been successful with

EMS programs are still few and far apart, though. Amble feels that although some progress has been made, the state has a long way to go before any kind of comprehensive emergency health care program is available throughout Michigan, particularly in rural areas.

New EMS legislation that will go into effect within the next two years will hopefully stimulate expansion of the EMS Program throughout the state. Certainly the new regulations will help to improve the quality of all vehicle-based emergency health services.

The first of these new statutes is P.A. 300, which will go into effect April 1, 1977.

"This Act is also the first attempt of implementing a statewide EMS Program," says Dennis Paradis, Legislative Advisor for the House Republican Staff. "Under this law, the eight regional health systems agencies throughout the state will survey their areas to find out what areas are the most in need of EMS Programs. It also authorizes the Michigan Health Department to study present ambulance and hospital emergency room equipment and services. The basic idea is to have a comprehensive plan that can be implemented to improve emergency health care services throughout the state."

The second Act, P.A. 290, deals specifically with the

(Continued on page 16)

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Michigan Marketing Outlook

New Column Coming in April

Beginning with the April addition of the Michigan Farm News; a regular feature will be added to the Marketing Outlook page. This new feature will be called Market Intelligence. This column will be designed to present ideas and tips on marketing your grain; along with new research being done to improve your marketing skills. In addition, the Market Intelligence column will invite you to ask any questions you may have concerning grain markets, futures markets and trading, delayed pricing, etc. The idea

is to provide you, the producer, with the best possible and most up-to-date information on marketing.

Send your marketing questions to:
Market Intelligence
(c-o Market Development Division)
7373 West Saginaw Highway,
Box 30960
Lansing, Michigan 48909
or call: (517) 485-8121, Ext. 222

We will be anxiously waiting for your questions! Paul E. Kindinger, Director Market Development Division

snowfall. The lack of snow cover increases the probability of wind erosion damage and winter kill, plus it increases the need for precipitation this spring. Thus, the market could begin to anticipate serious crop damage and deterioration in the days and weeks ahead. The weather, plus slightly reduced acreage for 1977, may provide the spark for a positive price response.

Soybeans

Usage continues to push the limits of current supplies. Soybean stock reports indicate a January 1st inventory just slightly larger than the January to August use of a year ago. The U.S.D.A.'s acreage and yield projections for the new (77) crop and the low subsoil moisture conditions in many prime production areas leave little room for any crop failure in 1977. In other words, should the current tight supply conditions become even tighter as a result of the weather or some expansion in demand, then we should see even more strength for old crop beans.

Corn

Sluggish export demand and domestic usage had already forced corn prices to their lowest levels in three years. However, the unexpectedly large increase in U.S.D.A. corn production estimate coupled with the lower than anticipated utilization rates, mean even larger carry-over stocks are likely at year-end. Domestic usage of corn was up only 1½ percent despite severe cold weather, poor pasture conditions and increased hog and

broiler inventories.

It was also anticipated earlier, that farmers would be planting less corn this spring. However, farmers reported that they intend to plant 84.5 million acres of corn, up slightly from 1976. Thus, on the surface, all indications are that support in the corn market may have been weakened by all the bad news. But, what if - cattle prices strengthen through next summer; the lack of subsoil moisture significantly reduces corn yields in 1977; or farmers change their intentions and plant more soybeans because of the price incentives in that market? It is certainly inviting to play the what-if game when things are bad (relatively speaking). However, one might better bet on the horses at this point. But that doesn't stop us from keeping our eyes on the what-if factors in the days and months ahead!

Beef

We are still liquidating beef cows at a much higher rate than expected earlier due to drought, short feed supply and discouraged cattlemen.

Each new report that comes out substantiates the fact that we are killing more cows in the current liquidation cycle than any time in recent history. My opinion hasn't changed much in the past few months. I still expect to see 50c cattle in 1977.

The livestock industry continues to be plagued with too much supply for the current demand. Everyone in the industry seems to agree now that we will see substantial improvement in beef prices in the coming months. The only question that hasn't been answered is when? Most of the projections in the past six months have not counted on the low prices carrying into the new year. There are probably several reasons for the current loss in prices but the reasons all boil down to supply and demand.

Though the new rules will provide guidelines, they cannot create the incentive needed to start an EMS service, Amble says.

"Only an involved community aware of its limited emergency health care resources can do this," the EMS director points out.

To find out how good emergency services are in the community, Amble suggests that citizens contact the county public health office. If the area is serviced only by a private ambulance service, or the dispatching points for any emergency service leaves too many holes in its coverage, an EMS service should be considered immediately. Eventually all communities should have an EMS service, Amble says, but those areas that are not

Swine

The cold weather may be a blessing in disguise to our hog producers. We really won't know for several weeks how much death loss we can attribute to the extreme cold temperature but we can be sure it has reduced the pigs per litter in the current farrowings.

The demand side has been excellent these past two months and has kept the price to the farmer at least 5c above most projections.

There is beginning to be more enthusiasm among the producers and a strong case building around the possibility of prices holding near the 40c mark through spring. All indications are that we have increased in numbers thus the question of price will hinge heavily on the demand side. If consumers continue to buy at the current rate, the dream of prices holding near the 40c mark could be a reality.

Dairy

Total 1976 milk production of 120.3 billion pounds was up 4.2 percent from a year ago and the highest since 1965. Along with a jump in production came an increase in milk prices at the farm, up nearly \$1.00-cwt. above the 1975 level. Demand for milk was up last year but the big demand jump came in the cheese department. During 1976, cheese production climbed to a record 3.3 billion pounds, up 19 percent from 1975.

We are very apt to have a continuation of the high production that we have seen this past year. As long as corn prices stay low it will continue to be profitable to feed corn in our nation's dairy cows thus guaranteeing high production.

In December, prices for all milk wholesale was \$9.75 and in January it was \$9.68. I would expect to see a continued decline in milk prices through most of 1977, hanging close to the support level.

getting complete coverage of their area with any emergency mobile program should take action immediately.

"There are often state and federal funds available to assist in the establishment and operation of an EMS system," Amble points out. "Since there are a number of sources, we suggest that communities contact the Michigan Department of Public Health Emergency Medical Services Division right after the need for the EMS program has been established."

This division will also help the community find the resources to purchase the right equipment, obtain the proper personnel and provide the best training programs.

(Continued on page 19)

Current Market News Available

The U.S.D.A. now has up-to-the minute reports on prices, supply, demand and other market factors at your fingertips. This market information covers livestock, fruits and vegetables in Michigan. It is available by simply dialing your telephone. Numbers for these special reports are;

Livestock - Lansing (517) 373-6330

Potatoes - (June-September) - Call Bay City operator and

ask for Federal State Market News

Fruits and Vegetables - (June-March) - Benton Harbor (616) 925-1096

There are now over 234 locations across the U.S. which are equipped with the telephone-tape recording devices. So, if you want the latest in market news, just reach for your telephone and dial!

Paul E. Kindinger, Director Market Development Division

Wheat

The market fundamentals are still basically negative. U.S.D.A. supply and demand reports are still calling for a year-end carry-over in the neighborhood of 1.1 billion bushels. Some traders fear that even this estimate may be on the low side since exports, which are part of the U.S.D.A. supply demand report, have not kept pace with predictions. Other countries like Australia,

Canada and Argentina also have plenty of wheat for sale. So far they have been successful in undercutting U.S. prices on world markets. Also, the large switch to wheat in cattle rations that was once being predicted, has not taken place.

The only real bright spot on the horizon remains the weather in the U.S. Many of the major wheat producing states are still without any

County FBs Can Provide Leadership to Start EMS Programs

(Continued from page 14) licensing of emergency medical personnel. It sets minimum training requirements for all emergency personnel before they can be licensed. It will also authorize a study of training programs and certify qualified programs.

A third Act, P.A. 288, will provide a breakthrough in emergency medical services licensing concepts," Paradis points out. "Under this law, the vehicle, personnel, and equipment will be covered in the licensing of individual emergency services operations."

P.A. 288 will go into effect on January 1, 1979. It will require new standards that must be met for every phase of the total emergency service. For example, one regulation specified that all calls must be answered by at least one emergency medical technician (EMT) and an

attendant. Others prescribe for standard vehicle height, mandatory equipment to be carried on the ambulance and a description of the primary service area.

"We realize that voluntary rural emergency programs are deeply concerned by this legislation, because EMT training involves anywhere from 80 to 120 hours of training. Often this training hasn't been available in rural areas and volunteer personnel don't have the time needed. However, the Michigan Health Department is organizing to provide training programs where they are needed the most. We consider manpower training the EMS program's top priority. The regulations are also designed to go into effect gradually, so that the Emergency Service Programs have the time to properly train their personnel," Paradis adds.

"The last thing we want to do is reduce the number of emergency service programs by setting up unrealistic standards", Paradis says. "The State Legislature feels that enough time has been allowed for responsible organizations and businesses to improve their equipment, personnel and services with these laws."

"Strong legislative sentiment for the three emergency medical services Acts comes from the knowledge that an effective statewide EMS program could save about 3,000 lives a year," Paradis emphasizes.

"We know that two-thirds of all fatal traffic accidents in the state have occurred in rural areas," Paradis says. "It's our goal to make rural areas better equipped to save lives. The Legislature is cognizant of the fact that this will be done through volunteer agencies."

Supply Report



By Greg Sheffield

GENERAL

The cold weather paralyzed shipments of supplies into Michigan. Transportation difficulties caused shortages in nearly all items including fertilizers, feeds, and hardware. Farmers who want products must order well in advance and let their dealers know how much they'll need. The effects of the weather on supplies will be with us until planting time.

A state-wide Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum "SPRING AHEAD SALE" was sprung on February 15 and will last through April 15 with dealers advertising Farm Bureau products at attractive prices. Retail supervisors, store managers, and Farm Bureau Product Field Representatives are all pushing this program. It's designed to make our supply benefits well-known to farmers not presently doing business with Farm Bureau. Of course, this Spring Ahead program will also help present patrons line up their spring needs.

FERTILIZER

Fertilizers will increase in price. This is due mostly to lost fertilizer production from the curtailment of gas. Readers of this column will recall we have consistently advised early purchases of available supplies from your Farm Bureau dealers.

At this time production losses of fertilizers cannot be made up. Also, the transportation snag with frozen rivers, no barge movement, railroad tie-ups and overloaded trucking all contributed to a giant problem. Available railcars had to be used for grain shipments. This left only the smaller 50-ton hopper cars, when available, for fertilizer. Your Farm Bureau dealer is still your best bet for your fertilizer, herbicide, and insecticide needs. By planting time this spring the crunch, of farmers all trying to secure available supplies at once, will be severe.

FEED

The increased energy requirements of animals due to the cold weather further strained the balance of supplies caused by lack of shipments of feed ingredients. Farm Bureau was able to supply the needs of its patrons through its network of Farm Bureau dealers.

NU PRO Dairy Feed sales have been growing at a rapid pace as dairy farmers realize NU PRO advantages. NU PRO helps high producing dairy cows produce more milk.

The now famous liquid feeds sold by Farm Bureau, LSA, liquid silage additive and LPS, liquid protein

supplement, have good acceptance in Michigan. But both will get an added communications boost with a fresh and informative advertising program to appear in dairy and local dealer publications. Farmers not on these supplements can study the ads in Michigan Milk Messenger and local papers and make inquiries of their dealers.

Hardware

At present we're not looking to any immediate price increase in either steel or aluminum. Shortages, however, will be seen in these

items as a result of the energy crunch. Our Farm Bureau dealers, having taken shipments early, are generally well stocked. But lumber supplies are being drawn down as builders plan to get back into the swing of building activities this spring. They are buying early to avoid problems later. Sufficient lead time on orders to dealers should be allowed.

CO-OP Water Softeners from Farm Bureau are presently available at attractive low prices for superior equipment. See this equipment for yourself. Have your water tested and enjoy savings in soap, longer-lasting plumbing, and fewer doctor bills from drinking poor quality water.

Severe Winter Impact on Fuels

Naturally, the tran-

sportation difficulties around the nation had an impact on the Farmers Petroleum fuel supply situation. Frozen rivers held up barges, severe cold caused increased consumption of fuels, and shortages at terminals kept Farmers Petroleum working around the clock to keep our patrons supplied. The acquisition of our Energy Cooperative refinery came just in time to alleviate a supply crunch for Farmers Petroleum patrons.

LIQUID FUELS AVAILABLE

Presently we have sufficient supplies of heating oils, providing patrons continue their present conservation practices. However, Number 1 and 2 fuel oils will remain continuously, and critically, short. Gasoline, too, will

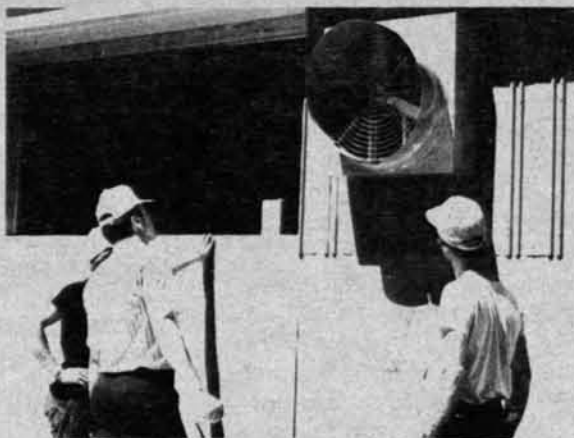
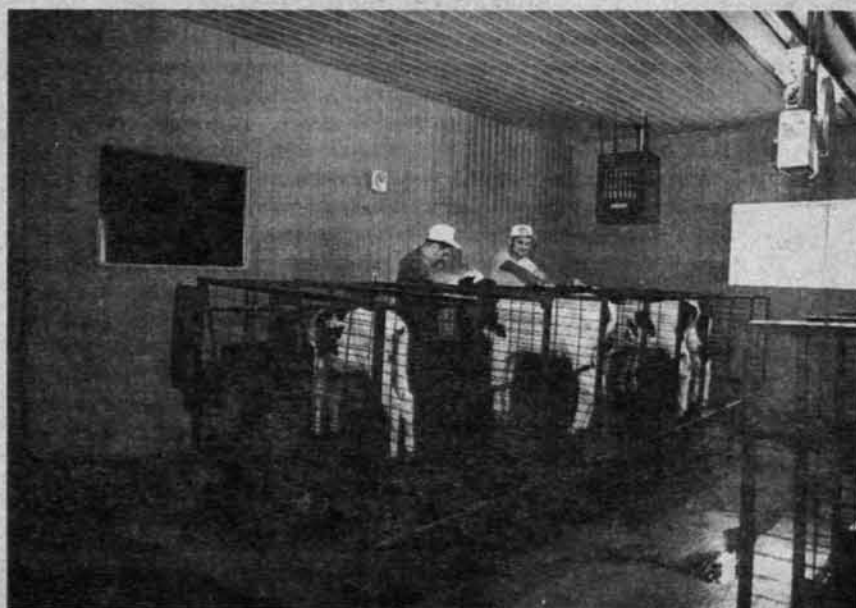
remain tight. This is to be expected since the manufacture of heating oils comes first and draws away the raw material supplies otherwise used to make for gasoline. Continued price increases, too, have been experienced and these increases are expected to continue through spring.

RADIAL TRACTOR TIRES

The new, CO-OP radial tractor tire should be looked at by farmers at once before spring planting. The advantages of the radial tractor tire are many: longer life, stronger, more acres per gallon, almost double flotation, fewer work stoppages, a better buy for the money.

CASH & CARRY TIRES

There's no question the Cash & Carry Tire Program, (Continued on page 18)



Where Do You Go For Quality Hardware?

Input costs for farming are high, and getting higher. That's why so many Michigan farmers have taken their hardware business to cooperative retail outlets. The Farm Bureau people sell only durable, dependable, long-lasting hardware. To you that means value!

As a member of Universal Cooperatives, Farm Bureau Services brings you outstanding products... CO-OP and Universal. From Axes to Zinc coated watering tanks... your Farm Bureau Services dealer has a

great selection of farm hardware.

And buildings? Strength, versatility and longer service life make Farm Bureau buildings a great investment for your farm. At Farm Bureau Services, we guarantee satisfaction. You can depend on the cooperative system. It works...

for you. Ask the Farm Bureau People.



DISCUSSION

TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**

Manager Member Relations

Agricultural Opportunities Unlimited

Today, food is the focal point of international politics. The nations that provide food are forging ahead, and America is history's greatest food producer. Our farm production gives us great global bargaining power. Who is responsible for this agricultural success? Mainly our 3,000,000 family farmers.

Yet vocational agriculture has been eliminated from courses being offered in many high schools. It would appear as if many of those who determine the vocational courses to be offered have forgotten where food comes from.

High school vocational agriculture has been, and should continue to be, a vital tool for development of the talent and leadership needed in farming and in the agricultural service industries.

Modern agriculture involves a great deal more than just tilling the soil. The so-called chain of agriculture starts with suppliers to farmers -- those who manufacture and sell things such as machinery, fertilizers, chemicals, and feeds; or those who provide credit, insurance and technical services.

Farmers are the center link. They are the producers of raw material. The next step is marketing, then processing, transportation and distribution.

The entire agricultural industry employs many millions of people whose average income in non-farm occupations is competitive with salaries for similar employment in other industries.

This is a reality young people should consider when planning their future. A reality which applies especially to youth with farm backgrounds. A reality which high school counselors should take into consideration when counseling students. It is a reality school administrators should remember when developing courses. Agri-related employers often make it clear they definitely prefer, in some cases require, their employees have had farm experiences.

The farm youth, with their rural life experience and work on the farm, have a built-in advantage for gainful occupation in the broad field of agriculture. The opportunities are there and they will remain.

Youths with farm backgrounds are only limited by their willingness and ability for self advancement and the educational opportunities available to them. Thousands of talented youths are counseled out of agriculture each year because many schools in rural areas, as well as urban, no longer consider agriculture a proper subject. Yet, hundreds of opportunities exist for agriculturalists to serve the gardening and landscaping needs of homeowners, business establishments and public facilities, or to work in firms which deals with farmers.

SUPPLIERS

Each year farmers purchase many thousands of dollars worth of supplies and services needed in their production of crops and livestock and for conservation of lands and water resources. Agriculture related courses among the suppliers to farmers include: product development engineers and scientists, manufacturing management

personnel, sales personnel, advertising and promotion personnel and service personnel.

Manufacturers of agricultural supplies employ many economists and other agricultural specialists. The field of agricultural sales, which also includes advertising and promotion, provides lucrative occupations for many. Among the sales group are many who work on a local basis and who quite often enters the occupation without college preparation.

Individuals who service and repair farm machinery and equipment requires mechanical skills. Their service to farmers is increased if they have first hand knowledge of farm conditions under which machinery is used. Producers and distributors of fertilizers and farm chemicals, feed, petroleum products, electricity and other input items of farming employ persons who work directly with farmers and dealers to assist in the most efficient utilization of their product.

HANDLERS

A great many people in agriculture related careers are engaged in transporting, processing, manufacturing and selling farm goods. They might be grouped as: farm to market transporters; contractors and buyers of farm products; salesmen representing farmers or processors of farm goods.

A large force of workers is required to move farm products from the farm to the market place. Such transporters need to be thoroughly familiar with the produce they are handling. The perishable crops or livestock in their care can be seriously damaged by careless handling.

Buyers and contractors for farm products are highly skilled personnel who must combine the knowledge of the product they buy with a thorough familiarity of the market demands and supply outlet. Processors or farm produce employ many contractors and buyers. Some processors employ agriculturalists to work directly with farmers to help them attain the quality of produce consumers prefer.

CAREERS UNLIMITED

Modern agriculture is a dynamic, expanding industry which offers a variety of career opportunities to those who are adequately trained and educated.

Opportunities are increasing each year for people qualified to: manage, process, distribute, and sell agricultural products; give service to people who produce and consume these products; do the research and teaching that will make agricultural production, processing, distributing and marketing even more efficient; communicate agricultural ideas and information; and do the actual farming.

The youth of Michigan are fortunate to have numerous colleges and universities in the state which offer a wide variety of courses designed to prepare them for farming or agriculture-related careers. To ascertain all the opportunities for service and employment that a degree in agriculture or agri-related field might lead to is an impossible task. Many opportunities will open to the youth of today which are unknown or unimagined by the over-40 generation.

THE FUTURE

Despite declining birth rates, the population of the earth is expected to grow. Efforts toward maintaining a quality environment will undoubtedly increase. More food will be needed. Requirements for conservation and recreation will be greater. Great increases in positions for agricultural technologists, with heavy demand for those trained in agriculture, or agriculture and political science, are expected.

Whether students have the opportunity to study agriculture in high school rests to a large extent with the parents of today. Traditionally our agricultural system has been developed and guided by the citizens in our school district. This system must prevail if we are to maintain the education vital to the future of agriculture and the nation. The key to this is the involvement of individual citizens at the local level. We must work together to insure they have this opportunity. Even though we may sometime wonder, "How are we going to keep them down on the farm," a bright future seems assured for the youth of today who select agriculture related courses.

SERVICES

Farmers are surrounded by a host of assistants whose jobs require a knowledge of farming even though they may not be farmers. They can be grouped as: providers of finances; providers of technical services; educators; regulatory and advisory personnel; and providers of facilities.

Farmers depend heavily on lending institutions for both short and long-term financing. Lending institutions require the service of farm loan advisors who are knowledgeable of farming. Others who might be grouped in this field are insurance salesmen who provide special programs for farmers, and real estate dealers specializing in farmland transfers.

Many opportunities exist in education, regulatory and advisory services to farmers. Teachers of vocational agriculture, county agricultural agents, experiment station scientists, and inspectors of seed, feed and milk comprise just a few of the many occupations in this field.

Farm news writers, farm radio and TV directors are personnel employed by farm organizations and others. Government agencies also employ many technicians with farm background in regulatory categories.

The area of technical services to farmers include such people as veterinarians, soil conservation technicians, foresters, dairy herd improvement association testers, artificial inseminators, and farm record and analysis experts.

As farms have grown in size and complexity, and as the number of farm workers have declined, there has emerged a group of people called custom operators. They own specialized machinery and equipment with which they perform vital parts of farm work without the necessity of the farmers having this additional capital out-lay for machinery. In this group are pilots who apply chemicals and seeds by use of aircraft.

Supply Report Contd.

(Continued from page 17)

available at Farmers Petroleum dealers, is a money-saving, time-saving way to keep good rubber on your cars and trucks. Supplies are good and more than competitive in price for the superior quality of CO-OP Tires.

BATTERIES

A real winner for spring work after a rough winter will be a CO-OP Maintenance Free Battery. Patrons just install the CO-OP Maintenance Free Battery and then practically forget them.

Can I plan my estate to reduce the tax bite?

Should I set up a trust fund?

estate planning is 100 questions

SHOULD I MAKE GIFTS TO MY CHILDREN NOW?

DOES MY ESTATE HAVE TO GO THROUGH PROBATE COURT?

IS INSURANCE PART OF MY ESTATE, OR SEPARATE FROM IT?

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO PROVIDE FOR QUICK WORKING CASH WHILE MY ESTATE IS TIED UP?

How should I word my designation of insurance beneficiary?

What are the pros and cons of making my spouse the owner of my life insurance?

HOW MUCH OF AN ESTATE DOES IT TAKE TO GET CHARGED INHERITANCE TAXES?

... and the right answers.

A select unit of Farm Bureau Insurance agents has been helping people with Estate Planning ideas for twenty years. With the significant changes in the estate tax picture brought about by the 1976 Tax Reform Act, now is a good time to review your estate program . . . or to begin estate planning.

Your Farm Bureau Insurance specialist can help by discussing estate planning ideas with you, your family and your legal and financial counselors. Your new or updated estate plan is as near as your phone. Call your Farm Bureau Insurance agent for help with your estate planning questions.

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