



# Farm News

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

VOL. 58, NO. 1, JANUARY, 1979

*"As we look ahead, we must reflect with pride that Farm Bureau is the largest farm organization in the state; that it is not a single issue organization; that it stands ready to work with other organizations, but will not compromise the decisions members make here at this convention."*

John Laurie, Chairman  
1979 Policy Development Committee

## INSIDE:

400 Michiganders to  
Attend AFBF Annual . . . . . 4

MDA Director Ball Retires,  
Dean Pridgeon Named . . . . . 5

Elton Smith Re-Elected . . . . . 10

Michigan Farm Bureau's  
1979 Policies . . . . . 11-21

## From the Desk of the President

## Losing Where We Should Be Winning



(Editor's Note: The following are excerpts from the president's annual address to voting delegates at the 59th Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting in Grand Rapids on November 29.)

I have a special concern to share with you -- a concern of which I am more conscious, probably, because of having been to Geneva twice this year to be briefed on trade negotiations going on there, and then just recently returned from a trade tour in Russia.

I have a concern for America. American agriculture has been the shining example of success throughout the world. Its efficiency is unmatched anywhere. It has helped make America the strongest and greatest nation in the

world. However, agriculture can be successful only as long as America is successful.

But, I have a deep concern for America! I have that concern because we are losing where we should be winning. We are losing in the areas of competition and productivity.

This is not only my opinion. It is demonstrated by the plummeting value of the U.S. dollar. It is reflected by our mounting trade deficit. It is demonstrated by a greater productivity increase, per capita, in other countries than is being experienced in this nation.

And the sad part about the situation is, we have the know how, the resources and the ability to be the leader.

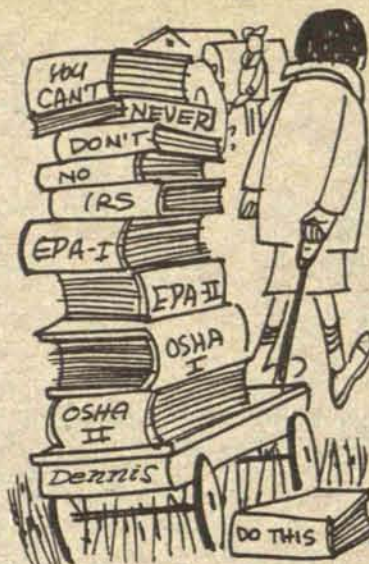
So why are we slipping behind in competition and productivity? There are two reasons, tied closely together. They are inflation and excessive government regulation.

In the past year, the citizens of this country

started to show that they have had enough of taxation and inflation. That's the reason behind the so called "tax revolt" taking place in America. I am sure President Carter realized that when he announced his "Anti-inflation Plan." I am sure he also recognized that we are losing many of our foreign markets because of inflation. He knew that Korea is buying Egyptian cotton rather than American cotton. He could see the electronic industry in Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan outstripping that industry in the United States.

President Carter also knew our trade deficit was growing every month. He surely was aware that, in the past year, American agriculture had record foreign sales of \$27 billion dollars. Without agricultural exports, this country would be in more serious trouble, if not bankrupt.

However, Mr. Carter seemed to ignore the contributions farmers are



"SOME MORE 'GOVERNMENT PAMPHLETS' CAME TODAY."

making to controlling inflation. While he said that raw agricultural products would be exempted from voluntary guidelines, other administration spokesmen stated that, "Factors affecting food prices will be carefully monitored, especially at raw commodity,

or farm level, and at the retail level."

Anyone vaguely familiar with agriculture knows that any downward manipulation of prices at retail level goes back to the farmer in lower prices.

President Carter recently announced the Feed Grain Set-aside program for 1979. He stated the program was to encourage farmers to set-aside 20 percent of their acreage, but provided incentive to farmers to reduce acreage by only 10 percent. Stuart Eizenstat, the President's Chief Domestic Policy Advisor, estimated that feed grain prices may rise about 4 to 5 percent by 1980. This compares with Mr. Carter's allowable guidelines of up to 9.5 percent price increase for companies and a 7 percent wage increase per year. It appears Mr. Carter wants agriculture to be the lone fighter of inflation.

Meanwhile, what is being done by government to curb (Continued on Page 26)

## Objectively Speaking. . . . .

Each year, Michigan Farm Bureau staff people are assigned to a region during the membership drive to help inspire, enthuse -- nag, even -- and provide special help in making goal.

I try not to take unfair advantage of the others by using the FARM NEWS as a forum to spur my region on to victory and I've done a pretty good job of resisting that temptation. HOWEVER . . .

When a region actually stages a noisy demonstration on the delegate floor at annual meeting, interrupting the serious proceedings -- it's NEWS and can hardly be ignored. The fact that it was MY region that had the initiative, daring and spirit to carry it out is beside the point.

With bazookas tooting and banners proclaiming: "West Central -- First Over the Line in '79" and determined delegates from Newaygo, Oceana, Mason, Mecosta, Osceola and Muskegon shouting "We're No. 1!", the demonstrators took the floor. Their timing was appropriate -- immediately following the adoption of the resolution on Membership Growth.

President Elton Smith banged his gavel and demanded to know the meaning of this unusual conduct occurring on the delegate floor. Gary Carmichael, Osceola County Young Farmer Chairman, approached the mike and was recognized. With bravado, he threw out a challenge: the West Central against the West Region -- home of



"First Over the Line in '79" proclaimed West Central leaders, who staged a demonstration on the delegate floor in Grand Rapids.

President Smith -- in a race to make membership goal first. After checking with his Regional Representative Jim Westbrook, President Smith accepted the challenge.

Satisfied with the results of their demonstration, District Director Bob Rider and Regional Rep Pat Lause led the participants back to their seats and the business at hand.

Objectively reporting, it was a refreshing change of pace and a real spirit-builder for everyone within hearing distance of the Grand Rapids Civic Auditorium.

Another unusual happening

at this year's annual meeting was the resolution on Equal Opportunities for Women. State P.D. Committee member Jeanette Houghton presented the resolution to the delegate body and President Smith called for the vote. A loud chorus of male "NOs" led the chair to declare that the motion lost. With the speed of light, a woman delegate got to the mike and asked for a division of the house.

It wasn't even necessary to count the hands. The resolution passed by quite a margin. The fellows were only joking when they shouted "NO." But if it hadn't

been for the woman who challenged the vote, the organization would have been stuck with the joke for another year. A tip of the editorial bonnet to her!

Murray Miles, Director of Information for the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, has a thought worth sharing. Every time the news breaks that food prices will increase, those of us in agriculture begin to make our usual excuses about the fact that food is still a bargain, says Murray. Even though this is a true statement, he says he's beginning to wonder if this is not some kind of apology.

"It might just be that those of us in agriculture ought to stop apologizing for the price of food going up. When you go in to buy a new car, you don't see any big signs around the show room from the car makers telling you how sorry they are that the models are up \$200 to \$300 more than last



year," says Murray. "When gasoline went up another two cents a gallon, the big oil companies didn't have their public relations representatives down at the pumps to tell you they were sorry. They knew what their price structure was, and they took action."

The real culprit in rising food prices is not the farmers nor the middlemen, nor the retailer, Murray said. The culprit is inflation and that blame can be laid right at the door of Congress who continues to tax, tax, tax, and spend, spend, spend.

## MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

The Michigan FARM NEWS is published monthly, on the first day, by the Michigan Farm Bureau Information Division. Publication and Editorial offices at 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48909. Post Office Box 30960. Telephone, Lansing (517) 323-7000, Extension 508. Subscription price, 80 cents per year. Publication No. 345040.

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

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POSTMASTER: In using form 3579, mail to: Michigan Farm News, 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

# Policies Reflect Current Farmer Concerns, Set Aggressive Activity Direction for '79

Voting delegates to the 59th annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau were described by veteran legislative counsel Robert E. Smith as conscientious and knowledgeable, with an awareness of how agriculture is affected by a broad range of issues.

"They gave careful consideration to each resolution, not only those dealing with strictly agricultural issues, but also financial issues, taxation, health, crime — all the many things which are of concern to farmers," Smith said. "And they intend to do something about those concerns — through their organization."

Concern for net farm income was reflected in many of the nearly 100 resolutions dealing with state issues, the 31 national and international recommendations (which were forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation Policy Development Committee), and the 30 recommendations for their Farm Bureau organization. There were innovative ideas for enhancing farm income and calls for aggressive action to relieve the cost-price squeeze of which farmers find themselves the major victims.

## STATE POLICIES

One of the most important issues on the slate of policies adopted by the delegates — and one of the most complex and challenging as far as execution is concerned, Smith believes — is Workers Compensation. The Michigan Legislature has been considering a rewrite of the act for more than two years, and farmer concern grows as yet another increase in premiums has recently been requested.

"The resolution adopted by the delegates is a comprehensive one containing ideas they thought should be incorporated in the Workers Compensation Act that will eliminate some of the fraud we know exists and the high costs," Smith said.

Delegates passed a

resolution on the state agricultural marketing and bargaining legislation which has proved successful for the crops which the act covers. The delegates said it should be amended to include other crops and commodities produced in the state.

There were resolutions calling for continued and expanded promotion of agricultural commodities and coordination of some of the check-off programs for more efficiency. Research was one issue on which the delegates were unanimous, as they recognized that only through basic research can Michigan agriculture compete with agriculture in other states. They also stressed the need for a continued strong Extension Service to bring farmers the results of research.

Delegates were unanimous in their decision that the selection of the director of the state Department of Agriculture should continue to be made by a state commission on agriculture.

"Farm Bureau accomplished this many years ago, removing this department from the political pressures that are involved," Smith explained. "We don't want to see the state regress to the point where we go back to the old 'spoils system' of selecting directors of departments and agencies."

Delegates said user taxes should continue to be used for highway construction and maintenance. "The reason

"They intend to do something about those concerns through their organization."

Robert E. Smith  
MFB Legislative Counsel



Voting delegates John Cook and Jim Erwin of Oakland County discuss one of the resolutions.

for this," Smith said, "is that many of us remember the time when property taxes were used for these purposes and they were a great burden. Then we went to the highway user tax and the delegates think that should be continued."

The Crop Reporting Service was recognized by delegates as essential but in need of some changes to make it more effective for farmers.

Much discussion was devoted to a resolution on the posting of moisture shrinkage tables in elevators. Grain farmers, especially, find that these tables, while they exist, are not made public. Delegates felt that every farmer ought to be able to look at the elevator board to see what the shrinkage table was for his particular crop.

(See center section for full text of adopted state policies.)

## NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL

There was a great deal of discussion and consideration given to government farm programs. The delegates adopted a resolution continuing a long-standing position that farmers should receive their income from the marketplace rather than from government and government programs.

They did, however, recognize that in times of burdensome surpluses, it might be necessary for a set-aside program. They went on record as favoring the effective use of set-aside authority and spelled out in some detail what the set-

aside program should include.

They asked that the set-aside program be announced at least six months in advance of the planting season for the crops covered to allow producers to make planting decisions and to attract enough participation to make it effective.

They also insisted that diversion payments be made available to producers who comply with the set-aside to offset overhead costs on set-aside acres, such as taxes and interest, and provide a margin of return on land investment.

With regard to the 1979 feed grain set-aside, the delegates were deeply disturbed and registered their concern that it reduces diversion payments by as much as 50

percent from 1978 levels and therefore discourages participation. They asked that the AFBF work vigorously with Congress and USDA to obtain changes in the 1979 program.

Another important area that the delegates addressed was farmer access to foreign markets through farmer cooperatives. They indicated that cooperatives should increase their share of export sales to enhance member income and encouraged their cooperatives to develop direct export capabilities through mergers and joint efforts with other co-ops.

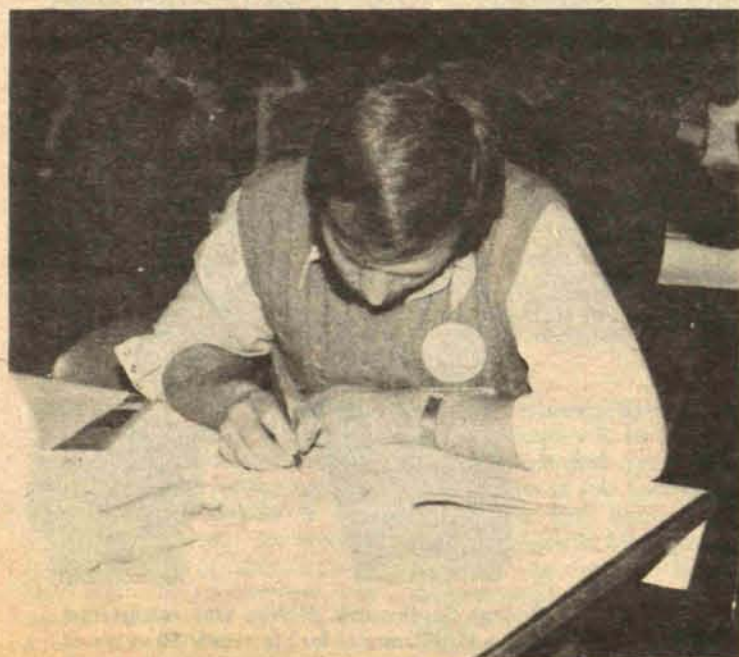
A strongly worded resolution on federal marketing and bargaining legislation was approved. The delegates asked that the enactment of a comprehensive national agricultural bargaining act have priority in the Farm Bureau organization.

Another area the delegates addressed was government spending and inflation. They stated a strong belief that the best method of controlling inflation is the elimination of federal deficit and asked for a Constitutional amendment that would require the Congress to operate on a balanced budget each year. They also supported a Constitutional amendment to restrict the tax authority of the federal government to a realistic percentage of the gross national product. In this regard, it would be similar to the Headlee Amendment which voters approved in Michigan.

The delegates asked that Congress show a greater restraint in passing laws of broad implication and authority and, instead, lay down specific guidelines and restraints on the agencies which administer laws.

"The resolutions on national issues, as approved by the delegates to the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting, are only recommendations to the American Farm Bureau," explained Al Almy, director of public affairs. "At this point, the resolutions will go to the AFBF Resolutions Committee. They will go through them, along with those received from the other state Farm Bureaus, and present a slate of policy recommendations to the delegates at the AFBF annual meeting in Florida in early January."

Michigan's recommendations on national and international affairs are available to county Farm Bureaus and others upon request.



Keith Ramthun, Muskegon County delegate, keeps his resolutions book up to date with amendments.



Howard Ebenhoeh of Saginaw County expresses an opinion during the resolutions session.

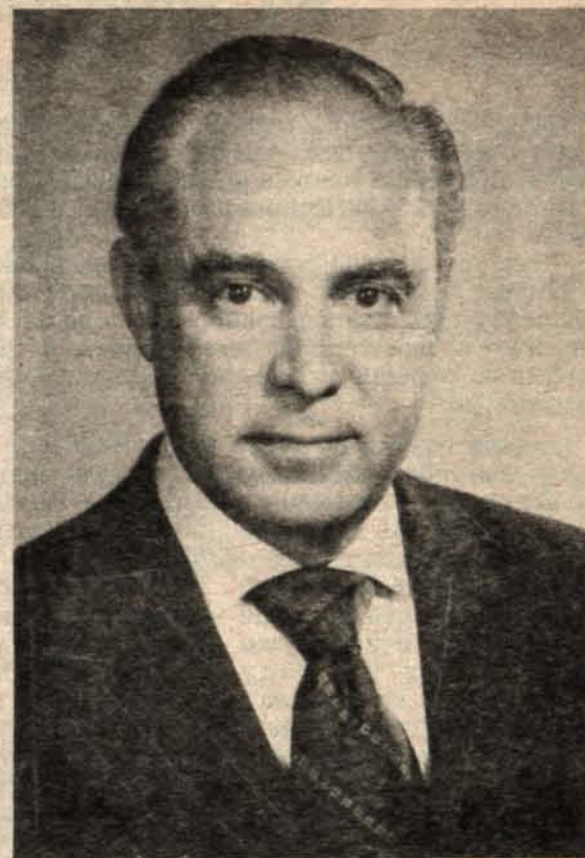
# 400 Michiganders to Attend AFBF Annual



Nearly 400 Michigan Farm Bureau members will be in Miami Beach, Florida, January 14-18, for the American Farm Bureau Federation's 60th annual meeting. They will be among the 10,000 farmers and ranchers from throughout the nation who are expected to attend the general sessions and many other scheduled activities.

Keynote speakers for the meeting are Ronald Reagan, former governor of California, and Ambassador Robert Strauss, President Carter's special representative for trade negotiations and special counselor on inflation. Both are scheduled to appear on Tuesday's program.

Voting delegates to the AFBF annual meeting from Michigan are: Elton R. Smith, Caledonia; John Laurie, Cass City; Lowell Eisenmann, Blissfield; Donald Nugent, Frankfort, and Andrew Jackson, Howell.



# MAFC Holds Annual Meeting



RALPH L. LEWIS, JR.

The Michigan Association of Farmer Cooperatives (MAFC) held its annual meeting at the Lansing Hilton Inn on December 8.

One of the featured speakers at the meeting was Ralph L. Lewis, Jr., Vice President of Gulf Oil Corporation, New Orleans. In addressing the 230 people in attendance, Lewis warned the U.S. in running out of oil and government regulation is preventing the development of alternative fuels. He further added that two-thirds of America's oil is still in the ground, but government controls prevent the oil companies from getting it out.

Referring to solar energy, Lewis stated that it is another

good possibility, but warned that it is unlikely that solar energy will be used to generate electricity in our lifetime. He did say, however, "You people in agriculture are going to raise water with it, you're going to dry crops with it, and you're going to heat and cool those things necessary for your production. I can assure you solar (energy) is going to be in your business in a big way. It's going to be a big business, but it won't be handled by the oil companies."

The best long-term hope for energy-generation is fusion, says Lewis, but it will be at least 20 years before fusion generation is perfected. Lewis says that in the meantime the abundance of alternative fuels in the U.S.

must be developed and the only way to do that, he believes, is with less government regulation.

Also appearing on the MAFC annual meeting program was Donald Wilkinson, Governor of the Farm Credit Administration in Washington, D.C.

Three cooperative leaders were honored with the 1978 MAFC Leadership Awards at the meeting for their contributions in promoting Michigan cooperatives. Combined, the three honorees have over 100 years of service to cooperatives in Michigan. Those recognized were George Southworth of Elkton, Carl C. Johnson of Pierson and Dr. Cyril Spike of Owosso.



DONALD WILKINSON



Dr. Cyril Spike, Owosso, receives a plaque from Frank Carpenter in honor of his many years of service to Michigan cooperatives.



Carl C. Johnson, Pierson, is presented a plaque from Frank Carpenter for his community and cooperative activities.



George Southworth, Elkton, was recognized at the MAFC annual for his nearly 50 years of service to cooperatives in Michigan. Frank Carpenter (right) presented the award.

# MDA Director Ball Retires. . . .

B. Dale Ball, Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture for the past 13 years, has announced that he plans to retire in March, 1979. Ball has served MDA for 28 years in various positions, including 12 years as MDA's top deputy director prior to his appointment as Director in October 1965.

Ball has won numerous awards for outstanding service to agriculture during his career, including Michigan Farm Bureau's "Distinguished Service to Agriculture" award in 1969.

He has served as president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. He was appointed chairman of a task force on food laws to work with the federal Food and Drug Administration; also as chairman of a national committee to assist USDA on agricultural and animal health affairs. Ball helped organize and served as head of an 11-state international trade organization, the Mid-

American International Agri-Trade Council. He organized the first U.S. agricultural trade mission to the People's Republic of China in 1978, involving agricultural leaders from several states and the federal government.

Now 63, Ball said since entering government service, he planned to retire at age 60, in 1975. However, at that time, the department was deeply involved in resolving the PBB problem. "Retirement at that time might have been interpreted by some that the department had not handled its responsibilities properly," Ball said. "My retirement goal then became 1977, at age 62," the director said. "But with PBB still a controversial issue in 1977, I did not wish to retire at that time, again for similar reasons."

His retirement decision came after Judge William Peterson issued his opinion in the highly publicized Tacoma PBB trial. Ball said the decision of Judge Peterson



B. DALE BALL

was a strong and reasoned statement that counteracted much derogatory speculation about the Michigan Department of Agriculture's role in the PBB affair. It encouraged him to complete his retirement plans.

Ball said he has great

admiration for Michigan agriculture and its leaders, and plans to be available for assistance to the agribusiness community following his retirement.

"Agriculture is one of Michigan's most important assets, and I plan to devote time in my retirement to

assure that Michigan agriculture will thrive in generations to come," he said. Preservation of Michigan's essential agricultural land and international trade in Michigan farm products are two of his major concerns, he explained.

## MFB Commends Ball for "Lifetime of Service"

Elton R. Smith, president of Michigan Farm Bureau, responded to Ball's announced retirement with a commendation for his "lifetime of service to the agricultural industry."

In a statement to news media, Smith said: "Director Ball's dedication to agriculture has been reflected in his constant concern for Michigan's farm economy, and in his support of land use planning to protect our farmland for future generations. His efforts have had a positive

impact, not only within our own state, but also nationally and internationally."

President Smith said the Farm Bureau organization commends Ball for his "multitude of contributions to the well-being of the farming community." He also expressed the hope that the Michigan Agriculture Commission, in appointing a successor, would select a person "who shares the same philosophy, knowledge and dedication that Director Ball has given to our industry."

# ...Pridgeon Named Successor



DEAN PRIDGEON

Michigan Farm Bureau president, Elton R. Smith, praised the action of the Michigan Agricultural Commission for the appointment of Branch County farmer, Dean M. Pridgeon, to succeed retiring Director of Agriculture B. Dale Ball. The appointment was made on December 15, just two days after Ball announced his plans to retire from the position in March 1979. Pridgeon will

assume responsibilities as director on January 1, 1979.

Smith expressed confidence in the decision of the Commission. "Dean has long been an outstanding leader in Michigan agriculture," he said. "He has demonstrated his personal commitment to sound environmental policies as related to agriculture through his recent service as chairman of the Michigan Natural

Resources Commission."

Earlier in the week, the Farm Bureau leader had expressed the hope that the Commission would select a successor who would provide the same philosophy, knowledge and dedication that B. Dale Ball had given the agricultural industry. Smith said the selection of Pridgeon fulfilled that hope.

Pridgeon is a lifetime farmer, born and raised on the family's Centennial farm near Montgomery, Michigan. He has been active in local community service, and the county and state Farm Bureau organizations. Pridgeon farms 1500 acres and raises 4,000

head of hogs and 1000 acres of corn annually.

"We commend the Agricultural Commission on their appointment," continued Smith, "and we are confident that the perspective of agriculture which Dean brings to the position will benefit all citizens of this state." Michigan Farm Bureau has supported the concept of commission appointment as the appropriate method for selecting the director of the Department of Agriculture. In delegate action at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting at Grand Rapids, Farm Bureau members reaffirmed the long-standing policy position.

## "Policies Working"--Bergland

Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland has described his job as "risky" in attempting to explain how he tries to juggle supply, demand and reserves and not come up with a price-depressing situation for grain next year.

"I just say that if we have a short crop, we've got the reserves to fall back on. If we have another big crop we've got the reserve machinery in place that we can add to stocks if need be, but only on an as-needed basis," the secretary said at a recent Chicago news conference.

Bergland also expressed confidence in his ability to handle two vocal minorities, the American Agriculture Movement (AAM) and consumer boycotters. Asked to explain what he will do if AAM shows up in Washington

this January, the secretary said, "They will get a warm welcome from me, I have visitors coming all the time and I look forward to them coming to see me. We do not intend to abandon our policies however. Our policies are working, farm income is up, supplies are growing, supplies are adequate to meet consumer needs, prices are at levels where farmers are now able to pay off their bills and keep producing; and we are not going to throw this away and come up with some new scheme."

In commenting on consumer boycotts and activism, the secretary said, "I have talked to consumers and asked them not to engage in a public brawl, a big shoot out such as we had in 1973 when we had organized consumer boycotts and rebellion."

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## Vivian Lott to Serve as New Chairperson

# Farm Bureau Women Elect New Executive Committee

The 1978-79 Michigan Farm Bureau women's program will be guided by Women's committee chairperson, Vivian Lott (District 5); 1st vice-chairperson, Faye Adam (District 6); and 2nd vice-chairperson, Ethel Fulton (District 8). Women's executive committee elections were conducted on November 29 during the annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau at Grand Rapids. At-large member of the Women's committee and immediate past chairperson, Claudine Jackson, will continue to represent the women on the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors.

Referring to the 1978-79 program theme, "stretch and grow," Mrs. Lott emphasized the need for more farm women to become involved in the activities of the total Farm Bureau organization. "Our Women's program is geared to the development of



VIVIAN LOTT

leadership among farm women, but our program goals in agricultural legislation, communications and health and safety during 1979 will have a positive impact on all of Michigan agriculture," she said.



Mrs. Faye Adam of Sanilac County (left) will serve as First Vice Chairperson of the state women's committee in 1979. Faye, who represents District 6 Farm Bureau Women, served as Second Vice Chairperson in 1978. Mrs. Ethel Fulton (right), representing District Farm Bureau Women, and from Saginaw County, will serve as Second Vice Chairperson.

## At Women's Annual Meeting

# Farm Wives Challenged to Tell Story of Agriculture

"About half of the nation's human resources are women who have special talents and abilities. They are dedicated, capable, responsible and knowledgeable," said Farm Bureau Women's leader, Claudine Jackson, speaking to farm women at the organization's annual meeting in Grand Rapids on November 29.

Mrs. Jackson, a member of the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors, reminded the women that "there are many jobs that need to be done in our industry," and she challenged the farm women to use their special talents to work for a stronger agriculture through the Farm Bureau Women's Speakers' Bureau and participation in legislative seminars in Lansing and Washington, D.C. Through these activities, women can tell the story of agriculture "with force, knowledge, and dignity," she said.

Continuing cooperation with church groups to share nutrition knowledge and give agricultural support to underdeveloped nations has been a major activity for the Farm Bureau Women in 1978 reported Mrs. Jackson. Other 1978 highlights of the Women's program included farm safety programs and health education for farm families.

A highlight of the Michigan Farm Bureau Women's Annual Meeting November 29 in Grand Rapids was recognition of county Women's chairmen who won gold stars for programs conducted during the 1977-78 membership year.

County chairmen recognized were: Julie Kronmeyer, Chippewa County in the 1-350 member category; Nancy Rottier, Newaygo County in the 351-

650 member category; Dorothy Shook, Ionia County in the 651-1200 member category; Betty Traver and Caroline Minnis, Ingham County in the 1201-1500 member category; and Diane Wood, Sanilac County in the largest membership category.

Each of the counties were also recognized during the Star-Night Jamboree on November 30.



Dr. Gilbert Leveille, chairman of the MSU Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, spoke on changes in the U.S. diet at the Women's annual meeting.



Nearly 500 women attended the Farm Bureau Women's annual meeting on November 29. Above, Bonnie Carpenter, Hillsdale County; Joan DeVuyst and Sondra Schwab, both from Gratiot County, listen to Dr. Gilbert Leveille as he speaks on the U.S. diet.



The MFB Women's annual meeting concluded on the evening of November 29 with a reception in the Black and Silver Room and Claudine Jackson greeted the women who attended.

## 53 Counties Recognized at Jamboree

# County Farm Bureaus Honored

Fifty-three county Farm Bureaus were honored at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting in Grand Rapids November 30 for their achievements in attaining membership goal and having the most outstanding program within their membership categories in nine program areas. The counties were recognized during the Farm Bureau Star-Night Jamboree, which was brought back by popular demand.

Prior to recognizing the star counties, five county Farm Bureau presidents were honored with the 1978 President's Golden Award Trophies. Initiated in 1977, the purpose of the award is to identify the one county in each of the five membership categories that has the highest percentage of member participation in member-only programs.

The 1978 winning counties were: in the 1-350 member category, Chippewa County, president John Kronmeyer; in the 351-650 member category, Presque Isle County, president Larry Foster; in the 651-1200 member category, Oceana County, Elmer Gowell, president; in the 1201-1500 member category, Monroe County, Gary Drod, president; and in the largest member category, Huron County, Elwood Kirkpatrick, president. Nineteen seventy-eight marked the second year in a row that Chippewa, Oceana and Monroe counties won the prestigious President's Trophy.

Chippewa County was the state's top award-winning county for 1978, receiving gold stars in membership, women, information, policy development, safemark, community groups and local affairs.

Two counties were the state's six-star winners, with Oceana receiving stars for membership, information, commodity, young farmers, community groups and safemark; and Sanilac for membership, women, local affairs, policy development, young farmers and community groups.

Newaygo County was the state's only five-star county, receiving stars for membership, information, young farmers, women and local affairs.

Clinton and Macomb counties each received four-stars; Clinton for membership, information, commodity and safemark; and Macomb for membership, information, community groups and local affairs.

Three counties were three-star winners, which included Cheboygan for membership, political action and community groups; Livingston for membership, political



Seven-star county president John Kronmeyer, Chippewa County, receives a congratulatory kiss from Ann Jousma, Copper Country, who was assisting with the awards program. President Elton Smith anxiously awaits the opportunity to give John his certificate in honor of being the top county Farm Bureau in 1978.



Elmer Gowell, Oceana County president, receives the county's six star certificate from President Elton Smith. Oceana was one of two counties receiving six stars for excellence in county programs for 1978.



A surprised John Knoerr, Sanilac County president, patiently waits while Faye Adam and Diane Wood, also from Sanilac County and assisting with the awards program, paste six stars on his forehead, one for each gold star the county won. Observing the activities is President Smith.

action and safemark; and St. Clair for membership, young farmers and policy development.

Two-star counties recognized were: Antrim for membership and young farmers; Berrien for membership and political action; Eaton for membership and local affairs; Hillsdale for membership and policy development; Ingham for membership and women; Ionia for membership and women; Jackson for membership and political action; and Presque Isle for membership and safemark.

Thirty-six counties were awarded one-star certificates for membership, and included: Allegan, Arenac, Bay, Benzie, Cass, Clare, Copper Country, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Hiawathaland, Huron, Iosco, Iron Range, Kalkaska, Kent, Lapeer and Lenawee.

Also receiving gold stars for membership were MacLuce, Mason, Menominee, Midland, Monroe, Montmorency, Northwest Michigan, Oakland, Ogemaw, Osceola, Otsego, Ottawa, Saginaw, St. Joseph, Tuscola, Washtenaw, Wayne and Wexford.

## Everette B. Harris:

# "Competition Still Works"

It is human nature that everyone wants competition - except for himself, the President Emeritus of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange told members of the Michigan Farm Bureau at the organization's annual meeting on November 29 in Grand Rapids. Everette B. Harris, speaking at the Farm Bureau's field crops commodity session, said that most people still agree that competition works "the greatest good for the greatest number."

Harris said it was important for farmers and the American consumer to understand the futures markets and how they fit into the overall free marketing system.



### EVERETTE B. HARRIS

"Past experience gives solid evidence that where a commodity is traded in a free and open futures market, it means slightly higher prices to producers and slightly lower prices to consumers due to the intense competition caused by our auction system," Harris explained.

"This is the magic of the market. It squeezes the middleman's portion. These middleman's cost are greater for commodities with prices determined in a less competitive manner," he said.

"It is human nature that everyone wants competition - except for himself. Thus, it is normal that many cash brokers and other industry people sometimes oppose futures for commodities in which they specialize as they prefer to avoid the heat in the kitchen of competition," Harris told his audience. "While competition may hurt an individual or an inefficient firm, it provides the greatest good for the greatest number."

Harris said he believed that the public will demand a return to free competition in other sectors of the economy and reported a trend in other countries in recognizing that "unfettered supply and demand is the best, fairest and most efficient price maker for all segments of the economy."

He had several suggestions on how farmers could better

cope with current economic conditions, including maintaining and increasing exports. "Nothing is more important to farm prices," he said, "and producers must keep the pressure on politicians for a fair shake for farmers in world markets."

Harris said that farmers should work to gain a better understanding of marketing in general, including futures markets, improve their technology in cooperation with agri-business to maintain and improve productivity, and be even more competitive in world markets.

He said it was also important for farmers to maintain good will and understanding with their best customers -- "their city cousins who still love them, but outnumber them numerically and politically."

Also on the Field Crops session was Ed Powell, Michigan Elevator Exchange vice president, who spoke on "The Cooperatives' Role in Direct Exporting of Grain."



### R. KEITH MATTHIE

The Horticultural Crops session featured R. Keith Matthie, executive assistant for Agriculture Canada, who spoke on the Canadian experience with marketing boards, and MACMA general manager, Noel Stuckman, who gave a report on the current status of the national Marketing and Bargaining Act. Also on the agenda were Dr. John Kelly, chairman of the Horticulture Department of Michigan State University, and Carl Johnson, state supervisor of the State and Federal Inspection Service, Michigan Department of Agriculture.

During the Dairy and Livestock session, "Reproductive Physiology and the Future of Embryo Transfer in Livestock" was discussed by Dr. Wayne Oxender, associate professor, Department of Large Animal Surgery and Medicine and Department of Dairy Science, Michigan State University. Also on the program was Dr. Maynard G. Hogberg, assistant professor of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Michigan State University, speaking on "The Pork Industry's Program Related to Drug Residues in Animal Feeds."

# FBS-FPC Annuals Accentuate Positives

## Cooperative "We" Will Endure

—DONALD ARMSTRONG

The economics which gave birth to cooperatives are even stronger now than they were 50 years ago -- but so are cooperatives, said the executive vice president of Farm Bureau Services, Inc., Donald R. Armstrong, at the organization's annual meeting in Grand Rapids, November 28.

In his management report, Armstrong said Farm Bureau Services is a "we" rather than an "it."

"The 'we' includes not only present cooperative members and supporters, it includes the generation before us, and the generation to come," he said. "That's important to remember, for if our cooperative tradition has learned nothing from the past and cultivates no vision of the future, we indeed become just an 'it.'"

"The cooperative 'we' endures . . . because of the principles and ideas for which it stands, and the democratic process which insures fairness in our dealing with one another," he said. "Cooperatives, essentially, are designed to insure fairness in the marketplace. Cooperation provides the means by which we cope with the multitude of challenges -- economic, material and political -- with which agriculture is confronted year by year."

Farm Bureau Services, Inc. president, Elton R. Smith, said that contrary to the critics who say cooperatives have gotten too big -- they are, in fact, not big enough.

"A perfect example is the area of grain exports," he said. "Even though cooperatives collect and store some three-quarters of all grain production in the U.S., cooperative exports account for only seven percent of all grain exports."

This seven percent, said Smith, is not a big enough voice. "To start with, every kernel of grain is owned by a farmer as it comes from the combine. We built a marvelous cooperative marketing system, a sort of pipeline from farmer to exporter. . . The trouble is our pipeline leaks! While farmers own every kernel coming from the combines, 93 percent of our grain is exported by private grain traders," he said.

"Why don't we quit using these groups to market our grain and use our own cooperative marketing system?" he asked. "Too many of us are still using our co-ops as a gauge or measuring stick only. If we

get a penny more from someone other than our co-ops, we will let them have the grain."

All Board members whose terms had expired were re-elected. They are: Loren Black of Traverse City; Frank Crandall of Battle Creek; and Bruce Leipprandt of Pigeon. From Michigan Farm Bureau Arthur Bailey of Kalamazoo; Andrew Jackson of Howell; and Richard Wieland of Ellsworth were re-elected for two year terms.



A young "shopper" found lots of goodies for her booty bag at the popular Product Show.

The productivity and profitability of Michigan agriculture is dependent upon the ability of farmer cooperatives to maintain a reliable source of fuel supply at competitive prices, the

executive vice president of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative told his audience at the organization's annual meeting in Grand Rapids November 28. Donald R. Armstrong, in his



The Channel 13 camera man zeroes in on the action at the Farm Bureau Services annual meeting.



Russell File (right), who served on the Berrien County Farm Bureau Oil Company board for 45 years -- 39 years as president -- was honored during the FBS-FPC annual meetings luncheon. He is congratulated by Vice President John Laurie and Executive Vice President Donald Armstrong.

## Farmer Co-ops Must Control Energy Sources

—ELTON R. SMITH

management report, said this meant integrating fuel supply and distribution within the cooperative.

"We have been working steadily toward that for years," Armstrong said. "It has not been easy. We have to function in a controlled economy, where artificial supply-demand imbalances are created constantly. Government regulation, coupled with generally poor agricultural economics as we have seen in the past reporting period, makes the job of coping with cooperative supply and distribution challenges just that much harder."

Armstrong said these times of uncertain economics would pass, but that the cooperative commitment to continued service and the cooperative ideal of allowing farmers to control their own destinies would not. "Cooperative strength, cooperative determination of purpose, has so far succeeded," he said. "We must all bear responsibility for insuring that it continues to succeed."

Elton R. Smith, who serves as president of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, said that production agriculture will need more energy, not less, if it is to continue to feed the nation and export farm products.

"Agriculture is a basic industry and energy is a basic input," Smith said. "It stands to reason that we must, to some extent, control sources of agricultural energy to keep from being overwhelmed by outside interests."

Smith said it was fortunate that cooperatives had already become involved in energy when the crisis hit. "It just wouldn't be possible, outside the cooperative framework, for farmers to have ownership in a refinery and producing wells, for you to be able to reach all the way around the world and bargain for available petroleum," he said. "We have to remain strong enough to compete for resources that grow scarcer and scarcer all the time."

Wesley Prillwitz, prominent fruit and vegetable farmer of Berrien County, was elected to Farmers Petroleum's Board of Directors for a two year term at the Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids. Prillwitz fills a vacancy created by Alwin Marion of Washtenaw County whose term expired and decided not to be a candidate.

The only other expiring term was William Brewer of Clare County and he was elected to succeed himself.



**"Because You Walked Our Way"**

**Clint Meadows Honored  
for Distinguished Service**



Dr. Clinton Meadows (right), recently-retired Michigan State University professor, was presented Michigan Farm Bureau's "Distinguished Service to Agriculture" award by president Elton R. Smith at the organization's annual meeting in Grand Rapids on November 29.

Dr. Clinton E. Meadows, recently-retired professor and extension specialist for Michigan State University's Department of Dairy Science, was presented the Michigan Farm Bureau's highest honor during ceremonies at the organization's annual banquet November 29 in Grand Rapids. Dr. Meadows received the Farm Bureau's "Distinguished Service to Agriculture" award for his many years of "exceptional" contributions to Michigan's agricultural industry.

In presenting the award, President Elton R. Smith, told Dr. Meadows: "Your years of service to Michigan's dairy industry have earned you a highly respected reputation as not only a valued friend, but also one of teacher, counselor, and a most welcome visitor on many a dairy farm. We are fortunate that you traveled our way. You can be proud that the dairy industry is in better condition than you found it. This is the highest tribute any one in service to people can attain."

For 21 of the past 22 years, the Michigan Farm Bureau has presented its "Distinguished Service to Agriculture" award to persons who have made outstanding contributions to the well-being of farm people. Presentation of the honor

takes place each year at the organization's annual meeting.

Dr. Meadows, who was with the MSU Dairy Department since 1957, has been the recipient of several other awards through the years. In 1966, he was named for the "Outstanding Specialist Award" by the Michigan Extension Specialists Association. He was presented the "Distinguished Faculty Award" from MSU in 1973, and the American Dairy Science Association DeLavel "Extension Award" in 1975. In March of this year, the Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative (MABC) sponsored a "Clint Meadows Day" with a resolution passed by the Michigan Legislature.

In addition to his contributions to Michigan's dairy industry, Dr. Meadows was also honored by the Indonesian government for his guidance in increasing milk production there and helping the undernourished children of that country.

Over 1,000 Farm Bureau members and special guests representing other agricultural organizations were on hand for the Clint Meadows award presentation, and viewed a slide-tape production of his life story called "Because You Walked Our Way."

**Scott Killgore, WJR, Top Winner**

**Ag Communicators Honored**

Three news people were honored in Grand Rapids on November 30 by the Michigan Farm Bureau for their efforts in promoting an understanding of and appreciation for agriculture by the non-farm public. Awards were presented to a newspaper editor, a radio broadcaster and a television farm service director during the Governor's luncheon, a part of the organization's annual meeting activities.

Scott Killgore, broadcaster for WJR radio, Detroit, was named "Top Agricultural Communicator of the Year" and was presented with the "Golden Mike" award. Killgore was praised for his ability to report agricultural news in a style which makes it informative to urban consumers as well as farmers.

John Cook, president of the Oakland County Farm Bureau, which along with Washtenaw County Farm Bureau, nominated Killgore for the honor, said, "Scott's basic understanding of agriculture and its problems is reflected in the way he lets the general public know the agricultural position on issues without 'losing' his very large non-farm audience."

Winner of the Michigan Farm Bureau's "Bronze Quill" award was Robert Grnak, managing editor of the Saginaw Valley News, Inc., Chesaning, which publishes several weekly community newspapers: the Merrill Hemlock Monitor Herald, Bridgeport-Buena Vista Future Views, Saginaw Valley News and Birch Run Banner. Grnak was nominated by the Saginaw County Farm Bureau.

Winner of the "Bronze Mike" award was Jim Bernstein, farm service director for WKZO and WKZO-TV, Kalamazoo. Bernstein, who was nominated by the Van Buren County Farm Bureau, hosts a daily noon radio farm show which was recognized earlier this year by the Associated Press as the best regular farm show, and also hosts a weekly Michigan Farm Report on WKZO-TV.

In presenting the awards, Larry DeVuyst, Michigan Farm Bureau board member,

said, "Farmers have become increasingly aware that an understanding and support of their industry by the non-farm public is vitally important. This is especially true today when so many decisions affecting agriculture are made by those who have little or no knowledge of farming.

"Helping us gain this understanding and support are

news people who realize that what happens on the farm affects the total economy and the lives of the 96 percent of our population who depend upon us for their food and fiber," DeVuyst said. "We appreciate the efforts of these news people who provide factual agricultural information to the general public and believe they should be recognized."




"Top Agricultural Communicator of the Year," Scott Killgore, WJR, Detroit, is congratulated by MFB board member Larry DeVuyst, for his year-round efforts in "building bridges of understanding between rural and urban people."



The Bronze Mike Award winner was Jim Bernstein, WKZO radio and TV, Kalamazoo.



Bob Grnak, managing editor of the Saginaw Valley News, was winner of the Bronze Quill award.



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## Elton R. Smith Re-Elected to Head MFB



**ELTON R. SMITH**  
PRESIDENT

Elton R. Smith of Caledonia, Kent County dairy farmer who has headed the state's largest farm organization since 1964, was re-elected as president of the Michigan Farm Bureau on Friday, December 1. The action took place during the reorganizational meeting of the 16-member board of directors in Grand Rapids, following the close of the Michigan Farm Bureau's annual meeting. Earlier that afternoon, Smith had been unanimously nominated as president by the voting delegate body.

Also re-elected was Jack Laurie of Cass City as vice president. Donald Nugent, Frankfort fruit farmer, was elected to serve as third member of the board's executive committee.

Voting delegates to the organization's annual meeting also re-elected

Lowell Eisenmann, Blissfield, to represent District 2, which includes the counties of Calhoun, Jackson, Branch, Hillsdale and Lenawee; Larry DeVuyst, Ithaca, to represent District 8 - Clare, Gladwin, Arenac, Isabella, Midland, Bay, Gratiot and Saginaw counties. Also re-elected was Richard Wieland, Ellsworth, to represent District 10, which includes Emmet, Charlevoix, Antrim, Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Otsego, Montmorency, Alpena, Alcona, Ogemaw and Otsego counties.

Smith represents District 4 - Ottawa, Kent, Ionia, Allegan and Barry counties, and Laurie represents District 6, which is comprised of Huron, Tuscola, Lapeer, Sanilac, St. Clair and Macomb counties.

Re-elected to serve as a director-at-large on the organization's board was



**JOHN LAURIE**  
VICE PRESIDENT

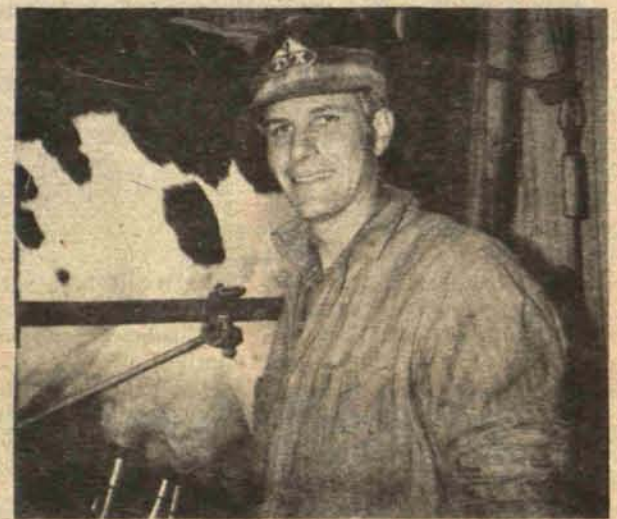
Walter Frahm of Frankenmuth. Newly-elected to serve as a director-at-large was Robert Rottier of Fremont, a 29-year-old dairy farmer who was the Young Farmer representative on the Michigan Farm Bureau board in 1977. Rottier replaces Bruce Leipprandt of Pigeon.

Also newly-elected was David Conklin, Corunna, Shiawassee County dairy farmer, who will represent the organization's Young Farmers on the board. Representing the Farm Bureau Women will be Mrs. Claudine Jackson, Howell.

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



**DONALD NUGENT**  
3RD MEMBER, EXECUTIVE COM.



**ROBERT ROTTIER, DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE**

Bob Rottier, Newaygo County dairy farmer, will serve as an at large director of the Michigan Farm Bureau. Rottier was elected to the 2-year term during annual meeting proceedings at Grand Rapids.

In 1977, Bob was actively involved in the Political Action Study Committee which evaluated the existing political action programs of the Michigan Farm Bureau and made recommendations to the MFB Board of directors for the new 1978 Agri-Pac activities.

## "Fabulous Fifteen" Are Honored

"Fabulous Fifteen" award winners were in the spotlight at the County Presidents' and Membership Campaign Managers' 1978 Banquet held November 28 in Grand Rapids.

Elton Smith, president of Michigan Farm Bureau, presented awards to campaign managers of the "Fabulous Fifteen" - the first three counties in each of five membership categories to reach goal.

The "Fabulous Fifteen" and their membership campaign managers for 1978 were, counties with 1-350 members: Benzie - Gary Lathwell, Clare - Dan Bay and Don Davis, Mac-Luce - Fred Pershinske; 351-650 members: Cheboygan - Paul Koviak, Osceola - Larry VanderHoef, Midland - Erna Varner; 651-1200 members:

Wayne - Glenn & Maxine Miller, Ionia - Ken Gasper, Jackson - Phyllis Haven and Mary Waters; 1201-1500 members: Macomb - Betty Brodacki, Allegan - Jack Sipple and Gary Timmer, St. Clair - Janice Rinke; 1501 or more members: Saginaw - Ivan Sparks, Huron - Keith Sturm, Bay - Gerhardt Kerstock.

Sharing honors with this prestigious group was Al Prillwitz, Berrien County president who received a special award for signing 28 new regular members.

George Fields, an inspirational speaker-entertainer from Kentucky, challenged the group to continue membership growth.

"I want to challenge you to think about the life of Farm Bureau," Fields said. He



**GEORGE FIELDS**

explained that the letters in "LIFE" stand for Love of others, Inspiration, Faith in God and in each other and Enthusiasm and Evaluation.

"Farmers, you are the people who are America," Fields said. He stressed that loyalty is important if Farm Bureau is to be successful.

The group was entertained by jokes, songs and sing-alongs throughout his address.



Al Prillwitz (left), Berrien County, received a special award from MFB President Elton Smith for signing 28 new regular members.

# 1979 Michigan Farm Bureau Policies

## PURPOSE OF FARM BUREAU

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

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DELEGATES, 59th ANNUAL MEETING, GRAND RAPIDS, NOVEMBER 29-30, DECEMBER 1, 1978.

## FOREWORD

"New frontiers" have always been challenges for farmers. They were to our forefathers; they are to us.

Our Farm Bureau organization reflects our desire to meet new frontiers. New programs are developed, new leadership is surfaced and membership growth provides additional strength through involvement.

In 1978 the formation of an AgriPac is an example of a new Farm Bureau program. Its purpose was to identify and support political candidates whose records showed them to be "Friends of Agriculture." Seventy-three persons were selected. Of that group, 66 won their bid for election.

Some members questioned the wisdom of the program, but the selected candidates were vocal in their appreciation of the endorsement. Several candidates, not endorsed, asked how they could win Farm Bureau support. The answer of course lies in the record they produce in dealing with agricultural issues during their coming term of office.

The years ahead provide us with a frontier that will be both challenging and rewarding. Elected officials, unfamiliar with the special needs of agriculture, need assistance and advice. For farmers, this is an opportunity to work with the officers for the betterment of our industry.

As we accomplish that challenge, it will be a successful completion of what we are doing here in the next three days - determining policies for our organization. It will make the efforts of members and Community Groups at County Annual Meetings worthwhile. It will be rewarding for the members of the State Policy Development Committee who have spent eight days of long hours in studying issues and drafting the resolutions presented to the delegate body.

As we look ahead, we must reflect with pride that our organization is the largest farm organization in the state; that it is not a single issue organization; that it stands ready to work with other organizations, but will not compromise the decisions members make here at this convention.

Finally, as members we commit ourselves to the efforts needed to accomplish the goals we have set for our organization. We pledge that commitment to the end that we may accomplish the "new frontiers" facing agriculture.

John Laurie, Chairman  
MFB Policy Development Committee

## RECOMMENDATIONS ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The recommendations on national and international affairs adopted by the voting delegates have been forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for use by the national Resolutions Committee, which is made up of representatives of every state Farm Bureau. Michigan's recommendations will also serve as a guide for our voting delegates to the forthcoming annual convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The national and international policies adopted at our national convention will serve as the policy for all state Farm Bureaus.

This is essential in order that there may be effective harmony and unanimity among Farm Bureau organizations throughout the nation.

Michigan's recommendations on national and international affairs are available to county Farm Bureaus and others upon request.

## APPRECIATION

During the 79th session of the State Legislature, much legislation consistent with Farm Bureau policies was passed, and/or implemented including:

- Exemption of agriculture from the Single Business Tax.
- Amendments to various tax laws and assessment reforms including amendments to the state inheritance tax laws.



-Continued changes in school finance including improvement of the "Equal Yield" concept.

-Several transportation gains including: a five-fold increase in "critical bridge" funds, required percentage of county road funds to be used for local roads and constitutional guarantee that most "user taxes" be used for roads.

-An increase in permissible truck widths for agricultural commodities.

-Amendments to various commodity promotion programs.

-Legislation to permit and regulate "weather modification" programs.

-Several public health measures including malpractice legislation and raising the drinking age.

-Several pieces of legislation to control and research toxic substances.

-Several livestock, dairy and crop measures including amendments to Michigan's fertilizer and feed laws and control of "X" disease in fruit trees.

-Appropriations for the Extension Service, Agricultural Experiment Station, FFA and 4-H. Also, assurance of a new Plant and Soil Science Building and animal health diagnostic laboratory.

-Legislation to control animals at large and passage of a new fence law to replace the 1846 law.

-Implementation of the new Recreation Trespass Act providing stronger protection for farmlands.

-Implementation of the "Special Truck Permit" law for farm trucks used to haul commodities from the field to storage.

-Appointment of a farmer to the Occupational Safety Standards Commission.

-Elimination of undesirable MI-OSHA regulations and pending amendments to the law.

-Passage of unemployment legislation meeting federal requirements and amendments to other labor legislation.

-Creation of a budget and economic stabilization fund.

-Various hunting law changes including restrictions on shining of deer and a new "hunter access" program. Also, DNR establishment of landowner preference for antlerless deer hunting permits.

-Amendments to pending wetlands and land use legislation and provision for soil inventories.

-Traffic safety legislation including vehicle noise limits, unsafe tires, prohibit alteration of bumper height, intoxicated driver law changes, etc.

-Several anti-crime and enforcement measures.

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

## Agriculture

### MARKETING AND BARGAINING LEGISLATION

The Michigan Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Act (P.A. 344 as amended) has proven to be a fair and equitable procedure through which marketing and bargaining associations and processors negotiate fruit and vegetable prices and other terms of trade.

We support:

1. Amendments to P.A. 344, which would clarify where necessary the provisions and procedures to make it more workable.
2. Action to assist farmers in other states in the development and the enactment of state marketing and bargaining legislation.

3. Enactment of proposed national farm bargaining legislation.

4. Aggressive action to defend marketing and bargaining majority rule concept legislation. We will oppose any efforts by opponents of P.A. 344 and national farm bargaining legislation to weaken or cripple its operations and effectiveness.

5. Modification of the act so that other agricultural commodities can come under this legislation if producers comply with its provisions.

We urge that Farm Bureau at all levels from local to national give the highest priority to marketing and bargaining legislation.

### PROMPT PAYMENT

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

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

We support legislation that would require processors and handlers purchasing farm commodities from producers to make full payment within 30 days of date of purchase unless other provisions are made by written contract.

### PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

The Michigan Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act (P.A. 232 of 1965), provides uniform procedures permitting producers of any commodity to establish a program for product promotion, market development, information, research, product standards and inspection, determination of surpluses and producer assessments. The producers of apples, asparagus, cherries, onions, plums and soybeans have adopted programs using one or more of the permitted provisions. We continue to support the right of producers by petition of 200 or 25 percent, whichever is less, to initiate a referendum for adoption, amendment or termination of a program and the right of individual producers to vote in a referendum on initiation, amendment, termination and a five year periodic review of any program for a commodity which they produce. We believe that if producers, through a referendum, enact an industry program, all producers must abide by the majority and all contribute to the program. We believe that producers of any commodity wishing to promote their product should do so within the broad and uniform provisions of the act. We will work with the Michigan Department of Agriculture to assure that this enabling legislation continues to be available to producers willing to establish such programs. Any commission or body created under an agricultural commodity industry program must provide complete accountability of the expenditures of funds collected from producers. Funds released to any agricultural organization, public agency or private firm for promotion or research purposes should be on a contractual basis with complete accountability required.

### COORDINATING CHECK-OFF PROGRAMS

Michigan has many different agricultural check-off programs designed to improve marketing conditions, sponsor research, develop new markets, disseminate information, analyze marketing problems and represent the commodity on important issues. These programs are sponsored by producers and in some cases also by handlers of agricultural products.

To maximize the efficient use of program monies and improve efficiency we recommend that Michigan Farm Bureau act as a catalyst and stimulate these groups to work cooperatively by exploring the possibility of joint activities.

### QUARANTINE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

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

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

We believe that for all products the quarantine period should not exceed 30 days. By the end of that period, the governmental agency imposing the

## Policies Become:

# Solutions to Farm Problems

quarantine must take one of four actions:

1. Revoke the quarantine.
2. Continue the quarantine for an additional 30 days. Total quarantine must not exceed 60 days.
3. Condemn the product and dispose of it within 10 days. In the case of poultry, the total quarantine should not exceed 30 days.
4. If the quarantine extends into the second thirty days, loan arrangements should be made available to producers who are quarantined for conditions beyond their control.

### MOISTURE TESTING STANDARDS

All farmers who wish to sell crops at local elevators must rely on the accuracy of the scales and moisture testing equipment at the elevators. There currently are regulations concerning the scales. While grain buyers who trade under U.S. grain standards must meet USDA criteria, inspection of all grain dealers is not enforceable. Moisture testing equipment should be inspected and certified annually by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. As an additional safeguard to farmers spot inspection of this equipment by Michigan Department of Agriculture should also be conducted.

### PRICE LATER AGREEMENTS

Farmers should be in a position to control their own grain marketing through on-the-farm storage and/or local cooperative storage. Producers delivering grain to elevators should have the choice of a warehouse storage receipt and/or a price later agreement. Passage of the Grain Dealers Act of 1976 relieved several concerns once expressed by farmers in Michigan concerning price later agreements.

### FERTILIZER TESTING

Michigan fertilizer laws provide for testing fertilizer to assure that it meets the analysis as labeled. However, we are concerned that due to lack of adequate manpower and laboratory availability, there is insufficient testing to protect farmers buying fertilizer.

We are also concerned that many nitrogen fertilizer products such as anhydrous ammonia are not tested adequately. We support whatever measures necessary for the enforcement of Michigan's fertilizer laws.

### PSEUDORABIES CONTROL

Current regulations regarding imported feeder pigs require a special permit to bring feeder pigs into Michigan and that they be "quarantined until slaughter."

We urge a vigorous educational program be conducted to acquaint feeder pig buyers with the new regulation and urge the Michigan Department of Agriculture to strictly enforce these provisions.

The sale of swine breeding stock within the state should require a pseudorabies test within thirty days prior to sale or if not from a qualified free herd.

We recommend blood testing of swine breeding stock within thirty days prior to each show at county fairs which will help control the spread of this disease. Isolation from swine herds from time of test to time of show will also help control pseudorabies.

### LIVESTOCK TESTING

The export-import tests required on livestock by Michigan differ from those required by Canada. We believe reciprocal testing programs should be implemented and that all requirements be strictly enforced.

### LIVESTOCK RESEARCH

There is much hope for genetic advancement in livestock through ova transfers. We encourage that contacts be maintained with Michigan State University researchers working with ova transfer and that members be kept informed of the results.

Pork production is an important economic enterprise in Michigan. The lack of structural soundness in swine breeding stock as well as market hogs is creating considerable economic loss to Michigan producers. Therefore, we encourage Michigan State University to conduct research on both problems.

### CALFHOOD VACCINATION

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

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

### ANIMAL HEALTH RESEARCH AND FEED ANALYSIS

The income from livestock and livestock products represents the largest segment of Michigan agriculture. We support:

-Research by the MSU Agricultural Experiment Station on diseases.

-Creation of a feed analysis laboratory for Michigan that will provide technical information to farmers. This laboratory should work in conjunction with the MSU Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory.

-The necessary appropriations by the Legislature for these disaster prevention programs.

### MILK TEMPERATURE REQUIREMENTS

The quality of milk is directly affected by the temperature both on the farm and throughout handling. Consumption of milk is directly affected by quality, thus milk must be kept cool at all handling points.

Current law requires that raw milk be cooled not to exceed 50 degrees Fahrenheit and processed milk not to exceed 45 degrees Fahrenheit. We recommend that the laws regarding temperature requirements be strictly enforced.

We urge that special attention be given to milk quality utilized in the school milk program or any other mass milk distribution program.

### SOYBEAN RESEARCH AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Soybean acreage is increasing in Michigan. This crop is an important part of farm income. We believe soybean research should receive continued emphasis at Michigan State University. Monies collected from the Michigan Soybean Promotion and Development Program are being used to promote overseas and domestic sales of soybeans. This program also supported research at MSU in 1978. Variety testing was increased and a study of various soybean planting practices was initiated. With this support and new matching support from the MSU Agricultural Experiment Station, these studies will be continued.

Increased emphasis, however, on developing and testing of new varieties adapted to Michigan's unique environmental conditions is needed as well as research on disease, weed and insect control.

We urge the Michigan Soybean Committee to substantially increase the portion of existing check-off funds for research in Michigan and continue to work with the Legislature and MSU in providing adequate matching funds for soybean research in Michigan.

### MICHIGAN WINE INDUSTRY

Michigan wines have been an important outlet for Michigan grapes. Total wine sales in Michigan have tripled. At the same time, sales of Michigan produced wine sold in Michigan have decreased from 50 percent of total wine sales in 1964 to only 7 percent in 1977. Demand for wines made from Michigan grown grapes needs to be improved.

To improve this Michigan wine demand situation we recommend: a) Michigan State University and its outstate research stations increase viticultural research; b) Small wineries be encouraged to become organized, develop and market an expanded line of fine quality Michigan wines; c) A study of the many wine laws be conducted by Michigan Farm Bureau and that an analysis of the laws be prepared and provided to grape industry leaders for their recommendations to coordinate and increase the marketing and consumption of Michigan made wine from Michigan grapes.



### FRUIT JUICES

Fruit juices have great marketing potential and consumer demand for these products is very evident. Michigan is one of the major producers of fruit crops such as cherries.

Frequently, adverse weather conditions cause considerable quantities of cherries to be unacceptable for No. 1 Grade product, however, the raw product would be very acceptable for juice stock. Recent rigid interpretations of inspection and grade specifications by government agencies have caused serious hardship on many growers because they are not able to market their crop. The inflexible rules have been unreasonable and inequitable to growers and consumers since considerable product is lost from the market.

We continue to support research and extension activities to develop the best handling procedures, reasonable testing methods and definitions which will allow for maximum utilization of fruit crops and market expansion of these products.

### MSU PLANT AND SOIL SCIENCE BUILDING

Michigan State University is well known for its research in plant and soil science. The potential environmental and production problems facing agriculture are severe.

The Joint Capital Outlay Committee of the Legislature has recognized this need and has appropriated planning monies for the new Plant and Soil Science Building. A program analysis has been submitted to the committee and architects have begun designing the facility. Inflation, however, is causing an increase in the total dollar needs of the project with every passing day. The 1974 scheduled appropriations are now inadequate.

We urge that necessary funds for the Plant and Soil Science Building be made available and that highest priority be placed on early completion of the facility.

We support additional needed appropriations to complete and staff this vital facility which will benefit all Michigan residents.

### APPOINTMENT OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DIRECTOR

We believe the present method of selecting the director of the Department of Agriculture is the most effective system to avoid compromising the director's position through the use of political pressure. A strong Agriculture Commission consisting of individuals with a farm background has and continues to serve all Michigan residents.

### CROP REPORTING SERVICE

The agricultural industry has developed many mechanisms for reporting the size and progress of crops and other agricultural commodities. The system that has been most widely adopted by the industry is the Crop Reporting Service. To insure the accuracy of their reports, farmers should give the Crop Reporting Service their full cooperation. Farm Bureau should work with the Crop Reporting Service to find ways to improve and simplify the gathering of information, it's reporting and other aspects presently criticized by farmers. We recommend that the Legislature and the Michigan Department of Agriculture adequately fund their full portion of this cost-share service. We also recommend additional funding for the Crop Reporting Service to publish, at least quarterly, a timber price report as an added service to private forest owners.

### THE GROWING UPPER PENINSULA

We commend the more than 40 farm leaders from all the counties in the Upper Peninsula who worked on an advisory committee to study ways and means of promoting Upper Peninsula agriculture and forestry. This was a "grassroots" movement comprised of the leadership throughout the Peninsula. The committee determined that agriculture in the Upper Peninsula is expanding with a potential for much more expansion and that many acres are coming back into agricultural production.

The Upper Peninsula agricultural experiment station facilities were found to be very old and obsolete, and there is a critical need for new facilities for demonstration and research in order to keep pace with new developments that can help expand U.P. agriculture.

The plan includes a new facility suitable for beef and sheep near Chatham and a dairy facility in the Delta-Menominee area. The Extension Service would continue to be headquartered in Marquette. Crops research would be done at the dairy facility and other stations throughout the Peninsula. Experimental work would also be undertaken in aquaculture, forestry and horticulture. It is recognized that the U.P. has a great potential for the development and production of

**Policies  
Provide:**

# Direction for Action

specialized grass seeds and other specialized seed production practices.

We believe that this program has a great potential and we fully support adequate funding by the Legislature for the program as a measure of economic development in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

**AGRICULTURAL EXPOSITION**

We support the concept of an agricultural exposition in Michigan. This concept has been well received by the agricultural community in this state.

We also believe that the development of an Agricultural Exposition Center in Michigan could improve the knowledge and management skills of farmers. We support the efforts of the Steering Committee to develop a workable, and economic plan of action. A suitable site should be found as soon as possible, such as near the MSU campus and its research farms.

The Farmers Week Program provides a valuable educational opportunity. We support the continuation of this event on campus prior to spring planting activities.

**MICHIGAN STATE FAIR**

We believe the Michigan State Fair helps to create a better understanding and appreciation between the agricultural and industrial producer and the user or consumer. Because of its location, the Michigan State Fair is within relatively easy access to the majority of Michigan residents and offers the unique opportunity to bring the producers and processors of food and consumers together. The fair has performed this function for 129 years.

The Legislature has transferred the fair grounds and fair to the Department of Natural Resources. An eleven member council has been created consisting of the department directors of agriculture, commerce, and natural resources and eight appointed members, three of whom shall be farmers. We urge that agriculture be the priority attraction at the State Fair with additional emphasis on youth.

**LOCAL FAIRS**

Michigan fairs are an important part of our state's heritage, and they are more popular today than ever before. The number of exhibits and the number of exhibitors have increased steadily in the last decade. The important impact of the youth programs which culminate in competition of fairs and of adult agricultural exhibits has been felt throughout the agricultural industry.

We support the Michigan Department of Agriculture's leadership in the Michigan Fair Industry. We also encourage the Michigan Legislature to continue to create and make possible the funding of these endeavors.

## Natural Resources

**ESSENTIAL LAND PRESERVATION**

Land is an essential resource to those who make their living from the soil. It is also an essential resource to the economy of Michigan and to the well-being of all citizens. Less than one-third of Michigan's 36.3 million acres is farmland. The production of food and fiber on this farmland contributes nearly \$2 billion annually to the economy, making agriculture our second largest and most stable industry. Although less than one out of every 100 citizens operates a farm, 27 percent derive some part of their income from agriculture.

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

We support legislation to create an Essential Lands Commission within the Department of Natural Resources which was designated by Executive Order in 1973 to assume responsibility for land resource programs. The majority of the Commission should represent forestry and agricultural interests. The Commission should have responsibility for coordinating the development and implementation of broad statewide essential land guidelines for use by local government in identifying essential agricultural land, urban development land, recreational land, unique areas, forest lands, utility and transportation corridors. The guidelines should be limited to procedures for identifying essential lands and not prejudice their boundaries. Our state ranks fifth or higher among the 50 states in the production of 22 food crops grown on a wide range of soils. Essential

farmlands designated by local government should not be based solely on soil capability for one or two major crops. The Commission should have authority to approve only those projects undertaken by governmental units which fall within essential lands designated by local government. The Commission should not have authority over private projects within locally designated essential lands. Such private projects should be subject only to local authority. Local government should recognize the importance of preserving essential farmland. The essential land protection legislation must include the following principles:

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

We urge Farm Bureau members to take an active part in land use planning at all levels of government. If local land use control is to be maintained, it is imperative that local people accept the responsibility to plan the use of their land resources.

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

We request Farm Bureau to conduct an educational program for members to enable them to develop an accurate understanding of essential land protection proposals.

**LAND ACQUISITION**

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



**SUBDIVISION CONTROL**

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

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

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

**PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Activities of public utility companies take them across much of Michigan's farmlands. They often damage underground tile in farmlands when installing new facilities. Farm owners should be notified a minimum of 30 days prior to installation of such new

facilities so the farmer can identify the location of tile and prevent damages.

Electric and telephone utility transmission lines, gas lines and oil right-of-ways for these purposes should be standardized as nearly as possible with contracts or other legal instruments including as many protections to the owner as possible. We further believe that consideration should be given to the leasing rather than sale of right-of-ways.

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

We request Farm Bureau to study the Land Sales Act and take appropriate action to ease requirements for public utilities when selling property to be used for agricultural production.

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

**WILDERNESS AREAS**

Experience has shown that the "no management" concept applied to certain areas under the Wilderness Act has resulted in the serious degradation of the resource. A preponderance of evidence has demonstrated that the removal of all man-made facilities has resulted in sanitation and health problems that threaten the values the Act was designed to preserve.

Established wilderness criteria further threaten such areas by prohibiting the employment of power tools and vehicles in watershed management, trail maintenance, soil treatment, noxious weed control, waste management, and fire protection. For these reasons, and the fact that wilderness management is inconsistent with sound multiple use principles, we oppose further expansions and urge reevaluation of all existing wildernesses under the Wilderness Act. Any future wilderness proposals should be subject to environmental, social and economic impact analysis in addition to heavily weighted consideration of the views and land use plans of the residents of the locality and state concerned.

**ENERGY**

Energy and its availability to meet the needs of society must receive high priority. We believe there are adequate energy supplies to meet foreseeable demand; but without proper incentives, these supplies will not be developed.

The market system is the best method and incentive for developing and allocating energy resources. Additional government regulations and taxes levied on energy producers will only serve to make the United States more dependent on foreign nations to supply our energy needs.

Although it will only partially solve the energy problem, all citizens must put forth a strong effort to conserve energy now and in the future.

Government funds and private funds should be used to hasten energy research with the objective of ending our dependence on other nations for sources of energy. This research should include coal gasification, the utilization of feedlot and other organic waste, shale oil extraction and utilization of grain alcohol as fuel; solar; wind; nuclear, including fission, fusion and breeder reactor; wood, geothermal, and other energy sources.

We oppose government rationing as a means of allocating scarce supplies, except in the case of national emergencies. In such cases, agriculture should receive uninterrupted supplies.

Data gathered from highly sophisticated exploratory techniques indicates there are large amounts of untapped gas and oil beneath public lands. These energy supplies represent important resources to meet future energy needs of the economy. We support the development of these vast oil and gas supplies beneath public lands, when appropriate, providing strict environmental controls are assured.

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

**GASOHOL**

As the world's largest consumer of energy and producer of agricultural products, the United States has the most to gain or lose by faulty energy and agricultural policies.

We strongly support continued research, updating of economic data and feasibility studies concerning the production of gasohol from agricultural commodities.

These commodities are a renewable energy source and utilized as such would accomplish significant energy conservation of nonrenewable resources. Their use would also contribute to the economic stability of agriculture.

Policies  
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# The Voice of the Membership

## ENVIRONMENT

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

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

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

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

## AGRICULTURAL REPRESENTATION ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The increasing involvement of government in agriculture has significantly increased food production costs. Many producers have been forced to discontinue or substantially alter their farming operations as a result of increased government regulations. This problem is magnified by the fact that most appointees to various boards and commissions do not understand agriculture. We recommend and will continue to vigorously support the appointment of qualified persons familiar with agriculture to all boards and commissions involved in areas affecting agriculture.

We are pleased that a full-time farmer now serves on the Natural Resources Commission and will continue to support appointment of a farmer on the Commission.

Agriculture should continue to be a voting member of the Air Pollution Control Commission and Water Resources Commission. We do not support repeal of laws establishing these commissions.

## SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The Soil Conservation Districts, now organized in every Michigan county, are operated by elected directors serving without salary and are effective units of soil-saving activity. We pledge our support to work with Soil Conservation Districts to conserve soil and water through sound conservation practices. We believe Soil Conservation Districts should remain within the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Present law under which Soil Conservation Districts operate requires that persons must be an owner, lessee, renter, tenant or otherwise be in possession of three acres or more to vote for Directors of Soil Conservation Districts. We oppose legislation to repeal this minimal land occupier requirement. We support an amendment that will require a majority of Soil Conservation District Directors to be farmers. In addition, we will support legislation to require that District Directors be qualified Soil Conservation District voters.

## SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL ACT

The Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act, P.A. 347 of 1972, requires that after December 31, 1978 certain agricultural practices except for normal tillage, planting and harvesting be conducted either (1) under a permit obtained from the local agency designated by the County Board of Commissioners or (2) carried out in accordance with a soil conservation plan approved by the local Soil Conservation District. We do not believe routine agricultural practices such as removal of fencerows, construction of grass waterways, preparation of farm building sites and burial of stonepiles are significant sources of erosion or sedimentation. We therefore support legislation to exempt all agricultural practices from the permit requirements of P.A. 347.

## SECTION 208 COST SHARING

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 establishes a goal of zero water pollution by 1985. We believe the zero water pollution goal is impractical and unattainable and should be substantially modified. This unrealistic goal provides direction for implementation of Section 208 of the Act.

Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act requires each state to designate appropriate agencies to study area water quality problems and prepare and implement plans to control non-point sources of pollution. Plans prepared under Section 208 must identify, if appropriate, agriculturally related

non-point sources of pollution, including run-off from manure disposal areas and from land used for livestock and crop production. The plan must also set forth procedures and methods, including land-use requirements, to control to the extent feasible such sources. Since Section 208 plans are intended to achieve public goals any limit on cost-sharing of approved conservation practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program for measures required by Section 208 plans should be removed. We believe Soil Conservation Districts or the ASCS should be responsible for administering any Section 208 plans for agriculture.

We urge Farm Bureau members to take an active role in monitoring the Regional 208 plan in their area.



## TOXIC WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY

Modern society lives in a chemical world. Many chemicals are toxic and require proper handling and disposal to protect against damage to the environment and human health. We support the construction of a state owned, privately operated toxic waste facility to dispose of high hazard wastes in a safe, environmentally acceptable manner. Because of public fears about the location of such a facility in local communities and the possible economic impacts upon local government we believe tax incentives should be granted to the local unit of government in which the facility is built.

## AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS AND DRUGS

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

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

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

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

We recommend that the Delaney Amendment to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act be amended to permit the establishment of safe tolerance levels.

All persons using chemicals and drugs should read and follow precisely the label instructions. Such adherence to label instructions can help avoid government actions to cancel the use of essential chemicals and drugs. We recommend that pesticide dealers carry safety equipment for purchase by applicators as required on pesticide labels or be able to suggest a source where the equipment can be obtained on a timely basis.

Farmers are encountering problems in properly disposing of pesticide containers. We recommend that pesticide manufacturers and appropriate regulatory agencies consider development of a program for future disposal or recycling of these containers.

## BIOLOGICAL PEST CONTROL

The increasing restrictions on pesticide use pose

many uncertainties as to their future availability. While considerable progress has been made to develop biological controls against pests, much remains to be done. We support expanded research to further develop effective biological pest control programs.

## DRAINAGE

Much of Michigan's nearly 12 million acres of farmland require drainage to produce food. Certain types of agriculture such as muck farming cannot continue or expand without adequate drainage systems. We oppose changes in the Drain Code or other statutes that would weaken current authority of County Drain Commissioners over agricultural drains. We do, however, support without delay updating the Drain Code to reflect modern-day agriculture. We oppose any new legislation that would restrict the right of an individual to drain property he owns. Legislation authorizing the state to administer the Federal 404 permit program should be no more restrictive than the federal law. Preservation of privately-owned wetlands can best be accomplished through programs such as the Federal Water Bank which pays annual fees to the owners and the Michigan Waterfowl Stamp which provides revenue earmarked for purchase of wetlands.

## LAND DISPOSAL OF WASTEWATER OR SLUDGE

The use of land to dispose of industrial and municipal wastewater or sludge is expected to increase due to national water pollution abatement goals established by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Non-productive woodlots or poor agricultural land should be selected whenever possible for placement of municipal waste systems using land application. The supply of nutrients and the water in these wastes could be beneficial to agriculture. We urge farmers to consider the possibilities of utilizing wastewater and sludge from municipalities contemplating land application. Government agencies responsible for approving land application systems should allow private agriculture to utilize municipal wastewater and sludge whenever possible and we will continue our efforts to seek approval of such a policy. We believe the use of productive farmland for disposal of such wastes should:

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

## WATER RIGHTS

The use of irrigation for crop production continues to increase rapidly. We will oppose any efforts to restrict the availability of an equitable water supply for irrigation use. We support the current efforts of a Task Force created by Farm Bureau to study water laws, identify potential riparian problems which might affect agriculture and recommend equitable solutions to such riparian problems.

## MINERAL RIGHTS

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

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

## INDIAN RIGHTS

Litigation is currently pending in Federal Court involving the right of specific Indian tribes to take fish from the Great Lakes for commercial and subsistence purposes without complying with applicable fish laws. The Indian tribes believe that the Treaty of 1836 prohibits the State of Michigan from enforcing any state law which is inconsistent with this treaty. The State of Michigan maintains that the subsequent Treaties of 1855 fully released and discharged all rights and privileges including fishing rights which were

**Policies  
Reflect:**

# Strength through Group Action

reserved in the Treaty of 1836. Since this case concerns only fishing rights and does not involve land use, there will be no immediate consequences to Michigan farmers. However, we are concerned that if the case is decided against the State of Michigan, Indians may bring action to hunt, trap and gather fruits of the land on vast areas ceded in the Treaty of 1836, but which are now privately owned. We urge Michigan Farm Bureau to closely monitor this important case and take appropriate action to protect agricultural interests.

## PRESCRIBED BURNING

The present policy of some federal agencies allows fires to burn uncontrolled in wilderness areas. This policy should be re-evaluated. We believe that "prescribed" burning is a beneficial forest management practice and should be continued.

## TRESPASS

The present law requiring hunters, fishermen, snowmobilers and ORV operators to obtain written permission before entering upon farmland and connected farm woodlots has reduced the number of trespass complaints. We urge owners of farmland to fully utilize this law to protect their property rights against trespass. We will oppose all efforts to repeal or weaken this law.

## DEER HERD

We appreciate efforts of the Department of Natural Resources to defend in court and continue on an expanded basis for 1978 the special Landowner Permit Program which recognizes the contribution of farmers in providing feed and habitat to the deer herd. We support its continuation and expansion where appropriate in 1979.

We will support legislation to prohibit shining for deer in fields where livestock is kept or pastured and allowing the rays of an artificial light to be cast upon buildings except in the normal operation of a vehicle or when necessary by persons working within the scope of their employment.

We will also support legislation to prohibit statewide the shining of deer except under a crop damage permit for a 30 day period immediately prior to and during the bow and firearm deer seasons.

## DESTRUCTIVE WILDLIFE AND PESTS

Many species of wildlife are causing serious damage to crops and property in agricultural areas. We recommend that intensive research and management efforts be continued by state and federal agencies to find effective methods of minimizing these damages. We recommend that landowners contact personnel in the United States Bureau of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources for assistance in dealing with wildlife crop damage. Until control methods provide effective relief we will support compensation to landowners for proven crop damage.

## COYOTE BOUNTY

Losses of newborn livestock from coyotes present serious problems to farmers in northern areas of Michigan. We support continuation of the coyote bounty.

# Labor

## WORKER'S COMPENSATION

Agricultural employers are concerned with the misuse and abuses which have crept into the Worker's Compensation Program.

Because of the high minimum premium many farmers and other employers do not avail themselves of the coverage, leaving themselves and their employees unprotected. Overly generous awards have contributed to high premiums.

Farmers who hire laborers are responsible for the protection of the employees while on the job.

Michigan Farm Bureau and Michigan Agricultural Services Association will continue to work with other groups to review and find solutions to these problem areas.

Worker's Compensation should be made a cost-sharing program with employees paying a portion of premium cost, since employees receive all of the benefits.

The maximum amount of benefits payable should be 80 percent of the state average net income including agriculture. There should not be a minimum.

Worker's Compensation benefits should be reduced by the amount of other benefits that are provided at the cost of the employer.

A more simple appeal process should be im-

plemented for employers who wish to appeal decisions regarding Worker's Compensation claims.

The three-year statute of limitations should be strengthened and enforced on Worker's Compensation claims.

Attorneys' fees in the representation of an injured worker should be based on a flat per hour rate and not exceed 15 percent of the total settlement.

Employees should be required to report injuries before leaving premises where employed or within 24 hours for claims pertaining to Worker's Compensation.

Insurance companies and the Department of Labor should update a computerized list of statistics related to injuries and claims under Worker's Compensation.

Previous injuries whether reported or not at time of employment should not be attributed to the present employer.

Injuries sustained by an employee involved in recreational, social or personal interests, regardless of whether or not they occur on the premises of employment should be excluded from coverage.

The present situation whereby benefits are paid to employees leaving the labor market, not because of a true impairment - but because of advancing age or to take advantage of a voluntary retirement plan should be corrected.

Alleged Worker's Compensation claims hearings and determinations should be made within 60 days of filing.

Any retroactive benefit increases should be financed through use of public funds. It would not be equitable to force current employers to assume the expense of raising benefit payments for workers injured years ago.

Dependency of a child should be limited to age 18, unless mentally or physically disabled. Full-time students should be eligible to receive benefits until age 25.

Permanent and total disability should be redefined to eliminate "loss of industrial use" as a criterion for eligibility.

Employees should be required to provide the employer a copy of any physical examination received in connection with any injuries or medical impairments.

Disability should be redefined to mean the inability of an injured employee to perform or obtain any work suitable to his/her qualifications or training.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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

However, the original intent of unemployment insurance has been so defiled by Labor Department regulations and interpretations that it has become an enrichment program.

Unemployment insurance should not be paid to persons on strike, who retire, who refuse to work when it is available, who knowingly and willingly work in seasonal employment, or to school personnel during semester and vacation breaks.

We call upon the National Study Commission on Unemployment Compensation to recommend ways to reduce abuses and fraud in the program.

Michigan farmers must compete in the United States and world markets. Therefore, we continue to oppose any attempt by the State of Michigan to require more extensive coverage for agriculture than that provided in the Federal Unemployment Act.

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

## MINIMUM WAGE (STATE)

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

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

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

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

In order to prevent Michigan farmers from being put

at an uncompetitive wage disadvantage, the state minimum wage should not exceed federal minimum wage rate.

## WORK PERMITS

In the past under the Hittle Act, youth employed in agriculture were exempt from obtaining work permits. We support continuation of this exemption.

The Worker's Compensation law in Michigan as it is being enforced, following a recent court decision involving a minor employed in agriculture, requires that minors have work permits. The decision in the court case required the employer to pay double benefits to the minor.

Agricultural employers in Michigan now are confused and frustrated because the two laws are in conflict.

The Department of Labor must clarify Michigan's work permit laws and regulations as they pertain to the employment of youth in agriculture. If it is mandatory that work permits are required for youth to work in agriculture, the following action is recommended:

1. An employer should be entitled to one-time application for work permit employer numbers.

2. Specific work permits should be designed to fit agricultural employment.

3. The work permit should cover minors 12 through 17 years of age.

4. The distinction between sexes should be eliminated in the areas of weight and hour restrictions.

## AGRICULTURAL HOUSING

Several agricultural employers have experienced problems with agricultural workers who refuse to leave on-farm housing after the work on the farm is completed or who refuse to work after moving into agricultural housing provided by the employer.

We recommend that regulations be adopted that would require workers to leave employer provided housing within a reasonable time (one week) after the work is completed or notice is given by the employer for good reason. We recommend that a swift eviction procedure be adopted so that employer-provided housing may be available.

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

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

Current regulations require that seasonal labor housing be used only for workers employed during the production and harvesting of crops. We, therefore, request that the Internal Revenue Service approve seasonal labor housing for investment tax credit eligibility.

We favor faster tax write-off investments in farm labor housing.

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

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

We encourage agricultural employers to destroy unused and abandoned farm labor housing.

## MI-OSHA

We encourage all farmers to become aware of any occupational hazards on their farms and voluntarily adopt safety programs. We believe the basic premise of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, that all employers know what is required by OSHA, is a faulty premise. Therefore, we favor safety educational programs and no-penalty first time inspections.

The rules and regulations as established by MI-OSHA for industry are not adapted to agriculture. The uniqueness of agriculture in its operations does not lend it to industrial rules. We need to identify the hazards on Michigan farms and adopt realistic safety standards to assist in correcting such hazards.

We urge the Governor to maintain an agriculture representative on the Occupational Safety Standards Commission or any committees appointed to work in this area. We urge the reestablishment of the Department of Labor MI-OSHA Agricultural Advisory Committee before any further agricultural requirements can be considered.

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

We recommend that farmers throughout Michigan continue to make a constructive contribution to the development of practical, realistic agricultural safety

**Policies  
Include:**

# Direction with Dedication

standards which correct safety hazards on Michigan farms to provide a safe working environment for agricultural employees and employers or producers.

## Taxation

### AGRICULTURAL LAND TAXATION

The Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act (P.A. 116) provides a voluntary method of preserving farmland through a contractual arrangement with the state and thereby limits property tax to a percentage of household income. It also provides relief from certain special assessments. We are pleased with the excellent support that farmers are giving this program throughout the entire state.

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

Another tax relief program that is helpful to farmers is the "circuit breaker" program which provides property tax relief for homestead and agricultural land based on household income. The refund limit is \$1,200. We recommend that this limit be increased to at least reflect the inflation factor.

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

### STATE INCOME TAX CREDIT

Many farmers that have P.A. 116 contracts have had to wait undue lengths of time for their refund. We believe that such refunds should be made within 90 days after filing. The taxpayer should receive interest on the amount of the refund after the 90 day time limit at the prevailing prime interest rate.

### HEALTH COST DEDUCTIONS

Those persons employed by others usually receive many fringe benefits including prescription drugs and health, dental, and optical care. While such benefits are a part of their total income they are not taxable.

Self-employed people must pay such costs out of their taxable income.

To correct this growing inequity, we support legislation to permit those persons who pay their own health insurance, dental care, optical care, and prescription drugs, to deduct these costs from state and federal taxable income.

### RETIREE TAX EQUITY

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

### TAXATION OF MOBILE HOMES

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

## Education

### EDUCATIONAL FINANCE

Major changes in the financing of education have been made resulting in a "new equity in Michigan school finance." Reforms include the initiation of the "equal yield" concept guaranteeing a specific dollar yield for each mill of taxation, a new formula for

funding intermediate districts, and a formula for assistance for bonded millage.

While these and other changes are highly commendable, the property tax remains the major source of local school finance. However, the "circuit breaker" concept and other reforms have aided in relieving the property tax burden. Voter rejection of millage proposals and passage of the Tax Limitation Amendment clearly indicates the need for further educational finance reforms.

We recommend:

--An increase in the "circuit breaker" benefits to provide a more balanced tax system.

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

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

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

--Increased level of state funding at not less than 75 percent of total combined state and local dollars for K-12 schools with a shift to other sources of state tax revenues to finance the change as permitted under the Tax Limitation Amendment. This would permit a mandatory cut in property millage rates for school purposes.

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

--Full funding by the state for all state mandated educational programs as required by the Tax Limitation Amendment.

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



### EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

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

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

--Statewide testing and assessment of student progress and total evaluation of education should be continued and expanded. School systems should emphasize the "basics" and require students to meet minimum academic standards for graduation.

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

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

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

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

--In-service training for teachers be encouraged.

--Local school facilities be used to their fullest potential for educational purposes for both youths and adults.

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

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

--Evaluation of teacher education programs in the colleges.

--A high school evaluation program on human development for the experienced teacher. The emphasis is on the individual, his interrelationship and interactions with students, subject matter, and teaching techniques. We support a feasibility study on merit pay.

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

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

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

--The common goals of the Michigan Department of Education should be a helpful guideline for local school boards.

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

We oppose court-ordered forced busing to achieve racial balance and urge judges to include the factors of time and quality of education in any court-ordered remedy. Busing to achieve racial integration is very expensive, wastes needed energy and provides no educational values. We support corrective measures, including a constitutional amendment, to preserve neighborhood schools, to enable a student to attend the school of his choice, and to maintain the right of parents to participate in public and private school affairs.

### TEACHER TENURE AND LICENSING

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

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

We strongly support the present system of teacher certification with periodic review and evaluation. We see no need for a licensing system and oppose present proposals.

### AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The demand for more teachers of vocational and technical agriculture continues with the advent of "career education" and specialized programs on both secondary and post-secondary levels in vocational centers and community colleges. Studies by the National Academy of Sciences indicates that three technicians are needed for every college graduate in the agricultural related fields. We urge capable students to consider this career opportunity.

The Institute of Agricultural Technology, MSU, now offers 7 areas of training including agricultural production; ornamental horticulture; agricultural mechanics; natural resources; agricultural supplies, service, and products; soil, chemicals, and electrical technology.

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

We urge that county Farm Bureaus become involved in their vocational agriculture programs and assist local school boards in evaluation and planning through participation on local advisory committees.



**Policies  
Include:**

# Suggestions to Members

## EXTENSION SERVICE

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

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

In light of these considerations, we recommend:

-Special reports required of the Extension Service be financed by the necessary appropriations, not by siphoning off a part of the already overtaxed budget.

-Development of Extension-type programs for urban people where they are needed under the jurisdiction of the Extension Service with special appropriations for these programs.

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

-County Farm Bureaus develop and maintain a close working relationship with their county Cooperative Extension Office.

-We support the proposed expanded budget over a three year period to return Cooperative Extension Agricultural positions to their normal capacity prior to budget cut backs. We will support additional positions for agriculture as commodity needs become evident.

## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

### AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

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

As we look to future world needs, new techniques must be applied to farming to aid in solving environmental concerns and conservation of energy and natural resources, and to meet future production needs.

The Agricultural Experiment Station at Michigan State University is one of the finest in the country. It serves eight colleges, including Agriculture and Natural Resources, Engineering, Human Ecology, Human Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Social Science, and Veterinary Medicine. There are 30 departments and more than 400 research projects with over 250 scientists.

We are proud of the work done by the Experiment Station. However, we are concerned over the fact that in recent years appropriations have not kept pace with rising costs. The station has no other source of income. We are shocked to learn that numerous faculty and research personnel have resigned; such talent cannot be easily replaced. Good research is a continuing process and cannot be turned on or off. We believe that agricultural research has proven to be a sound investment that has returned great dividends to all citizens for over a century. We commend the Legislature for recognizing this fact in the 1978 appropriations and urge that it continue to recognize the need to appropriate sufficient funds to carry on research projects, such as:

- Optimizing energy, land and water.
- Improving food and feed crop production.
- Dairy systems.
- Development of the new Horticultural Experiment Station.
- Livestock and poultry.
- Improving food quality.
- Control of insect transmitted diseases.
- Housing for non-urban communities.
- Integrated control of pests.
- Environmental monitoring network for agricultural production.
- Utilization of forage and grain by cattle in the Upper Peninsula.

Michigan is in direct competition with not only other states but other countries as well; and to remain competitive, we must have up to date research from the various Michigan Experiment Stations. We stress the need for appropriate funds for the outlying MSU experiment stations with special consideration to the Upper Peninsula.

## 4-H

We commend the Michigan Cooperative Extension Service for its role in the development of the 4-H Program. This program has proven valuable by providing educational opportunities to both rural and urban youth.

We also commend the 4-H leadership and the 25,000 volunteer leaders for the new and exciting projects developed to gain interest and participation on the part of Michigan youth. We encourage adults to actively participate as project leaders. We will continue to strongly support adequate appropriations for this worthwhile youth program.

## Transportation

### HIGHWAYS

Michigan's executive and legislative branches of government under bipartisan leadership courageously passed a comprehensive package of transportation bills just prior to the election. Fuel and weight taxes were increased along with other revenue sources. It was recognized that Michigan's roads are in critical condition and that counties and local governments can no longer maintain them. Since 1973 income to counties from "user taxes" increased 7.6 percent while their costs increased 30 - 40 percent.

One of the elements of the package was a constitutional amendment, Proposal M. This was passed by the voters at the November 7 election. It will, among other things, require that not less than 90 percent of all revenue from gas and weight taxes generally known as "user taxes" shall be used for local and county roads and highways. This assures that these traditional "user taxes" will continue to be used for road purposes. Not more than 10 percent of these revenues can be used for general transportation purposes.

Other provisions of the transportation package increase by five times the amount of money to be used for rebuilding the many obsolete bridges in the state. More importantly this additional state money will make units of government eligible for increased amounts of federal revenue. Another provision requires that a percentage of the revenues shall be used on local roads. Much of the deteriorated county mileage involves farm roads essential to the state's agricultural economy. Farm to market routes that are rutted and rough slow farm shipments, create additional danger and increase vehicle operating costs. Farm goods have been damaged in transit with increasing driving time and excessive repair costs. These all contribute to higher costs and damages for everyone concerned. County roads and local roads also are used more and more by Michigan's tourist trade. The movement of people from city and urban areas to the country side roads has created additional problems. School buses, fire trucks, police, medical services, etc., are now serving residents on roads that were all but abandoned. In just three years, 1974-77, traffic volume on county roads increased by 19 percent. It is estimated that in the next ten years traffic volume will increase more than 54 percent.

County Road Commissions must dedicate themselves to using the most economical means possible including the receiving of private bids on all road construction to reconstruct and maintain quality roads and to make the new tax revenues cover as many of the pressing needs as possible.

We recommend as an aid to construction and maintenance of local roads that townships that are financially able have the right to contract for their own road building program especially when county matching funds are not available.

We further recommend that the road system be

continually monitored in order that the public be constantly aware of any progress being made and also of needs that must be met. When increased revenues are again needed only "user taxes" should be used for road purposes. We must not revert to the property tax or special assessments as a means of building roads.

### HIGHWAY SAFETY

Highway accidents take many lives each year. Many people are injured and much property damage results. Several highway safety measures have passed the 79th Legislature. We have and will continue to support legislation which will promote highway safety. Efforts need to be continued. We recommend the following to further reduce highway accidents:

1. Minimum lighting is required by law on all farm equipment traveling on the road. One headlight and one taillight are required in addition to the slow moving vehicle (SMV) sign. We urge all farmers to maintain this required equipment.

2. County Road Commissions should be encouraged to clear roadside and intersections of hazards within the road right-of-way that obstruct the view of motorists.

3. Red and amber reflectors and SMV emblems should not be used as mailbox and driveway markers. Only appropriate blue or green markers should be used.

4. All farmers should check the SMV emblem signs, replace those that are faded and worn and urge their neighbors to do likewise. The SMV law should be enforced.

5. The check lane system should be continued instead of using the proposed mandatory annual vehicle inspection.

6. Roads should not be used as headlands. It is dangerous to the farmer and hazardous to traffic.

7. All rural roads should be marked with a name or number. Houses should be numbered by the homeowner and coordinated in each county. A number clearly visible from the road is essential during emergencies.

8. Renewed emphasis should be directed toward the placing of crossroad, yield or stop signs at unmarked rural intersections.

9. Mail and newspaper boxes should be placed on the same side of the road to make travel with the large machinery safer and easier.

10. Present laws which deal with the stopping for school buses are not uniform in all areas and often lead to confusion. Uniform state laws should be adopted for the safety of both children and motorists.

11. We urge that information and education be provided so that farmers become aware of the law involving movement of farm equipment on the highways.

12. Reflectorized license plates are a major safety factor making disabled vehicles abandoned on roadways more visible.

13. Hardtop roads should be marked with center lines and side lines as an aid to safer nighttime driving.

14. New or replaced highway guardrails should be constructed to eliminate the chance that a vehicle could be pierced by the guard rail.

15. Bicycle laws be more rigidly enforced.

16. Reflectorized glass which cannot be seen through be banned from use in licensed motorized vehicles. This presents a hazard for police officers when they stop a vehicle which they cannot otherwise see into.

17. All school buses be equipped with two-way communications for emergency purposes.

### SPECIAL FARM TRUCK PERMIT

In 1976 the legislature passed P.A. 74 which provides that farmers using various types of vehicles "designed" for the purpose of hauling crops at harvest time from the field to a place of storage be permitted to have a special \$15 permit in lieu of registration and regular licensing procedures. The vehicle cannot be used for any other purpose. This law has been very helpful to many farmers. However, due to the word "designed" some trucks do not qualify even though they are only used for the permitted purpose. We support an amendment to this legislation which would make all vehicles used only for the purpose of hauling harvested crops from the field to the place of storage eligible for the special permit.

### RAILROADS

Railroads provide an essential mode of transporting agricultural commodities. The transportation of agricultural inputs and commodities produced is dependent upon efficient and continued railroad service. Approximately four million tons of Michigan grown or processed commodities are now shipped by rail. Fifty-three of our 83 counties ship more than half



## Policies

## Become:

# Programs of Work

of all their farm production by rail. Without adequate railroad service, it would be impossible for trucks to meet the need for transportation at peak harvest time. Many rural areas are served by roads subject to weight restrictions making trucking costs uneconomical.

We support the continued efforts of the Michigan Department of State Highways and Transportation to meet the many deadlines and other aspects of rail planning required by federal law. The Department should continue to utilize citizen advisory groups in this important planning process. At least one person familiar with agriculture and its transportation needs should be named to serve on each group.

We support appropriations by the Legislature to fund Michigan's share of subsidies necessary to retain essential rail service. The state should not purchase railroad cars.

Subsidies to retain essential rail service should be considered a temporary solution. We believe privately operated rail companies should be encouraged and allowed to operate the railroad system on a for profit basis whenever possible and in the best interest of shippers.

We commend the individuals who have stepped forward to execute contracts with the state for private operation of important rail lines serving rural Michigan. Shippers are urged to utilize services offered by these carriers whenever possible.

## SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

We recommend the state Department of Transportation study the use of alternative materials to be used as salt substitutes in the removal of ice on highways. County Farm Bureaus should work with the appropriate groups in their areas for the moderate use of these materials.

## Law

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

A lack of respect for law and law enforcement agencies exists in our society. We urge citizens to carry out their responsibility to help law enforcement officers by offering pertinent information and assistance. We also urge support and expression of confidence to our law enforcement officers and urge that they be given protection from liability when performing their duties.

We urge judges to fit the punishment to the crime. Incarceration is not always the answer. The use of prisoners to accomplish community improvement projects can benefit both the prisoner and the community. Whatever the punishment it must be fair and dealt out swiftly.

### RURAL CRIME PREVENTION

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

Michigan State Police is a highly professional police department providing all types of service both to citizens and support to other departments. We strongly urge the Michigan State Police be maintained and funded as a total police agency providing service to all of rural Michigan.

### THEFT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

The theft of agricultural products from the farm has been and continues to present an economic problem. Frequently, large quantities of these products are removed without permission from the owner. We urge strict enforcement of existing law and necessary revision to upgrade the law to address any inadequacies.

### NO-FAULT AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

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

There remains, however, aspects of the law which: 1) restrict rights and responsibilities of the individual and 2) unnecessarily increase claims costs of No-Fault

and ultimately the insurance premiums paid by motorists.

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

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

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

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

### PROPOSED "ESSENTIAL INSURANCE" LEGISLATION

The Michigan Insurance Bureau has proposed legislation which calls for radical changes in our State's insurance system. The "Essential Insurance Reform Act", introduced in the 79th Legislature would make it easier for "high-risk" individuals to obtain auto, homeowners' and other types of coverage. Insurance companies would be required to provide coverage for anyone who requested it, at their regular rates; then, high-risk policies could be assigned to a State-operated association. Underwriting losses of the association would be shared by all insurance policyholders in Michigan.

We do not support this legislation for the following reasons:

1. Most Michigan residents could be forced to subsidize the insurance costs for a small percentage of the State's population. Rural and suburban residents could be required to help pay coverage costs for urban homeowners in high crime and arson areas. Good drivers could be subsidizing insurance costs for high-risk drivers.

2. The Michigan Insurance Bureau would be given unusually broad regulatory powers.

3. The legislation does not address the basic problems which have increased the cost of insurance such as the No-Fault Law, liberal court rulings and inflation. It simply represents a means of redistributing the cost - a "hidden tax".

4. Michigan presently has two State-sponsored programs through which high-risk individuals can obtain auto and property insurance - Michigan Auto Insurance Placement Facility and Michigan Basic Property Insurance Association. If these programs are not meeting their intended purpose, we recommend that they be updated to reflect changing social and economic conditions.



### YOUNG DRIVERS

Most insurance companies writing automobile insurance in Michigan charge young, unmarried drivers high insurance premiums. Rather than charging all young drivers the same basic rate simply because they fall into a particular age category, we request that insurance companies provide some incentive to those young people who prove they are safe, responsible drivers.

We believe that insurance companies could give young drivers the initial high risk rates justified by their group's total driving experience but develop a method which provides reduced rates annually thereafter for young drivers who have had no traffic violations or accidents. The young driver should

continue to receive these rates as long as a good driving record continues.

We support the present rating and classification system for automobile insurance since it recognizes and rewards the safer collective driving experience of rural residents and would urge appropriate modifications in it. We are opposed to any changes which would not fairly recognize the reduced driving exposure of farmers.

### EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

Recognizing the contributions of women in agriculture and other professions, we believe that equal protection and opportunity under the law should be fully extended to all women. Social and economic inequalities continue to exist which preclude women from the full exercise of their constitutional rights.

We congratulate the Michigan Legislature for the progressive steps it has taken to guarantee equal opportunities for women and urge it to continue such efforts.

### PUBLIC EMPLOYEE STRIKES

Although strikes by public employees are now illegal, the restriction is generally ignored. We believe where public service and safety is concerned the law needs to be enforced. We recognize that the blue flu and other dodges are currently used and we deplore this action.

We deplore the practice of employers being forced to drop charges of malicious destruction, trespass and other more serious charges by labor negotiators in order to settle contract disputes. Employees perpetrating illegal acts should be punished to the extent of the law.

### INSURANCE BENEFITS

#### FOR MENTAL ILLNESS CONDITIONS

Mental illness seems to receive discriminating consideration regarding hospitalization and professional care insurance benefits. Many health care insurance plans limit the number of days of coverage afforded a person suffering from mental illness.

We believe the practice of defining separate benefits for this illness to be wrong. We urge all companies offering health insurance plans to stop this type of benefit discrimination and consider the mental illness condition as any other necessary hospitalization.

Comprehensive coverage for mental health inpatient treatment should be provided, similar to other health care coverage.

### DOCTRINE OF GOVERNMENTAL IMMUNITY

Statutory and case law has eroded the once strong doctrine of governmental immunity from tort liability. We, therefore, find our local government agencies such as county road commissions, school boards, townships boards, boards of county commissioners and hospitals as well as the individuals serving thereon, faced with suits for damages where the boards or commissions were performing or intending to perform a governmental function. This has had the effect of depleting local tax revenues, taking the time of public officials and public funds in defending such actions and requiring high cost insurance coverage to protect against unfavorable settlements and judgements.

We believe that the doctrine of governmental immunity should not have been weakened and we support legislation that will have the effect of strengthening this doctrine.

### ANNEXATION

Under present law a city or village may annex a portion of a township without approval of the township if that portion contains fewer than 100 people. Often the township loses a valuable part of its tax base which prevents it from supplying needed services.

We support legislation that would require the approval of the residents of a township before a city or village could annex part of that township.

### MICHIGAN UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE

An exemption for farm products in the Michigan Uniform Commercial Code requires a buyer of farm products from a farmer to constantly check with the Register of Deeds to see what financing statements are recorded before he pays for farm products. This is time consuming and expensive and slows down payments to farmers. We urge that this exception be removed from the Michigan Uniform Commercial Code.

Policies  
Reflect:

# Farmer Concerns, Creativity

## VOTING

A person should not be permitted to vote in any election in any community where he has not been a resident for at least thirty days. Voters should be required to register in person a minimum of 30 days prior to the election.

In community, state, or national elections, college students who receive part or all of their financial support from their parents should be permitted to vote only at the residences of their parents.

We recommend that national election projections on Election Day not be released to the public until all polls are closed.

A common language is essential to the United States of America, and an understanding of our language is a requirement for naturalization. Therefore, we urge elimination of any requirement for bilingual ballots in any public election.

## WELFARE

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

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

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

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

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

We urge legislation to reform the welfare system to eliminate abuse, prevent fraud, and correct mismanagement to prevent waste of tax dollars. Welfare rolls should be available for inspection by the general public.

## STATE INSTITUTIONS

Michigan has seven major penal institutions with plans for two more facilities to be operational during 1978, five mental institutions, and numerous other correctional institutions and camps. Crimes committed at those institutions require local officials, such as the Prosecuting Attorney, judges, law enforcement agencies, and others to investigate and prosecute such crimes. This results in an unfair burden on local officials and the local budget. All citizens should share these costs equally. We urge that legislation be adopted which allows local units the opportunity to collect funds from the State to reimburse the County for costs incurred in investigating and prosecuting crimes committed within the State Institutions.

## NARCOTICS AND HARMFUL DRUGS

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

Courts should continue to strengthen penalties imposed on drug pushers.

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

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

## GUN CONTROL

We believe our laws should place more emphasis on the crime and the criminal rather than on the gun. We oppose further expansion of registration of firearms.

## Farm Bureau

### OUR FARM BUREAU

Our Farm Bureau is a farm organization. It must be an aggressive organization geared to serving commercial farmers with bold and imaginative programs. The building and maintenance of a bold and aggressive farm organization depends heavily on attracting the best in farmer leadership. This leadership must be active at all levels of the organization, from Community Groups through state officers. The

organization must maintain the best type of employees to carry out the wishes of the members.

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

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

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

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

## MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY

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

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

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

We encourage our members to study, discuss, and recommend changes in policy when appropriate.



## MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Hard work and dedication on the part of hundreds of Farm Bureau members has enabled Michigan Farm Bureau to realize eleven consecutive years of membership growth.

Continuing growth is fundamental to the effectiveness of our organization.

We approve the 1979 county membership goal formula as adopted by the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors, also the Michigan Farm Bureau goal assigned by the American Farm Bureau Federation of an increase of one membership over year end reported total.

We encourage each county Farm Bureau to strive for regular member growth in 1979. We urge all Farm Bureau members, staff and affiliate companies to dedicate themselves to continued membership growth in Michigan Farm Bureau and to make 1979 the twelfth consecutive year of gain.

## FARM BUREAU WOMEN

Farm Bureau Women are a very important force in our Farm Bureau family. We encourage them to continue to work closely with their county Farm Bureau Boards of Directors to build a strong organization through projects that will assist in carrying out Farm Bureau policies and increase the participation of members in our organization. We also encourage them to direct their efforts especially to leadership development through activities of con-

sumer understanding, legislation, safety and health, and local affairs.

We commend the Women's leaders for instituting programs to encourage the participation of young farm women and stress the importance of continuing this effort.

## FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMERS

The major goal of the Young Farmer program is to surface and develop new Farm Bureau leadership throughout the state. The State Young Farmer Committee has been successful in initiating county Farm Bureau programs that promote and develop Young Farmers into strong leaders and active Farm Bureau members. They accomplish this through various activities such as discussion meets, leadership conferences and district meetings.

Young Farmers are eager for meaningful involvement in vital issues concerning agriculture. We must seek to satisfy that desire through involvement of qualified Young Farmers in all Farm Bureau activities. The Young Farmer program can only be successful if given strong and active support by county leaders. We encourage county Farm Bureaus to recognize achievements of Young Farmers at the county level and their efforts in leadership activities.

County Farm Bureau Boards working in concert with county Young Farmer Committees, have proven to be the catalyst for the development of strong Young Farmer programs. Major emphasis will be given in 1979 to increasing the involvement of Young Farmers at the county level, on Farm Bureau Boards and committees. We also encourage county Farm Bureau Boards of Directors to take an active role in the supervision of the county Young Farmer Committee.

We commend the state and county Young Farmers for new and innovative programs.

## COMMUNITY GROUPS

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

We believe that the strength of the organization still lives at the grass roots level and that the Community Group system is the best means of determining members' interests and needs.

We commend the Community Group Advisory Committee of Michigan Farm Bureau for their selection of timely discussion topics and for strengthening this important program. The committee should continue its efforts in this area.

## MFB GROUP PURCHASING, INC.

The purpose of Michigan Farm Bureau Group Purchasing, Inc. is to administer a "Safemark" Group Purchasing Program for Farm Bureau members in conjunction with the American Farm Bureau Service Company. We commend the MFB Board of Directors for making this significant economic service-to-member program available to all Michigan Farm Bureau members on a "for members only" basis.

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

We challenge all county Farm Bureaus participating in this program to maintain strong active Safemark Committees, and we further challenge every Farm Bureau member to take advantage of the economic savings available through these quality Safemark products.

## MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION

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

We encourage Michigan Farm Bureau and MASA to provide educational programs especially designed to keep farmers informed on labor laws and issues.

We commend MASA for recognizing the need for and development of a Legal Defense Fund program. This program allows Michigan farmers to pool their

# Michigan Farm Bureau. . .

resources in an effort to defend their rights in the court systems. The Legal Defense Fund can also challenge regulations in court prior to Michigan farmers receiving citations.

The Legal Services program of MASA is an opportunity for any farmer to have available qualified legal representation and advice at reasonable rates for any matter requiring legal service.

We encourage all Farm Bureau members to become familiar with MASA and its services. We urge members to join MASA and utilize those programs which are beneficial to each individual farming operation.

## LOCAL AFFAIRS

Members are proud to be associated with an organization that takes a strong stand on local issues, and follows through with effective action on problems which affect them locally. A strong effective Local Affairs Program builds County Farm Bureaus.

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

## POLITICAL ACTION PROGRAM

1978 marked the first year of Michigan Farm Bureau involvement in an expanded Political Action Program through a Political Action Committee. This Political Action Committee, "AgriPac", carried out an aggressive and effective 1978 Michigan Farm Bureau political action program.

We commend the six farmer members of the bipartisan "AgriPac" Committee for their dedicated and time-consuming service in establishing this new program. A set of bylaws for the "AgriPac" Committee were developed and registered with election control authorities at both the State and Federal levels. Criteria were developed for designating "Friends of Agriculture".

Detailed voting records of incumbents were developed and published. Funds were solicited by mail from members and through a regional fundraiser. These funds were allocated to "Friends of Agriculture" in various districts based upon need and effectiveness. We are gratified that over 90 percent of the designated "Friends of Agriculture" were elected in the November 7 election.

We congratulate Berrien, Calhoun, Jackson, Livingston, Macomb and Saginaw counties for establishing "Mini-Pacs". Through these "Mini-Pacs" county Farm Bureau members in these counties became directly and effectively involved in local political campaigns and issues.

We encourage every member to become acquainted with their elected officials at the local, state, and national level to assist them in every way possible to understand the importance of Michigan agriculture and its problems. A special effort should be made to become acquainted with those elected officials who were not designated as "Friends of Agriculture". Their support of our policies should be sought so that they may be designated "Friends of Agriculture."

We recommend that this program be continued in future election years and that additional opportunities be developed for members to contribute to AgriPac. Local County Farm Bureau Boards should be contacted before endorsement of a candidate.

## MEMBER-TO-MEMBER MARKETING

We appreciate the efforts of MACMA to expand the direct sale of top quality products to Farm Bureau members through its Direct Marketing Division. Experience should result in improved scheduling and delivery of products.

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

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

## RURAL CRIME PREVENTION

We are pleased that Michigan Farm Bureau continues to develop and expand a Rural Crime Prevention Program which is being offered to members through county Farm Bureaus. This program is offered with the cooperation of the Sheriff's Departments and assistance from the Michigan State Police. The program is patterned after Operation Identification and involves the marking of farm equipment, tools and personal items with the owners drivers license number. We urge that all Farm Bureau members take advantage of this program.

## FARM INCOME

We state as our number one priority for 1979 to support and work for more equitable prices for farm products in an effort to save the efficient family farm; and, furthermore, to make a greater effort to work with other farm organizations interested in achieving this goal.

## FARM BUREAU MARKETING PROGRAMS

We continue to recognize agricultural marketing as a major concern of farmers. Many farmers are interested in learning more about marketing their commodities in the most advantageous way. Farm Bureau should continue to develop educational programs along with the Cooperative Extension Service and other agencies to provide farmers with this information.

We urge Farm Bureau at the county, state and national levels to actively support sound marketing programs and marketing legislation which will improve members' incomes. We request strong, aggressive management from our affiliates to be competitive and urge all Farm Bureau members to support marketing programs of their affiliate companies. Farm Bureau stands ready to assist members in meeting their marketing needs.

## COMMODITY DIVISION APPROACH

We believe the Commodity Division approach is an effective organizational means of serving the specialized needs of Farm Bureau members. The Commodity Divisions now include wheat, feed grains, soybeans, sugar, dry beans, deciduous fruits and berries, vegetables and potatoes, beef, swine, dairy and poultry. These divisions provide input on important commodity related issues through their advisory committees. We feel this is an important tool for our organization. We also urge county Farm Bureaus to maintain active commodity committees.

## COMMUNICATION STUDY

Communication is a very important part of today's world. Through the wonders of modern technology we are able to instantly communicate with people. Farmers need to receive daily information as a tool of good management. Information on markets, legislative affairs, membership, and other items should be available to members.

We, therefore, request that the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors conduct a special study to find out the best communication system for Michigan Farm Bureau's needs and determine what improvements are actually feasible.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

We urge Farm Bureau to continue to create health and safety awareness and to promote a need for projects for healthy and safe families, including fire safety and promotion of smoke alarms; first aid training; farm, home, and traffic safety, and chronic illness detection.

Response to emergencies by trained personnel in many areas is often too slow to assist the victim. First aid, C.P.R. and the Heimlich method for assisting choking victims should be offered in each school by utilizing local resources such as police and fire agencies who may provide assistance and training. We urge that all schools have staff trained to administer first aid.

We also urge Farm Bureau members to serve on state, regional and local commissions and committees regarding health and safety.



## HEALTH CARE

Our Farm Bureau Health Care Program, through Blue Cross-Blue Shield, continues to be of primary

importance in protecting Farm Bureau families against today's ever increasing medical expenses.

We appreciate the thorough analysis of this program by the State Health Care Study Committee during 1976-77. The recommendations of this committee as adopted by the 1977 delegate body have served well as guidelines for administering the program.

Enrollment in our Comprehensive and Econo Plan programs continues to increase. We currently have over 35,000 Farm Bureau family members enrolled. We are concerned about the large increase in our comprehensive health care premiums for the current year and urge our Board of Directors and staff to work closely with BC-BS to initiate all possible cost control measures. We are gratified that our 1978-79 Econo Plan rates are substantially reduced, and ask our members to thoroughly study both the Comprehensive and Econo Plans in selecting their health care program.

## SERVICE TO MEMBERS

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

We appreciate the significant economic services provided for Farm Bureau members only through the Farm Bureau Mutual Auto policies. We urge Farm Bureau Mutual to investigate the possibility of a Farm Owners Policy for Farm Bureau members only; and, if feasible, to proceed to develop and market such a policy.

We commend Farm Bureau Services and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative for developing and financing the \$5.00 member certificates which will be issued again this year with every 1979 membership. We urge every member to take advantage of this certificate and redeem it at local FBS-FPC outlets.

## SPECIALIZED FARM EQUIPMENT - NO FAULT COVERAGE

Some vehicles originally designed for road use are converted into agricultural implements (shakers, forklifts, 6x6's, etc). Even though these vehicles are not required to be registered by the Secretary of State, they are subject to the Michigan No-Fault Statute.

Recognizing the limited usage of these converted vehicles we urge Farm Bureau Insurance Group to provide the required coverage at a cost recognizing their limited and specialized usage. This should be a service to member program only.

We urge that each Farm Bureau member review and analyze their insurance coverage to make certain that these units are adequately covered.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE

We are pleased that Michigan Farm Bureau continues to lead in presenting the story of agriculture to our nonfarm population. The understanding and support of urban people on issues which affect our industry is vitally important. We urge all Farm Bureau members to make every effort to assist nonfarm people in understanding agriculture and its problems.

We are proud that Farm Bureau has daily and weekly information available regarding agriculture, through radio programming, news releases, a weekly editorial column and agricultural information packet that have continued to receive widespread acceptance. We are pleased that our leaders and members have been featured in newspaper articles, appeared on news programs, in documentaries, and as guests on other television shows. We encourage members to participate in these communication opportunities when they occur. Such appearances should stress the positive attitudes of farmers and display a pride in their profession.

We commend the news media which turns to Farm Bureau when they desire information on current issues as they effect agriculture, and especially those who consistently promote an understanding of our industry by the nonfarm public. We encourage our county Farm Bureau leaders to continue recognizing these communicators for their fine efforts.

Recognition must be given to county Farm Bureaus and Television Committees in the Northwestern Region who have cooperated with WPBN-TV, Traverse City, to produce and host weekly television programs for the past eleven years. Commendations must also be given to Alpena County Farm Bureau for working with WBKB-TV, Alpena, in the production of a monthly program on agriculture. We thank these two stations for their assistance in telling the story of agriculture.

The most effective public relations for agriculture, however, is done by farmers themselves. We are proud of the Farm Bureau Women Speakers' Bureau project. We congratulate many counties for carrying on activities such as mall displays, rural-urban meetings,

# "Growing With Agriculture"

farm visits, working with schools, and county fair booths.

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

### ESTATE PLANNING

We recommend that all members investigate estate planning for the purpose of reducing estate taxes at time of death. A knowledge of wills, trust funds, marital deductions and existing tax laws should enable the family to make provisions for:

1. Minor children and family members
2. Continuation of the family farm
3. Equitable treatment of the spouse

We further recommend Michigan Farm Bureau consider providing a listing of attorneys specializing in Estate Planning on a fee basis for member use.

We commend Michigan Farm Bureau and the Farm Bureau Insurance Group for the studies they have made of the various methods of estate settlement.

### ORIENTATION OF EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS

The employees of Michigan Farm Bureau and all of its affiliated companies represent our overall Farm Bureau organization when contacting members around the state and the public at large. Uninformed or misinformed employees or agents may contribute to a poor or weak image of Farm Bureau.

We commend the efforts being made to inform employees about the objectives, philosophies, and programs of Farm Bureau and all affiliates through a regular liaison program. We encourage continuation of this program on a priority basis.

### COORDINATION OF AFFILIATE COMPANIES

Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliate companies share a common goal - to serve farmers. We continually strive to have all patrons of affiliate companies become members of Michigan Farm Bureau, and to have all Michigan Farm Bureau members

patronize their affiliate companies. We must continue this effort.

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

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

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

### COOPERATION WITH OTHER FARM ORGANIZATIONS

We urge Michigan Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau to continue to work in coordination with other farm organizations in executing the policy positions adopted by this convention.

We believe that active participation in interorganizational meetings such as Ag Summit Meetings and commodity organization meetings has resulted in improved communications and understanding between organizations. We urge Michigan Farm Bureau to continue active participation in these meetings.

We commend the American Farm Bureau for extra effort in coordinating support for national marketing legislation with the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, the National Farmers Union, and the National Grange.

### TENURE OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Direct farmer member control has been a time honored goal of Michigan Farm Bureau. Our present Bylaws provide for a Board of Directors consisting of sixteen members who "... shall be directly and actively engaged in farming as owners and/or operators of farms whose primary interest is in farming ..."

Michigan Farm Bureau has developed into a large

and complex organization. In addition, it has multi-million dollar affiliate company operations. In order to assure direct farmer member control, these affiliate company Bylaws provide that their directors be Farm Bureau members and a majority of their directors are elected from the Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

It takes time and dedication for a director to learn and understand the workings of Farm Bureau and its affiliate companies. To place a tenure limitation on these directors would cause these boards to lose valuable experience at critical times.

We are proud that our leadership has served on the American Farm Bureau Board of Directors. To serve in such a position, a person must be a state Farm Bureau president, and have had experience in that capacity. To limit the tenure of the Michigan Farm Bureau directors and officers would greatly limit the influence of our organization at the national level.

Our current Bylaws provide for annual or bi-annual election of all directors with no limitation on time of service. Qualified members are eligible and encouraged to run for the position of director at any or all of these elections. This provision has resulted in substantial turnover of directors. During the past twelve years, thirty five people have served our organization as district or at-large directors.

For the above reasons, it would be advantageous to Michigan Farm Bureau and its members to place no limitation on the length of term of its directors and/or officers or the number of affiliates served by these directors and/or officers.

### STATUS OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

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

# SAFEMARK



**"BARGAIN" BATTERIES CAN COST YOU TIME AND MONEY!**

With batteries, and most other things in life, you usually get what you pay for. Physical appearances can be deceiving, and a "bargain" battery that looks like a quality one may have an electrical capacity that is far less!

Because farm batteries are idle more than they are in use - idle time can often be fatal to the "bargain" battery. Frequently, through self-discharge, the battery becomes completely discharged. When this occurs, the plates become sulfated and may resist recharging attempts. The result - a dead battery and an unproductive vehicle.

In the Safemark battery, oil negative plates drastically reduce self-discharging, and the plate life is increased as much as 240%. Also, a special patented lead-antimony grid alloy provides up to 100% greater resistance to heat and over-charge damage.

If you've been changing batteries every year, change to Safemark this year - the battery built specifically for on-farm use.



SAFEMARK QUALITY PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS ONLY

## SAFEMARK DEALERS

County	Dealer	Location	Telephone
Saginaw	Hemlock Farmers Co-op, Inc.	Hemlock	517-642-5920
Chippewa	Rike Equipment Company	Daffer	906-635-1241
Oceana (Muskegon)	West Michigan Power & Equipment, Inc.	New Era	616-861-5009
Osceola (Missaukee)	Steve's Tire Service	Marion	616-825-2804
Osceola	Steve VanHouten	Evart	616-734-2421
Copper Country	Leonard Ollila	Houghton	906-482-4487
Copper Country	Daniel Linna	Bruce Crossing	906-827-3483
Isabella	Pointe Ford Tractor Sales	Mt. Pleasant	517-773-5711
Montcalm	Quisenberry Farms	Six Lakes	517-365-3619
Saginaw	Reinbold & Sons Sales	Saginaw	517-775-6979
Newaygo	Grant Safemark Tire Service	Grant	616-834-7903
St. Clair	Markwart Oil Company, Inc.	Capac	313-395-7711
Sanilac	Marlette Oil & Gas Company	Marlette	517-635-2096
Shiawassee	Steven's Tire Company	Owosso	517-723-7178
Presque Isle	Kranzo Feed & Farm Supply	Rogers City	517-734-2083
Hiawathaland	Farmers Supply Company	Escanaba	906-786-4522
Eaton	Maurer Farm Center	Charlotte	517-543-4548
Washtenaw	Feldkamp Tire Company	Saline	313-429-2594
Clinton	Fowler Gas & Oil Company	Fowler	517-593-2155
Ionla	Harder & Sons	Fenwick	517-637-4494
Lenawee	Lenawee Fuels, Inc.	Tecumseh	517-423-4770
Huron	Elkton Petroleum Co-op, Inc.	Elkton	517-375-2245
Branch	Stephen Shook	Quincy	517-639-4373
Cheboygan	Ormsbee Implement Company	Afton	616-238-9928
Gratiot	Johnson & Sons, Inc.	Ithaca	517-875-4257
Huron	Farmers Cooperative Grain Co.	Kinde	517-874-4200
Ogemaw	Stan Kartes	West Branch	517-345-5159
Kalkaska	D & M Industries, Inc.	Kalkaska	616-258-8831
Van Buren	Kellogg Farm Supply	Maftawan	616-668-3816
Allegan	Aiflen-Batts, Inc.	Wayland	616-792-6291
Emmet	Richard's Tire Service	Petoskey	616-347-7522
Ingham	Cremer Farm Center	Williamston	517-655-1566
Iron Range	Frank Tuchowski	Crystal Falls	906-875-3593
Arenac	Aren Bay Farms	Standish	517-846-6020
Oakland	M & D Auto Parts	Ortonville	313-627-2801
Montmorency	Bartow Equipment Company	Hillman	517-742-4341
Livingston	Klein Fertilizers, Inc.	Fowlerville	517-223-9148
Mac-Luce	S & S Repair	Engadine	906-477-6582
Antrim	Edward Bachi	Elk Rapids	616-264-9253
St. Joseph	Dick Athony Enterprises	Three Rivers	616-279-7937
Benzie	Benzie Safemark	Frankfort	616-352-9741
Gladwin	Myers for Tires	Gladwin	517-426-4261
Clinton	Hub Tire Center	St. Johns	517-224-3218
Kalamazoo	Cimax Hardware	Climax	616-746-4111
Hillsdale	Purdy Ford Tractor Sales Inc.	Hillsdale	517-523-2185
Genesee	Dale Jenkins	Swartz Creek	517-271-8611
Huron	Bad Axe Tire Service, Inc.	Bad Axe	517-269-6571

## David Conklin to Serve as Young Farmer Chairman

David Conklin, Shiawassee County dairyman, was elected chairperson of the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee during annual meeting activities in Grand Rapids on November 29. As 1979 committee chairperson, Conklin will represent young farmers on the Michigan Farm Bureau board of directors. Immediate responsibilities in the Young Farmer program will include planning for the annual Young Farmer Leader Conference scheduled for March 7, 8 and 9 at Midland, Michigan. Dave considers this conference an invaluable experience for young men and women in Farm Bureau.

"In today's Young Farmer program, we are seeing the integration of young farm couples in every aspect of

Farm Bureau. Our program activities are only one facet of the many Farm Bureau leadership roles open to young farmers," said Conklin. "I think it's important to recognize that the Young Farmer program does attract leaders and through the local and state activities, gives them the direction and support needed to develop their fullest potential in the Farm Bureau organization."

In addition to Young Farmer activities, Dave and his wife, Donna, will continue to be involved in Shiawassee County Farm Bureau programs. They are members of a community group and Dave serves as vice-president of the County Farm Bureau board of directors. He is also chairperson of the Local Affairs Committee.



DAVID CONKLIN

## Five Young Farmer Chairmen Recognized at State Annual

Five county Farm Bureau Young Farmer committee chairmen were recognized at the Young Farmer Reception during the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting November 29 for their achievements in attaining gold stars for their county programs.

Committee chairmen honored were: Dan Wieland, Antrim County in the 1-350 member category; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Edbrooke, Newaygo County in the 351-

650 member category; Roger Schmidt, Oceana County in the 651-1200 member category; Jim Domagalski, St. Clair County in the 1201-1500 member category; and Gary Best, Sanilac County in the largest membership category.

Each of the counties and the programs that were conducted during the year which lead to gold stars were also recognized during the Star-Night Jamboree on November 30.



Young Farmer committee chairmen who received gold stars were recognized at the Young Farmer reception, and included (left to right) Gary Best, Sanilac County; Dan Wieland, Antrim County; Peg Edbrooke, Newaygo; Denny Smith, Oceana; and Lynn Ledebuhr, St. Clair.

## Gratiot County Woman Selected as Outstanding Young Farm Woman

A Gratiot County woman was selected as the 1979 Outstanding Young Farm Woman in finals competition at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting in Grand Rapids on November 29. Edith B. Humm, who entered a farm partnership six years ago, is a former teacher and has been involved with FHA and 4-H programs in Gratiot County. She and her husband, Loren L. Humm, are currently farming 950 acres in corn, sugar beets, navy beans and soybeans at Ithaca, Michigan.

In unprepared remarks, Mrs. Humm addressed the role of women in the farming operation as decision-maker, working partner and wife. "Ours is a partnership in which we discuss purchases, finances and sales," she said, "and while final decisions are left to my husband, he does consider my opinions."

Traditional responsibilities as a homemaker do not prevent Edith from actively taking part in the day to day operation of the farm. "Many see the role of a farm wife as in the kitchen with an apron, canning fruit, making pies and offering encouragement and support. While I perform in this role, I also very much



EDITH HUMM

enjoy driving tractor, hauling fertilizer and driving truck. In short, doing any job that helps out," she said.

Runner-up in the com-

petition is Lorry Domagalski, St. Clair County farm wife who calls herself a "domestic engineer" and is a partner in a 400-acre cash crop farm.

## Peter Edick is Winner

### Young Farmers Surface Need for New Marketing Techniques

Peter Edick, an Eaton County farmer, will represent the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers in national Discussion Meet competition at Miami, Florida, in January, 1979. Edick joined Michigan regional winners in a series of problem-solving panel discussions in semi-finals competition at Grand Rapids during annual meeting activities of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

In the November 29 Meet, finals contestants examined new marketing techniques which may be implemented by farmers to have more impact in domestic and international markets.

Edick, who believes that Farm Bureau can best serve farmers by exploring more foreign markets and marketing in the U.S. to increase sales of agricultural commodities, also encourages individual farmers to become increasingly involved in all facets of growing, processing and marketing for their farm products. Working within the Farm Bureau structure, "vertical integration is only one dimension of farmers' increasing awareness of the need for more effective marketing techniques," says Edick.

Contestants are prepared to speak on four selected topics



PETER EDICK

related to the Farm Bureau organization and agriculture, and are judged on appropriateness, presentation, and originality of ideas.

Runner-up in the

Discussion Meet was Ron Quackenbush of Ogemaw County. Roberta Beck, also of Ogemaw County, and Bruce Foster, Berrien County, tied for third place.

## Roger Bloss Named

### Distinguished Young Farmer

Roger Bloss, Genesee County farmer who operates a 676-acre dairy farm near Swartz Creek, was named "Distinguished Young Farmer" for 1978 by the Michigan Farm Bureau. Bloss, 30, was honored during the organization's annual meeting in Grand Rapids November 29 and will represent Michigan at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting in Miami Beach, Florida, in January.

The young dairy farmer presently milks 140 registered Holsteins and raises all his herd replacements from registered young cattle. He is a member of the Michigan Animal Breeders Cooperative and also serves as an officer for Central Genetics, an organization which he helped organize for the purpose of developing high potential bulls into outstanding sires.

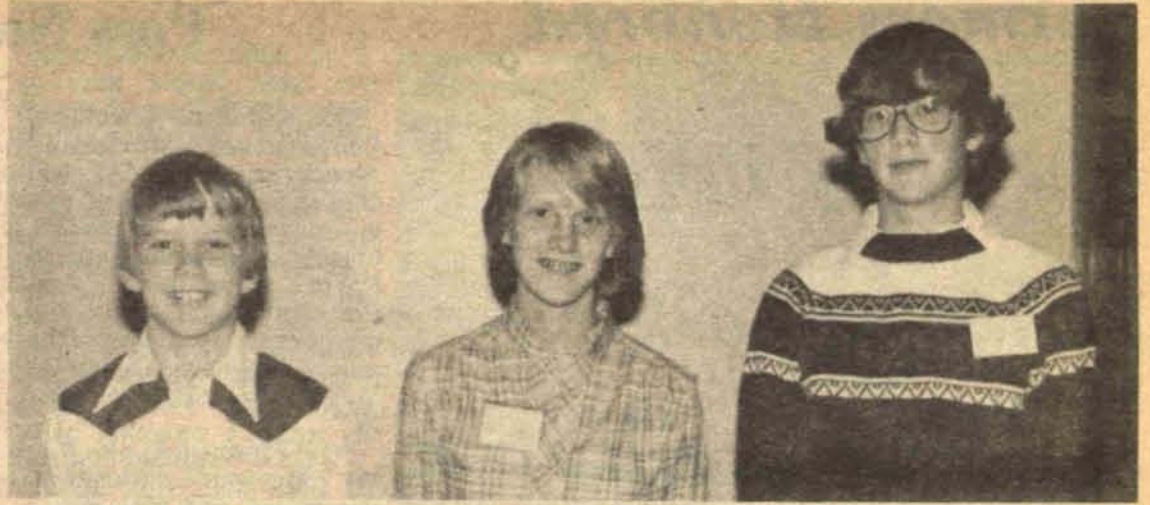
Bloss has served as chairman of the Genesee County Farm Bureau policy development committee, as a

delegate to the state annual meeting, and attended the Michigan Farm Bureau legislative seminar in Washington, D.C. He is a member of the Jaycees, the Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Ag Advisory Committee for the Swartz Creek Community Schools.

Candidates for the Farm Bureau's "Distinguished Young Farmer" contest are selected by county Farm Bureau units for their accomplishments in the business of farming and also for their leadership abilities in the organization. The young farmer candidates are judged on farm management abilities and the amount of progress made in the farm operation from the point at which the individual started farming. Consideration is also given to the applicant's demonstrated leadership abilities both in Farm Bureau and the local community.

Runner-up in the contest was Bill Pridgeon, hog farmer from Branch County.

## Photo Contest Winners Honored



Junior Division winners in the MFN Photography Contest honored at the Governor's Luncheon November 30 during the MFB annual meeting were: (left to right) Mike and Lori Barrett, St. Clair County, second and third place respectively, and Don Borroughs, Ingham County, first place winner and honorable mention. One of Don's photos is on this month's cover.

One of the highlights at the annual Governor's Luncheon at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting November 30 was the announcement of junior and senior division winners in the Michigan Farm News-sponsored photography contest.

Junior division winners were: first place and honorable mention, Don Borroughs, Ingham County, son of Arthur Borroughs;

second place, Michael Barrett and third place Lori Barrett, both from St. Clair County and children of Nancy and Gerald Barrett.

Senior division winners were: first place, Charles Zeiler, Hillsdale County; Anna Cairns, Barry County; third place, Burton Stafford, Cass County; and honorable mention, Mrs. Douglas Stover, Ingham County.

Winning photos will appear

on the cover of Michigan Farm News in up-coming months.

### OUR COVER

The photo on the cover of this month's Farm News was taken by Don Borroughs who won first place in the junior division of the Michigan Farm News Photo Contest. Don, who is the 15 year-old son of Farm Bureau member Arthur Borroughs, shot this photo near Okemos where he lives.



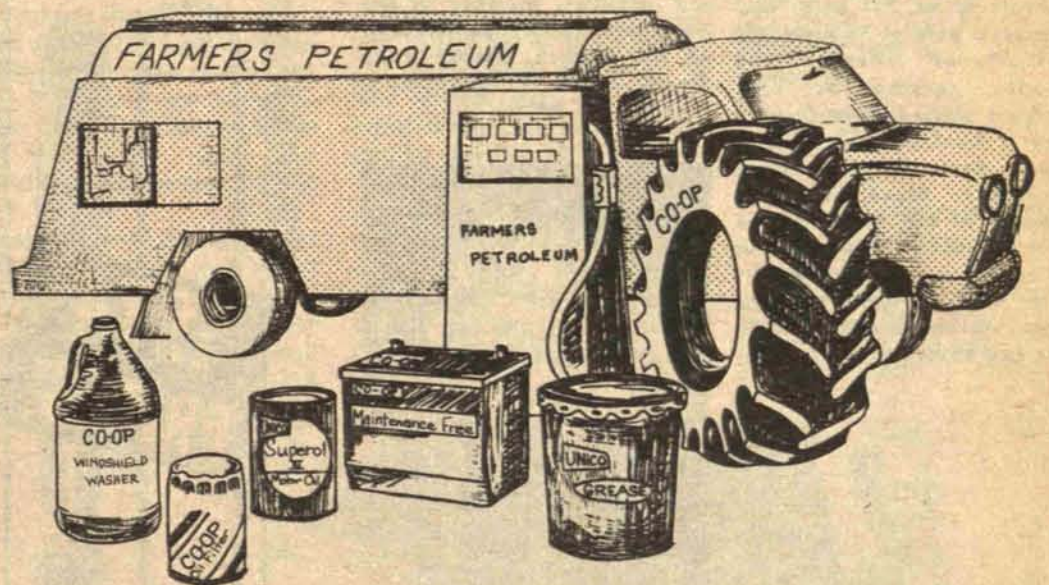
Roger Bloss (right) of Swartz Creek was named "Distinguished Young Farmer" for 1978 by the Michigan Farm Bureau. Bloss and his wife, Linda, are congratulated by MFB Young Farmer chairman David Peckens following announcement of his selection at the organization's annual meeting in Grand Rapids on November 29. Also shown is Bill Pridgeon, Branch County farmer who was runner-up in the state contest.

### Young Farmers Elect New Executive Committee



A new slate of officers were elected by the state Young Farmer Committee to guide the MFB Young Farmers in 1979. The new executive committee members elected at the MFB annual meeting in Grand Rapids on November 29 are (left to right) Boyd Beyersdorf, Saginaw County, First Vice-Chairman; David Conklin, Shlawassee County, Chairman; and Jerry Heck, Monroe County, Second Vice-Chairman.

## Farmers Petroleum has your complete energy needs for 1979.



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- Diesel Fuel
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# Farmers Honored

## Weekly by FBIG,

## Radio Network

The Farmer of the Week Award, sponsored by the Michigan Farm Radio Network and Farm Bureau Insurance Group, recognizes Michigan farmers for their contributions to the agriculture industry and the community. Recipients are selected for the quality of their farming operation and their community involvement.

The Farmer of the Week Award winners for November 1978 were:



THOMAS MACKRAIN

Week of Nov. 6 -- Thomas Mackrain, 27, a dairy farmer from Chassell in Houghton County. A lifelong farmer, Mackrain farms 240 acres and manages a herd of 75 cows. His agricultural involvement includes serving as vice president of the Copper Country Dairy, a local cooperative that serves dairy farmers from Calumet to Bruce Crossing; chairman of the board of the Copper Country Farm Bureau; and served as a member of the State Young Farmers Committee. He and his wife, Ruth, have two children.



RICHARD POHL

Week of Nov. 13 -- Richard Pohl of Portland, a dairy and cash crop farmer in Ionia County. He currently farms 1500 acres in partnership with his brothers Gary and Joe. He is an active member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Portland; alternate

committeeman on the Ionia County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS); member of the Ionia County Farm Bureau; and member of the Ionia County Young Farmers. He and his wife, Joanne, have two children.

Week of Nov. 20 -- Mike Thelen of Rt. 2, St. Johns, who farms 400 acres and milks 120 cows in partnership with his father and brother. Thelen, 22, is an active member of Holy Trinity



MIKE THELEN

Church in Fowler; active participant in church organizations and activities; member of the Holy Name Society; and member of the Clinton County Farm Bureau. He is a 1974 graduate of Fowler High School.



BUD JENKINS

Week of Nov. 27 -- Bud Jenkins, 41, a cash crop farmer from Midland. Jenkins, 41, farms 520 acres with assistance from his wife and sons. He is actively involved in supporting 4-H programs; member of the Bay County Farm Bureau and member of the county membership committee; served as county delegate to Michigan Farm Bureau Annual Meeting; is chairman of the Auburn Community Discussion Group; and attends the Community Church of the Nazarene in Midland. He and his wife, Jean, have three children.

The Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) will take an active leadership role in a movement to get the U.S. Congress to pass the National Farm Bargaining Act, President Elton R. Smith told members attending the association's annual meeting in Grand Rapids, November 29.

"Our experiences with P.A. 344 (Michigan's agricultural marketing and bargaining law) have shown that such legislation is a feasible approach to giving farmers equity of bargaining power," Smith said.

The National Farm Bargaining Act was introduced late in the session of Congress and no action was taken on the bill. It is expected to be reintroduced in the new session.

Smith said farmers must have higher prices to keep ahead of the cost-price squeeze. "We have not asked government to guarantee prices which would return parity for fruits, vegetables and livestock," he said. "We have only asked government to provide us with the legal basis upon which we can be effective in the marketplace in earning improved prices and terms of trade."

MACMA has defended Michigan's P.A. 344 in the state courts for the past 4½ years, since the first of many

# MACMA Will Lead Move to Pass National Bargaining Act



MACMA President Elton R. Smith said farmers must have higher prices to keep ahead of the cost-price squeeze.

lawsuits were filed by processors. Smith reported that, to date, no court has ruled the act unconstitutional.

MACMA's general manager, Noel Stuckman, in his management operations report to members, said that the association now has 2,750 members in its 10 divisions which have membership. "Membership strength is a very important factor in this association," Stuckman said. "The more members we have, the more commodities we have to market. In turn, this greater volume gives us more strength in the marketplace and permits us

to serve our members better."

MACMA, an affiliate of the Michigan Farm Bureau, has four fruit divisions, three vegetable divisions, two livestock divisions, a Michigan Certified Farm Markets Division, and a Direct Marketing Division.

Stuckman said the general economic conditions and consumer demand set the stage for the association's activities. "Our skills are tested in working with the supply and demand situation for each commodity as we work to get the highest returns possible and have all of the commodity sold," he reported.

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# Brickley "Talks Politics" to Delegates

Lt. Governor-elect James Brickley commended Michigan Farm Bureau members attending the organization's annual meeting for their interest and involvement in good government, and said they could help bring about "changes that are needed to make our political process more sophisticated."

Pitch-hitting for Governor Milliken at the Farm Bureau's annual "Governor's Luncheon," on November 30, Brickley shared some of his thoughts about the recent election and the ramifications he sees for the future.

"Over the past 17 years, I have participated in five political campaigns. In those campaigns, the public's concern was, 'What is government going to do about my housing needs, my personal safety, discrimination, etc.?' depending on the year and the demands of that period," the Lt. Governor-elect said. "However, something quite different

happened this time. Instead of asking what government is going to do about housing, jobs, crime and so forth, the question from voters was, "What are you going to do about government?"

"Over the years, government has been asked to correct the deficiencies of all of society's institutions and to supply many of the needs of our people. Now, more people see government itself as a problem. They feel it is too big, too expensive, and that they cannot get a handle on it. I think it can be summarized that the effectiveness of government itself has become a major issue.

"I don't know what all of this suggests for the future. However, I think it is part and parcel of the feeling that many people have that it really doesn't matter who is elected and that maybe they are going to have to start making more value judgements on specific issues at the ballot box, rather than through their elected

representatives. This is a warning signal that we cannot ignore," Brickley told the Farm Bureau delegates.

Brickley said the electoral process should be more responsive to voters, and that it should be decided "whether we want to go back to a more viable political party system or continue to be fractionalized by single-issue politics where every campaign becomes a game of Russian roulette."

"This organization and its 63,000 members, who have made such a significant contribution to our state over the years, can be of tremendous assistance in bringing about the changes that are needed in order to make our political process more sophisticated," Brickley said. "I commend you for your past interest and involvement in good government and urge you to remain active and vigilant as we pursue this common goal."



Lt. Governor-elect James Brickley commended the Michigan Farm Bureau members for their interest and involvement in good government.

## DEAR GRANDMA:

### "We Went to a Real Dairy Farm--With Real Cows!"



"What an appetite! Do I have to burp the calf too?"

Dear Grandma:

Guess what we did in pre-school class? We went to a real dairy farm! With real cows! (My friend, the Farm News reporter, is writing this for me, because I'm only 4 years old and I can't write very well yet).

It was so much fun. Our teacher, Jennifer Rogers, wanted to show all of us pre-schoolers where milk comes from. I always thought it came from a carton, but my friend Sue told me it comes from the milky way. I thought maybe she was telling me a fib.

Anyway, Mrs. Rogers wanted to find a farm that was close to our school in

Holt, so she found this farm in Mason owned by Cathy Lott and her husband. So we all jumped on the bus and rode out there.

The first thing we did was feed the calves. (Those are baby cows.) I couldn't believe how BIG those baby cows were! I thought if they were baby cows, they were probably the size of my dolly. But these calves were really gigantic. And talk about hungry! We all got to feed them with great big bottles of special milk for calves, and they drank it right up... even faster than my baby brother Timmy drinks his bottle.

After that, we got to go to the barns where the momma

cows are kept. I thought the calves were big, but the mommas were like elephants! I was kinda scared, but Mrs. Lott told us the cows are gentle and wouldn't hurt us if we were careful.

I asked where the daddy cows were. Mrs. Lott said the daddies were kept someplace else. I guess there is a difference between the momma and the daddy cows, but nobody wanted to explain it to me.

Well, after we got to look at the big cows, they took us all to where they milk the cows. I always heard that the farmer sits on a little stool and squeezes out the milk, but

Mrs. Lott said that nowadays they use hoses and machines to milk with. Don't worry grandma, they don't hurt the cows. They keep the milk real clean too... and keep it in a great big tank like a refrigerator.

The last thing we did on our trip to the dairy farm was to climb up inside a tractor. It was so tall that we had to climb up this big ladder to get inside. But it was so neat! It had all kind of buttons and switches, and four gigantic wheels. I figured it had to cost millions and millions of dollars. Mrs. Lott said it didn't cost quite that much, but sometimes it seemed like it.

We were all tired when it was time to leave. We got to see so much at the dairy farm... and we got to feel what the cows eat, and taste the milk, and even smell different things. My teacher, Mrs. Rogers, said it was a "total learning experience," whatever that is. I just think it was fun.

Well, that's all for now. See you soon.

loves and kisses,  
your granddaughter

P.S. My friend Bobby says he wants to be a farmer when he grows up. Me too... just like Mrs. Lott.



"This farming stuff doesn't look so hard... I bet it would be fun to drive this tractor all over."

## "Good Neighbor" Spirit is Still Alive

Members of the Ortonville Community Farm Bureau Group in Oakland County proved recently that the "old-fashioned" spirit of helping your neighbors is still alive. Every now and then, you hear about a barn-raising bee or a harvesting bee to help a neighbor in need — but it's seldom that you hear about a moving bee.

Yet, that's exactly what happened the Friday after Thanksgiving Day to the Paul Cook family, who had sold their farm in Ortonville and purchased 440 acres of farm land near Ubyly in the Thumb. The 85-mile distance between the two farms made moving look like a overwhelming task.

On moving day morning, trucks, station wagons, pickups, motor homes and vehicles of every description arrived at the Cook farm. Under the leadership of Tom Middleton, nearly 100 friends and neighbors loaded hay, tools, livestock and household furniture. As each crew unloaded at the new farm, a potluck lunch with hot sloppy joes was served to them by another crew. Before the day had ended, even the beds were made up in the Cook's new home.

Long-time Farm Bureau leader and member of the Ortonville Community Group, Leona Hutchings,



Some of the 31 trucks involved in the Ortonville Community Group "Moving Bee" line up to move the Paul Cook family from Oakland County to Ubyly in the Thumb. Nearly 100 friends and neighbors helped make the 85-mile move.

reports: "In all my years, I have never seen such cooperation as we had on this moving day. It sure was a wonderful feeling to see so many members, neighbors

and friends working together. The kids were home from school and college so we had many young hands working with the rest of us."

According to Leona, the

Ortonville Community Group had already had the experience of moving another farm several years ago, and that's why this latest community project went so

smoothly. She credits the big turn-out to the fact that the Paul Cook family, throughout their years in the Ortonville area, had often helped their neighbors.

### President's Message

## Losing Where We Should Be Winning

(Continued from Page 2)

inflation? Very little, I'm afraid. One has to ask himself, "Has our government grown out of control?"

Let me cite an example. In April of 1978, Joseph A. Califano, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare reported that the HEW had been unable to account for \$7 billion dollars. The June 12 issue of TIME magazine carried an article entitled "The Beneficent Monster." It pointed out that the HEW started in 1953 with a budget of \$5.4 billion of which \$3.4 billion was the Social Security program. The 1979 budget is \$182 billion dollars. TIME reports, "HEW has the third largest budget in the world, outranked only by the governments of the U.S. and the Soviet Union — to waste \$7 billion a year, HEW had to misspend 19 million dollars a day, every day, for 365 days". To put 7 billion dollars in perspective, it is equivalent to three times the total cash receipts of all Michigan farms in 1977.

How can government ask us to curb our prices, to hold the line on wages, when it spends money like that?

There is real inefficiency in our government.

Contributing to inflation and inefficiency is the overwhelming volume of government regulations. In general, they have costs which far outweigh the benefits.

Government regulation of any business is a tax largely imposed by unelected officials. If a government agency requires a business to spend money to achieve some objective, it is no different than an increase in business taxes used for similar purposes. Since regulation is essentially a tax on investors and employers, it obviously discourages investment and employment.

There are some 87 federal regulatory agencies; two dozen of them created since 1970. These agencies employ over 100,000 people and their runaway expansion can be gauged by the fact that the Federal Register, the book of federal regulations, has tripled in size from 20,000 pages in 1970, to 65,000 pages in 1978.

Productivity, production per hour of work, is affected in ways that are obvious and

direct. Regulations invariably require that labor and investment be devoted to activities which do not add to marketable production. That is one of the reasons why we are losing in the areas of productivity and competition. We have people doing unproductive work projects.

An additional cost of regulation is the resources that must be employed in interpreting, challenging and attempting to change regulations. The skills of many lawyers, accountants and lobbyists are unproductively employed in this game between business and government.

America was founded on the principles of protecting the opportunity of the "small guy." We hear much about the small businessman and the family farm. These institutions have succeeded, through competition, to make this country great.

Yet I submit to you that government regulation, to the extent we are experiencing, is killing the "golden goose." Small businessmen, and I include farmers, cannot afford fulltime lawyers, people to complete forms,

regulation readers and other unproductive expenses. Large corporations can. They are growing, while small businesses shrink and competition becomes less.

Citizens are fed up with the waste in government, huge government spending programs, inflation, regulation and taxation.

We, as Farm Bureau members and as citizens, must let our elected officials know our thoughts. We must spur them into action to initiate solutions.

As an organization, we have called for balancing the budget. I believe the time has come for us to join the movement already underway calling for a Constitutional Amendment to require a balanced federal budget. We have in our Michigan Constitution a provision requiring a balanced state budget. That, with the passage of the Headlee amendment, should provide tax limitation for us. A similar program would be good for America.

We can call for a moratorium on new regulations. We must work for a program that provides a review of present regulations,

weighing costs against the benefits. This program must have authority to eliminate those regulations in which costs outweigh their benefits.

We must insist that Congress tighten up governmental practices where waste and corruption occur.

I have a concern for America, and concern for American agriculture, too. Each are dependent on the other. Neither can be strong independently.

Agriculture has prospered because it has been productive; because it has been competitive. These qualities blossomed in an atmosphere of freedom guaranteed by a Constitution, protected by a government dedicated to the protection of freedom.

Freedom can never exist for a people who want to be secure and comfortable without effort. Freedom is not a condition which can be earned by one generation and simply inherited by the next. It has to be continually re-earned, year after year, generation after generation.

I have a concern for America. I hope you share that concern.

ELTON R. SMITH

# A Day in the Life of a Regional Representative

Story by Connie Lawson  
Photos by Marcia Ditchie

## North Region--"Taking its Place in the Community as the Voice of Agriculture"



Young Farmer programs are growing under the leadership of young farmers like Dan Hemmes (right), reports regional representative Ray Wood.

"To be honest, Farm Bureau in the North Region seemed to be at a low ebb when I moved into the area," says Ray Wood, regional representative for Alpena, Cheboygan, Charlevoix, Emmet, Montmorency, Otsego and Presque Isle counties. "There just wasn't the general pride in belonging and although a few key leaders kept the programs going, the important factor -- the membership -- just was not involved."

The northern Michigan counties in which Ray works and lives are largely rural with many farms, recreational and conservation properties and Ray was concerned that agriculture's influence in the area would be eroded without a strong farm organization to represent farmers' views. He also believed that the job of speaking for agriculture and establishing stronger member ties to the county and state organization must come from the members.

The early months in the region were spent becoming acquainted with current leaders in the county Farm Bureau and attending every possible Farm Bureau function. "I was looking for potential leaders -- people who responded to the issues, expressed their ideas clearly and who were interested in the growth of agriculture in the area," says Ray. "New programs such as Safemark and the rural crime prevention program provided the opportunity to get them more actively involved with Farm Bureau and after the early support that was needed, I just let them go with it, and the programs are showing real progress. There's more to do in this region to get members involved, but I believe that it

would have been dishonest for me to take the lead in actually running these programs." If Farm Bureau in Northern Michigan was to be a farmers' organization, he reasoned, his job was to get farmers to run it.

Ray is particularly proud of the gains in member involvement demonstrated at the county annual meetings in 1978. Attendance throughout the region surpassed preceding years and in four counties, over 50 percent of the membership took part in the annual meeting proceedings. "The counties have been able to attract more members to the meetings because of the more professional conduct of the business meeting. There is a distinct trend among farmers today to see Farm Bureau as a professional affiliation and a well-structured meeting reinforces that image. There is still the social aspect, but the thing that creates pride in the organization is that it is taking its place in the community as the voice of agriculture."

Farm Bureau members in Alpena and Presque Isle counties have demonstrated that their county organization can provide leadership in meaningful programs for area farmers. In response to a growing number of farm thefts, the Local Affairs committees contacted the Sheriff's Department to coordinate a rural crime prevention program for the two counties. Joyce Foster (Presque Isle County) and Steve Huick (Alpena) report that to date thirty percent of the farms in the two counties have participated in the program.

Working together in the region also marks the operation of the Direct Marketing programs.

Presque Isle and Otsego counties provide a delivery and storage point for surrounding counties to facilitate distribution of the MACMA direct marketing products. "This kind of cooperation and good planning has really improved the acceptance of the program in this region," says Ray. During the December citrus promotion, over 1900 units of citrus products were distributed through the storage facilities at Estelle's in Otsego County for Emmet, Charlevoix and Otsego counties, and Karsten's in Presque Isle for Montmorency, Alpena and Presque Isle Farm Bureau members.

The Safemark program has also shown good success in the North Region where dealers are able to compete with local tire and battery suppliers in price and quality. According to Sherm Ornsby, Safemark dealer in Cheboygan County, the member-only program has created interest among farmers in the area. In the first year of participation as a Safemark dealer, sales totalled \$5,500 and he expects to double the sales volume in 1978. "We advertise the products as a Farm Bureau member-only program, but the best advertisements are the Safemark tires and batteries. There's no question that the tires are a higher quality and the savings to the average farmer more than recover the cost of the annual membership."

"Everywhere in the region, there are successful programs being developed by the members. Reorganization of the District Women's program under the leadership of Myra Hand has brought new enthusiasm for the programs in health and safety, and communication with the non-farm public," reports Ray. "The Young Farmer program has really started to attract young farm men and women. Particularly as a result of the



Ray visits with John Frey, Charlevoix County Farm Bureau President and District 10 representative on the state Policy Development Committee.



Estelle Farms at Elmira provide a convenient storage and distribution point for MACMA member-to-member sales. Ray discusses the successful December citrus sales with Ed Estelle.

Young Farmer Leader Conference in March of last year, our young leaders returned to the county with the determination to become involved in the total Farm Bureau. The motivation and

pride in the organization is really taking shape in program activities and I fully expect to see a successful membership campaign conducted in all of the North Region counties."

### January 31 Deadline for BC-BS Eligibility

Two thirds of the American public say they consider the health of other family members as a major concern. A recent Roper Report ranked health third on a list of eleven personal and social problems cited in personal polls.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield encourages people to take care of themselves. By practicing preventive medicine, everyone gains and a positive impact can be

made against the rising cost of health care.

Hopefully, we will never need them, but when the need for health care services does arise, you can count on Blue Cross and Blue Shield protection.

Remember, in order to remain eligible for BCBS coverage through your county Farm Bureau Group, your 1979 Farm Bureau membership must be paid by January 31st.

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# NATIONAL NOTES

## USDA to Administer Foreign Investment Act

The Farm Bureau supported Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 requires the Department of Agriculture to receive information from foreign investors in U.S. farmland.

In compliance with the law, USDA has initiated the regulatory process to implement the act. Written comments from the public will be received until January 5. The regulations must be written by January 12 -- 90 days after the law's enactment.

The new law defines "foreign persons" and requires those who hold, acquire or transfer interests in "agricultural land" to report their holdings to the Department. It also specifies reporting periods and the contents of reports. Reports will be available for public inspection at the Department within 10 days after they are received. No reports are required until the regulations become effective.

The act gives the Secretary some regulatory discretion in the area of enforcement and

implementation, including requiring additional information from foreign investors beyond that specified in the act, defining "agricultural land," and other areas related to compliance.

In assessing reports, the Secretary will look at the effects of foreign investment on family farms and rural communities and will periodically report his findings to the President, to Congress and to appropriate state Departments of

Agriculture, a USDA release says.

Bergland said he is particularly interested in comments on the following topics:

-- Definition of 'agriculture land';

-- Nature of the interest the 'foreign person' has in 'agricultural land' that would trigger reporting requirements; and,

-- Whether there should be a minimum acreage figure which would trigger reporting requirements.


## Sugar Policy Due Soon

Congressional deliberations will likely resume in January on sweetener policy issues that were debated in the 95th Congress. Secretary Bergland has indicated that the President has agreed to support legislation in the next Congress to provide a domestic sugar program as well as to provide the authority for the U.S. to carry out its obligations under the International Sugar Agreement (ISA). Similarly, Congressman Foley, Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, has indicated that sugar will be among the first issues taken up by the committee.

Efforts in the 95th Congress

to implement the ISA and a new domestic price support program, while unsuccessful, have helped to define policy issues and establish boundaries within which national sweetener policy may ultimately be formulated. The debate has also sounded the concerns of the domestic sugar and corn sweetener industries and focused attention on the U.S. role in the international sugar market.

Sugar beet growers in the Thumb and Saginaw Valley regions of Michigan, as well as the entire U.S. sweetener industry, will be watching the progress of new domestic sugar policy closely as they attempt to remain a healthy and viable industry.



Washington D.C.

## Railcar Shortage May Worsen

A new USDA study projects U.S. grain sold off the farm will reach 414 million tons by the year 2000.

In commenting on the study, C. H. Fields, assistant director, AFBF national affairs, says the rail's share of that load will reach 165 million tons, which emphasizes the urgent need for improvement of the nation's railcar system.

The USDA study found there must be additional transportation equipment or substantially improved use of present equipment -- or both -- to handle the increased grain supply. Grain shippers continue to be faced with a major railcar shortage.

The report was prepared as a guideline for railroads, shippers and car building companies for the production demands for the remainder of this century.

## Delay Sought in Drug Use Statement

Farm Bureau has asked the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to delay until March 1, 1979, the publication of its final environmental impact statement (EIS) on "subtherapeutic antibacterial agents in animal feeds."

The delay, Farm Bureau said, is needed to provide "interested parties additional time" to analyze the complex draft EIS.

By using small doses of drugs in animal feed to hold production costs down, farmers reduce the risk of animal disease outbreaks and improve feed efficiency and

animal growth rates. FDA has said that such use of drugs may endanger human health.

The Department of Agriculture, in a recently released report responding to a congressional inquiry on the economic impact of a ban of subtherapeutic drugs, has said, "Restrictions on the use of growth-inducing drugs in animal feed initially would decrease production and increase farmers' costs and consumer prices, but by the fifth year these economic disadvantages would recover to the prerestriction levels."

## A Word from Washington

BY PETE HIVELY

AFBF WASHINGTON OFFICE

The message that rocketed back to Washington the morning after the elections was clear enough. Taxpayers by the thousands had taken a turn to the conservative side, and they spelled out in fairly certain tones that the time has come to cut monumental government excesses and reduce taxes.

This national tilt toward fiscal responsibility can be extremely important for the nation's farmers and ranchers. They now have the opportunity to press the case for less government spending and cuts in the regulation with a Congress ready to hear such conversations.

The idea that less is best is something new to Washington, but it is the only effective way to tackle our biggest national problem -- inflation.

This real cause should not be allowed to slip away from us over the next few months in a smokescreen of guidelines and jawboning.

A good many highly respected figures in business have warned that the treating of inflation symptoms, prices and wages, through voluntary guidelines and vague government pressures, will

do nothing to control inflation. But the danger exists that certain segments of the economy could be hurt through a less than even-handed administering of the program.

The vulnerable areas are those with smaller power bases. Agriculture, with only three percent of the nation's population, felt the sting of a Presidential veto of the Meat Import Bill, coupled with a delayed and inadequate feed grain program. Both are clear warnings that the farmer may bear a disproportionate share of the load in this wage and price control program.

On the other hand, the major unions, who still cling to considerable influence are scoffing with impunity at the White House efforts.

Yet, union wages make a major contribution to increasing the cost of food at the retail level.

The AFL-CIO simply rejected the Administration's seven percent wage increase guideline as "inadequate to protect members from rising prices."

Teamster's President Frank Fitzsimmons an-

nounced that he will not be bound by any guidelines at all when negotiations start for wage increases for 450,000 truckers, many of whom will be carrying agricultural products to the point of sale.

Nearly 300,000 airlines and railroad workers are fighting for increases of more than ten percent, plus fringe benefits. The Administration is going along with them, using the rationale that there has been a pattern of wage increases in

that industry of up to 38 percent over the last three years. Therefore, the argument goes, these additional increases are necessary to maintain equity within the industry.

All of this points to the difficulty in administering the treatment of the inflation symptoms, and gives new urgency to the pursuit of the real causes of inflation.

The Congress has a few more weeks at home. In

## Correction

In last month's "Anatomy of a Price, Part IV: Elasticity," there was a typographical error in the second paragraph. If you are saving this series by Dr. Paul Kindinger, we suggest you paste this replacement paragraph over the one which appeared in the December issue:

When, for instance, there is a one percent change in price and the quantity supplied or demanded changes by less than one percent, the supply or demand is said to be inelastic. If, however, the quantity had responded by changing more than one percent, the supply or demand would be considered elastic. Unit Elasticity is the term used when both quantity and price change in exactly the same proportions.

Because of the volume of annual meeting material in this issue, Dr. Kindinger's continuing series will not appear. Watch for it next month: Part V: Competition.

addition to getting ready for the holidays, now might be an excellent time for voters to reinforce the ideas they took to the ballot box in November.



### JUST ONE HAND!

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# CAPITOL REPORT

Robert E. Smith

## Probate Code, Inheritance Tax, Change



The Michigan Legislature recessed on December 15 for the Christmas holidays. In the last minute rush, much necessary legislation passed in order to implement the constitutional provisions voted by the people November 7. Other legislation died and will need to be re-introduced in the new session beginning early in January.

Some of the legislation included Probate Code; HB 4475 finally passed. It has been under consideration during most of the two-year session. It is a very complicated piece of legislation but it is based on most of the principles of the national uniform probate code. The concept has been supported by Farm Bureau.

Michigan's probate code has not been changed since 1939. It has been obsolete and difficult to understand and has resulted in unreasonable costs in the settling of estates. The new code is designed to streamline the handling of estates and guardianships.

Small estates up to \$20,000 (increased from \$7,500) can be closed without court action. All parties must be notified of their rights to request a court review. Homestead exemptions have been increased from \$3,500 to \$10,000. Bonding requirements have also been reduced. There are numerous other changes, however, it continues the protection of property, payment of taxes and debts, and also protects the wishes of the deceased person.

Any person who has an estate plan should reconsider his present plan in light of the new probate code. Anyone intending to do estate planning should seek legal advice to determine the effect of the new code.

The new law also increases the exemption for a spouse from the present \$30,000 to \$65,000 and increases the exemption for a family member from the present \$5,000 to \$10,000. This will be helpful to everyone. It was

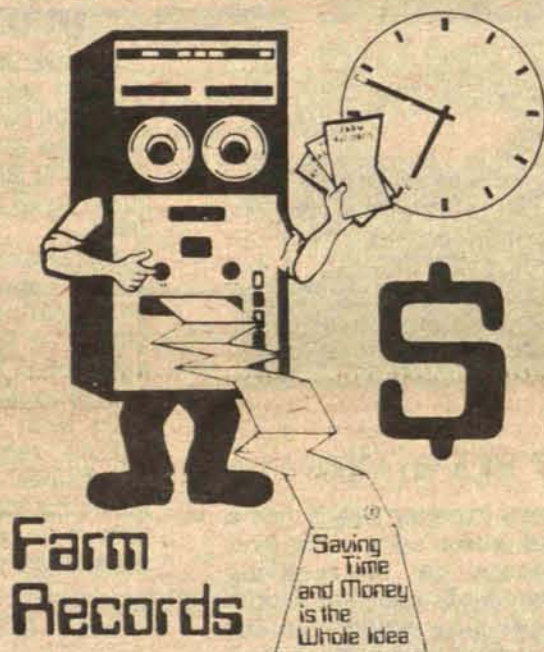
necessary to increase the rate of inheritance tax on larger estates in order to offset the several million dollars loss of revenue that will result. However, for most estates it will mean a considerable tax savings provided the land

continues in agriculture. It is estimated that 1/4 of all farm land transfers are for the purpose of estate settlement.

This is the first change in the Michigan Inheritance tax exemptions since 1925. Back in 1925 it is estimated that the

average farm was worth about \$8,000. Today the estimate is \$180,000 average.

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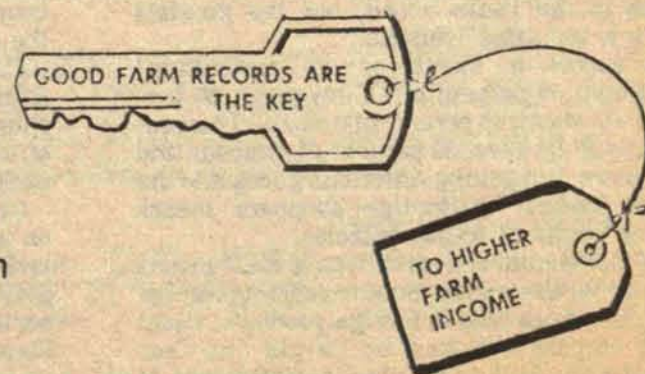
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#### INHERITANCE TAX LAW CHANGES

The new act contains a section that will exempt one-half of the state inheritance tax on farmland provided that the land is placed in Public Act 116 for a minimum ten-year period. The other half of the state inheritance tax would be deferred for the full ten years without penalty or interest.

This legislation will make Michigan's law compatible with the new Federal estate law which provides special benefits to farmers providing the land is kept in agriculture for 15 years. This will make it much easier to pass farmland on to an heir without having to sell the land to pay the taxes.

# INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE

# DISCUSSION TOPIC

by **KEN WILES**  
Manager Member Relations

Within the lifetime of most persons reading this page, a full turnabout has taken place in the attitude of most American farmers toward world trade.

Until the start of World War II, farmers, like the rest of the nation, were generally suspicious of anything foreign, including overseas trade.

Farmers, perhaps more than other groups, represented the heart of American isolationism and protectionism. Their attitude arose naturally out of the life the farmer led. Small-farm agriculture fostered a fierce independence, because it forced the farmer to be self-sufficient - to rear his family and improve his life almost exclusively with the human and natural resources found within his own boundary fences. Rightly or wrongly, the American farmer felt he did not need foreign trade.

World War II shattered this self-contained view of the world. American farmers produce a flood tide of agricultural commodities - enough to allow this nation to win the war, and to sustain the rebirth of war - ravaged lands and aid underdeveloped countries. However, American agriculture did not follow up on the major advantage it had established in world markets. The American farmer was no longer opposed to foreign trade. He and the rest of the nation just failed to recognize it as an essential marketing opportunity to be seized upon and developed.

Instead, the energy of U.S. agriculture was absorbed in coping with the changes that brought family farming to a new level of professionalism, requiring skills and financial support previously unknown. Ironically, some of the problems of that era might have been solved with greater attention to export market opportunities than to domestic market problems. However, the painful, professionalization of farming which climaxed during the 50's and 60's served to prepare the American farmer for his next great opportunity in world markets.

That chance came in the early 70's with the coincidence of crop failures in several areas of the globe and heavy foreign purchase of U.S. grain and other commodities. Hardly a farmer in the land can doubt the impact of foreign sales on domestic commodity prices. Now, several years later, fluctuations in foreign demand have brought home the other half of the lesson: depending on how well he competes, the American farmer can be helped or hurt by international markets in the same way he can be effected by domestic markets.

It seems whenever they talk about the long-term prosperity of American farmers, major farm organizations and government officials mention the need for expanding exports.

The government's attitude towards exports is changing, according to Secretary of Agriculture, Bob Bergland. "As long as we've had a policy, we've been surplus-oriented," he says. "We'd build up a surplus and then have to invent a way to get rid of it. Now we're developing a marketing attitude."

Why are exports so important? According to Bob Wisner, Extension Economist of Iowa State University, "We've reached somewhat of a plateau as far as domestic use of corn and wheat is concerned. There's a potential for some growth in the years ahead, but the greatest growth is for sales overseas."

We export a fourth of all agricultural production: 50 percent of all soybeans, 60 percent of all wheat, 40 percent of cotton, 30 percent of corn and tobacco, 50 percent of almonds and much more. But getting American goods into the market baskets of foreign shoppers means tackling plenty of trade obstacles.

National commodity associations staff export sales offices all over the globe to promote foreign use of American food in foreign products. Giant export corporations such as Cargill and Continental work daily to broaden the U.S. share of international trade dollars. USDA agricultural attaches and other government trade officials

negotiate constantly for more foreign sales.

Still, all this hard work to open trade doors sometimes slams up against tall, hard walls called trade barriers. Government-imposed tariffs on imported goods and non-tariff measures like quotas, subsidies and standard codes, continually inhibit movement of goods in and out of trading countries.



## MUST MEET STANDARDS

Let's say an American exporter finally has a foreign buyer for a food product. One of the first barriers the shipper faces is the receiving country's technical standards code. It details such things as container sizes, quality grades and permissible chemicals for processed food stuffs. It also specifies packing containers and quality impurity of standards for other commodities. Imports are inspected at port side to check these codes.

"Some governments use all this as unnecessary barriers to trade, to keep products to help their own producers," says John Hudson, Director of Trade Policies at USDA. Codes are based on public health, environmental preservation, and consumer safety - things that "are hard to negotiate," Hudson says. And governments currently can impose these at will, with little warning to their trading partners.

Most imports in the United States have to meet the same standards as our domestic produce, Hudson notes. USDA and the Customs Bureau inspect products at entry ports.

## DUTIES AND TARIFFS

Once the product is accepted into the buying country, various fees are imposed on the value of the shipment.

Customs duties are charged in many countries. Governments take a percentage on the shipment's transaction price, the market price of the import or its value in the exporting nation's domestic market.

On top of that, importers regularly levy tariffs on incoming goods. Each country has its own tariff schedule listing merchandise and rate of duty to be paid to the government for their importation. The tariff schedule of the United States lists hundreds of foreign-produced items on which U.S. levies duties - automobiles, wine, cameras, shoes, farm products and many others.

But some countries use tariffs to restrict trade as well as to collect revenue. A century ago, import duties were major revenue sources and they still are in many small countries. But now they are used more to protect domestic industry - to up prices on imported goods.

The European Community (EC) is notorious for its variable levies - a non-tariff barrier that also involves charges to the exporter. When the levy is added to the imported item, the import usually ends up costing more or about the same as the domestic product. U.S. corn, for example, may bring only \$3.00 a bushel at the port of entry, but costs EC livestock feeders about \$6.00. This gives the home-grown item a break - regardless of quality.

## QUOTAS MAY BE IMPOSED

Another non-tariff barrier that traps our exports is quotas. Governments can and do set limits on the amounts of products to be allowed into their markets. When the levy is reached, all incoming shipments are cut off. Quotas can apply to all countries or on a country-by-country basis.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) specifically forbids quotas. Yet the 110 participating GATT countries continue to set quotas - in many cases, contrary to that agreement. This includes the U.S. with meat and cheese import quotas.

To keep constant count of imports, some nations require their importers to obtain a government license before bringing a product in. If the country wants no more of a product, it refuses to give the buyer the license. GATT negotiators are trying to end the use of licenses.

## ARE EXPORT SUBSIDIES FAIR?

A particularly complex trade barrier is the maze of subsidies each country provides its producers and exporters.

The EC's "value added tax" (VAT) is considered by the U.S. as an unfair export subsidy. The value added tax is similar to the sales tax but is added at each step of the manufacturing and distribution of a product until it is sold. European countries derive major income from the value added tax while the U.S. uses some income taxes. Under GATT rules, indirect taxes such as the VAT may be added to imports and rebated on exports.

The U.S. has some export subsidies of its own. The Domestic International Sales Corporation (DISC) is one of the most controversial. The Revenue Act of 1971 allows a DISC (any corporation with 95 percent of its income from exports and 95 percent of its assets related to exports) to defer 50 percent of the U.S. income taxes on its export income. The U.S. Treasury Department recently reported that DISC's boosted U.S. imports an estimated \$2.9 billion higher in 1976 than they would have been without the tax break. But DISC's also cost the Treasury \$1.2 billion in lost tax revenues.

## TRADE AGREEMENTS

Though the purpose of trade agreements between nations is to promote and regulate trade, some deals also inhibit trade.

Some agreements made by the EC give preference to particular country's goods. For instance, EC will buy citrus first from Israel and give them a break on the tariff charges. The EC has preferential trade agreements with European, African, Asian and Caribbean

(Continued on Page 31)

# Discussion Topic

(Continued from Page 30)

nations. They'll buy from them and impose fewer restrictions.

Other trade arrangements give certain countries preferential treatment under quotas and tariffs - though GATT says the non-discrimination rule of "most favored nation" should be used so that every country ships to the same country at the same rate. The only exception should be less developed countries who need help in broadening exports.

Governments can use agreements to help domestic producers, particularly if those producers are in trouble. Voluntary restraining agreements, such as Orderly Marketing Agreements, allow the exporting country to agree to limit exports to a certain amount. These are negotiated annually.

# FOREIGN POLICY

U.S. government foreign policy stands can have definite impact on foreign trade. Embargoes, levied at specific countries or to prevent extreme shortages in the U.S., stop all trade on specific goods or all goods. Well-remembered recent embargoes include the 1973 soybean embargo and the Soviet wheat embargo.

Because of human rights considerations, our government forbids certain trade benefits for certain countries. To get U.S. commodity loans and low import duties, a nation must have "most-favored nation" status with us. To qualify, they must prove they have freedom of immigration and report annually to Congress. Currently, most Communist countries do not have "most-favored nation" status, and we trade with them on a cash-only basis. Congressional hearings on new legislation changing this law would open export credit to

non-market nations, but the issue is extremely controversial.

A major labor policy that affects export trade mandates a certain percentage of export shipping to be on U.S. flag vessels. Exporters claim this is more expensive, but the U.S. Merchant Marine says it is essential that U.S. goods use U.S. fleets.

# THE FUTURE

The world is very much interdependent. One part of the world cannot starve while others eat well.

Careful growth in international trade could help assure the world of plenty of food and other goods and a more stable world economy. Governments will continue to reuse regulations to protect their own interests.

And American goods will continue to face tall, hard obstacles in export markets.

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## REAL ESTATE

**FOR SALE:** 35 acres with a nearly new three bedroom ranch home, good barn, paved road located near Hudson, \$65,000. State-Wide of Adrian. 517-265-7560. (1-11-25f)

**PEACH FARM** - 35 acres in Watervliet Township. First class site, north slope. Write: Solid M. Spread, Hartford 49057, or phone Solid-M. Chateau (616) 424-3752. \$152,000.00 firm. (3-11-25f)

**KALKASKA 10 ACRES,** \$10,500. Well, Pump, Tank, Electric, Septic tank, South Boardman, 50 acres, \$24,500. Good Road. Owner, Esther Carpenter, Ozard, R.R. 1, Moran, Michigan 49760. (3-11-25f)

**240 ACRE CATTLE CASH CROP FARM.** Shiawassee County, \$800 acre with buildings. Land contract available. Frank T. Santrucek, realtor, Michigan State Realty, Owosso. 517-723-2239. (1-11-24f)

**FOR SALE:** Forty acres cut over deer hunting area. 1'm eighty-three and falling health, too old to hunt. Write for price. Adam Soblaskey, Moran, MI 49760. (1-11-25f)

**FOR SALE:** 35 1/2 acres, mostly woods, has drilled well, mobile home and garage in Homer School District. Road black topped. Phone 517-568-3149. (1-11-22f)

**FOR SALE:** Farm - 120 acres, 80 acres tillable - 8 acres timber, 5 bedroom house, barn, out buildings - double garage - black top road - Hesperia, MI. 616-854-2083. (1-11-25f)

## HAY LISTING

Michigan Farm Bureau is now making available a Hay and Silage Listing Service. Buyers and sellers can list their needs and offerings in the classified section of the Michigan Farm News. The service is free to Farm Bureau members. If you have hay for sale or want to purchase hay, simply mail your request to: Hay and Silage Listing, Michigan Farm Bureau, 7273 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48909. Your ad, 25 words or less, should include the amount and quality of hay or silage you want to buy or sell plus your name, address and phone number.

**HAY FOR SALE** - First and second cuttings. Alfalfa timothy mix and straight alfalfa. 25,000 bales. Lee Breggsbois, Freeland, Michigan. Phone (517) 695-5692. (11-31-21f)

**HAY FOR SALE:** 1800 bales of 1st cutting alfalfa with orchard grass. Jerry Hartenbourg, 4157 Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, MI. Phone 517-663-3084. (1-11-22f)

**ALFALFA HAY** for sale: 1st and 2nd cutting. 5,000 bales. Duane Vasold, Freeland, MI 48623. 517-695-5140. (1-11-16f)

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