

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS



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New Technology Pays For Past at Parson Chemical Plant

First Time Commercial Use of ISV in EPA Chemical Cleanup

Workers enter the hood to lay down a layer of graphite in a path between four electrodes to start a flow of electricity down into the ground that will melt the contaminated soil. This was the first ever commercial application of "ISV" technology.

FDA Gives BST Green Light: 90-Day Moratorium Still in Effect

The Food and Drug Administration has announced approval of the new animal drug sometribove, a recombinant bovine somatotropin (BST) product, for increasing milk production in dairy cows.

Sometribove increases milk output by supplementing a cow's natural BST, a hormone produced in the pituitary gland. Milk from treated cows has been found to have the same nutritional value and composition as milk from untreated cows.

"This has been one of the most extensively studied animal drug products to be reviewed by the agency," said FDA Commissioner David A. Kessler, M.D. "The public can be confident that milk and meat from BST-treated cows is safe to consume."

As reported by the General Accounting Office in September 1992, FDA found evidence in the submitted clinical trials that BST-treated cows have slightly increased incidence of mastitis. In March, an FDA advisory committee met to discuss concerns raised by GAO that antibiotic treatments for mastitis could lead to increased antibiotic residues in milk.

The committee concluded that adequate safeguards are in place to prevent unsafe levels of antibiotic residues from entering the milk supply. Nevertheless, additional steps have been taken to ensure that any unsafe residues in the milk of BST-treated cows are detected well before the milk or its products reach the grocery store shelves. Monsanto Co. of St. Louis, Mo., the drug's sponsor, has agreed to conduct a post-approval monitoring program that includes the following elements:

- A two-year tracking system of milk production and drug residues in 21 top dairy states, that will periodically compare the amount of milk discarded after BST is marketed to the amount discarded prior to approval.
- A 12-month comparison of the proportion of milk discarded due to positive drug tests between BST-treated and untreated herds.
- A reporting system to monitor all BST use and follow up on all complaints.
- The use of sometribove in 24 commercial dairy herds will be specifically monitored for mastitis, animal drug use and the resulting loss of milk.

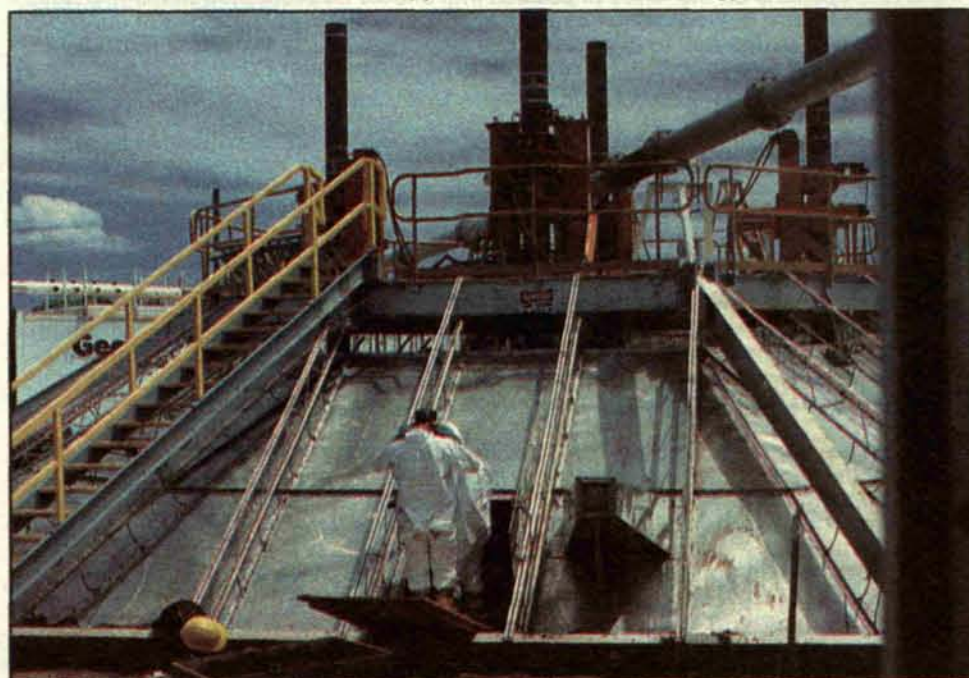
Continued page 4 "BST Approved"

A new technology for treating hazardous waste, originally developed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for treating radioactive waste, is being utilized for the first time ever on a commercial basis in Michigan, at an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Super Fund Site.

The process, called *in situ vitrification* (ISV), involves the "in place" electrical melting of soils and other earthen materials to 3,600 F for purposes of destroying, removing and/or permanently immobilizing hazardous materials that are present. Soil is converted into a rock-like material that's considered harmless, and the actual mass of the soil, once melted, is reduced by 20 to 30 percent. The resulting hole is then filled and covered with clean top soil and reseeded.

Geosafe Corporation, based out of Richland, Washington, is under an EPA contract to apply the technology at the Parson Chemical Site located in Eaton County, according to Leonard Zintak, EPA's on-scene coordinator for Region 5.

"What we're dealing with here is a mixture of pesticides, herbicides, and mercury,



which is difficult to treat by conventional methods," explained Zintak. "You just can't ship this contaminated soil off to a landfill. Offsite incineration can be ex-

remely expensive at about \$2,000 a cubic yard."

Continued on page 13, see "Parson Chemical Cleanup"

Corn Sweetener Added to NAFTA Sugar Definition

A major focal point of NAFTA debate within the farm community was effectively eliminated with Mexico's agreement to include corn-based sweeteners when determining if Mexico is a net surplus producer of sugar. The move is expected to win a number of new congressional supporters, as well as additional supporters from the agricultural community, according to MFB Commodity Specialist Bob Boehm.

"The U.S. sugar industry had worried that Mexico could displace a significant

amount of its domestic sugar consumption by converting its current sugar-sweetened beverage industry to High Fructose Corn Sweetener (HFCS)," Boehm explained. "If that were to occur under the original sugar provisions of NAFTA, U.S. producers had speculated that Mexico could export all of its displaced crystalline sugar from the beverage industry into the U.S."

With this change, Mexican sugar exports will be capped at 250,000 metric tons after the sixth year of the agreement, and HFCS

must be included in NAFTA's definition of domestic sugar production.

Mexico has also agreed to a price-based mechanism that would limit Mexican imports of fruits, citrus, and vegetables if U.S. producer pay prices were dramatically affected, according to U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor. Although details were not readily available, Mexican imports of those items would reportedly be controlled and limited by adjustable U.S. tariffs when needed to support U.S. prices.

Building Barns the Way They Used to

Kalamazoo County farmer Bill Saunders didn't know what to do with the old barn originally built in 1870 on his farm. But in 1988, he knew he had to make the difficult decision to either tear the old barn down or have it worked on so that it could continue to be used.

He opted for the latter and contracted with M. Stitt Barn Restoration of Hesperia to have the barn floors and sill beams replaced and the 32 foot by 64 foot barn upgraded for hay and equipment storage.

Unfortunately, after the barn had been jacked up off of its foundation, Kalamazoo County was hit with a fairly strong August thunderstorm. When it was over, the barn had been toppled and totally destroyed, taking a nearby silo with it as well.

At that time, Mike Stitt made a promise to Saunders that he would rebuild the barn to its original specifications, which was, coincidentally, made easier by some work Saunders had done previously.

Continued on page 20, see "Building Barns..."

A team of oxen pull the second bent of the barn into place, as workers help guide the beams into place. Approximately 60 workers were on hand to help and learn some old tricks of barn raising.

Photo: Mike Smith



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Grassroots Policy Development: Making Your Organization Work For You

I believe this has been one of the most exciting policy development (PD) seasons ever in Farm Bureau. County PD committees across the state worked diligently to generate well-thought-out local, state and national policy recommendations for their county annuals. These proposed policies generated spirited debate and discussion.

Much of the credit goes to the Farm Bureau leaders who serve on the county Policy Development committees. These men and women put many hours into gathering input and opinions on the kinds of policies that should be presented at the annuals. Their efforts were helped along this year by a special Policy Development questionnaire that was distributed to all regular members through the **Michigan Farm News**. Nearly 2,200 of these forms were returned to Michigan Farm Bureau and forwarded to the county PD committees.

Policies approved at the county annual meetings dealing with local issues became the official policy of the county Farm Bureau for the coming year. I urge you to study and understand your local policies, so you can assist your county in the next important step: working to implement that policy on the local level.

Policy recommendations dealing with state and national issues were forwarded to the Michigan Farm Bureau Policy Development Committee. This hard working group, chaired by MFB Vice President Wayne Wood, spent the fall researching issues, talking to experts and reviewing input from MFB commodity advisory committees. They are now carefully studying the county policy recommendations and consolidating them into a slate of policies to be considered by the delegates to the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting, Nov. 28 - Dec. 1, in Detroit.

Although the exact shape of the policy recommendations is still being formed, I think we'll see discussion at the annual meeting revolve around these major issues:

- balancing the federal budget
- health care reform
- reform of the endangered species act
- school finance and education reform
- reorganization of the U.S. Department of Agriculture
- agriculture and its impact on the environment (especially in regard to water quality and chemical use)
- limiting federal taxes
- private property rights
- the shape of the '95 Farm Bill
- farmland preservation

Policies approved on state issues will become the official policy of the Michigan Farm Bureau for the coming year. You'll be able to follow the successful progress your organization makes in implementing those policies by reading "Capitol Corner" in the **Michigan Farm News** each month.

Policies on national and international issues will be forwarded to the AFBF Policy Development Committee, of which I will be a member. That committee's proposed policies will be considered by the Michigan delegates to the AFBF annual meeting, Jan. 9 - 13, in Ft. Lauderdale.

It's always great to be a Farm Bureau member, but it's especially exciting to be involved in our organization during policy development time. You can be proud of the effort your leaders put into making sure the policies reflect your wishes and the needs of the agricultural industry.

Jack Laurie
Jack Laurie, President
Michigan Farm Bureau

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In Brief...

Midwest Disaster Payments Reach \$207 Million

The USDA said it has distributed more than \$207 million in direct disaster aid in nine Midwestern states that suffered rain and flood damage last summer. The aid has so far been in the form of crop disaster payments to farmers, loans to farmers and businesses, emergency food stamps to families, and other food assistance through relief agencies.

The department said it has paid \$75 million in crop disaster payments to 27,368 farmers. Crop insurance payments have totaled nearly \$101.5 million. The distribution so far represents only a small fraction of the \$6.2 billion in overall aid Congress approved in August, according to an *Associated Press* report.

Ethanol Push Needs Attention

Farmers and others interested in developing markets for ethanol need to contact the White House "immediately, if not sooner," according to Rep. Glenn Poshard (D-Ill.). "In the very near future, the administration will rule as to whether ethanol will be used in the major cities of this country," Poshard said. "Ethanol has passed the test and should be given the chance to work in this country."

Poshard said he has met with Vice President Al Gore and EPA Administrator Carol Browner urging them to give ethanol the green light. The congressman said administrative proceedings and rulings have held up implementation of ethanol as provided in the Clean Air Act.

Hedging Tax Ruling Good for Agriculture

People in the agricultural industry were quick to praise the decision by the Internal Revenue Service to treat income from most hedging transactions as ordinary income rather than capital gains for tax purposes.

The National Grain and Feed Association called the decision "decisive, appropriate and responsible." Commodity Futures Trading Commission member Joseph B. Dial says it should remove "a cloud of legal uncertainty hanging over U.S. agribusiness."

Previously, when hedging transactions were treated as capital gains and losses, with gains subject to tax and losses not eligible for writeoff, much of the incentive for hedging to minimize market risk or lock in future prices was lost.

Espy Loses Appeal on Meat Labels

A federal appeals court has again delayed, at least until January, USDA attempts to require safe handling labels on raw meat and poultry products. The 5th U.S. Court of Appeals refused to overturn a Texas judge's order blocking USDA's label directive from taking effect on Oct. 15. According to the federal judge hearing the case, the USDA failed to show enough of a food-safety emergency to require new labels with just two months notice. The new labels would have required pictures and instructions on how to handle, cook, refrigerate and thaw raw meat.

USDA has announced that it will issue new safe handling regulations rather than appeal the court decision. Espy said that pursuing a lengthy court battle could thwart the goal of providing safety information to consumers quickly. The new regulations could mean mandatory labels by February or March. By starting over, USDA will have to publish the proposed regulations and allow interested groups 30 to 90 days to comment. USDA would then publish final rules with an implementation deadline.

October Farm Prices Up Over 4 Percent

The index of prices received by U.S. farmers for their products in October was down .7 percent from September, but was up 4.3 percent from a year ago, according to USDA figures. Price declines in October for cattle, lettuce, soybeans and tomatoes more than offset price gains for grapefruit, oranges, corn and eggs. The year to year increase was due to price gains for oranges, hogs, corn, and soybeans. Without the orange price change from last year, USDA said the index would have reflected only a slight increase.

The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest rates, taxes, and farm wage rates for October was up 1 percent from July and up 3.6 percent from October 1992. Since last surveyed in July, higher prices for feed, fuels, and self-propelled machinery and tractors, more than offset lower feeder cattle and fertilizer prices, USDA said.

Harvest an Excellent Time to Think About 1994 Plans

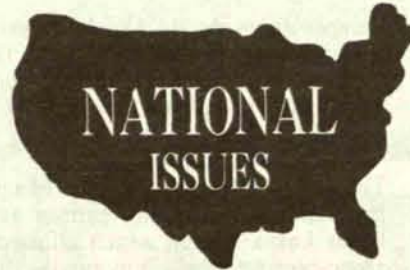
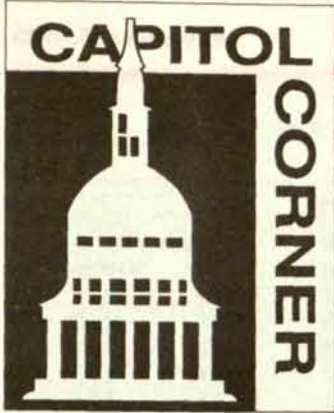
Harvest is an excellent time for farmers to begin thinking about plans for next year. In addition to crop rotation and production issues such as fertility and weed control, farmers should also think about areas in their fields where waterways or other erosion control measures would help reduce soil loss and control runoff.

"The ASCS has several cost-share programs that can help farmers install these structures, and winter is a good time to visit ASCS offices to talk about these programs," according to Jim Byrum, state executive director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). Farmers can construct waterways, filter strips and other erosion control structures with ASCS cost-share money, with the objective of reducing soil erosion and improving water quality.

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Education Reform

Several bills have been introduced and specifics are being debated by both House and Senate members. MFB has taken a position on several of the key elements of the Education Reform Plan (see page 17 for a question and answer presentation on school finance issues).

Career and Technical Education:

The governor's plan does not include funding for Career and Technical Education programs. These programs are extremely critical to agricultural education and FFA.

MFB supports the funding of the career and technical education programs beyond the basic per pupil grant.

Schools of Choice:

The governor's plan would allow school districts to "opt out" of the choice program, therefore not allowing out-of-district students into their system. The House has offered an "opt in" program requiring all school districts to adopt some type of in-district choice unless a public justification report is issued stating why choice will not be offered.

Another House proposal calls for "choice classrooms" providing options within their own school building. Parents could petition local school boards for a particular kind of instruction.

MFB supports the concept of schools of choice and continues to monitor specific proposals as they are presented.

Charter Schools:

The Senate has amended the charter schools legislation to exclude religious schools and has narrowed the definition of who can grant "charter school" status to school boards, state Board of Education, and universities, or a new state charter agency.

The House has introduced the concept of "public school academies," allowing local school districts to grant charters to a teacher or group of teachers. It allows the state authority to grant charters to local districts, intermediate school districts, community colleges, state public universities and certain state departments. It allows the state Board of Education to grant a charter only on appeal.

MFB supports the concept of charter schools and agrees with limiting the granting authority, but opposes the creation of a new state charter agency.

Boundary Commission:

Legislation has been introduced that would establish a statewide boundary commission that would develop a plan to reorganize various regional service districts, ISDs, community college boundaries and report to the Legislature any recommendations for changes to these boundaries. The Legislature would choose whether or not to act upon the recommendations.

MFB opposes the establishment of a boundary commission, and states that the reorganization of school districts should be studied and considered but should continue to be voluntary.

Parental Involvement Improvement:

The governor's proposal calls for an education advisory board which would set education goals and write a school improvement plan as required in P.A. 25 of 1990 (the Quality Education Act).

A new school governing board comprised of elected parents and teachers would estab-

lish policies regarding school building budgets, contracts with vendors, etc.

MFB supports the implementation of P.A. 25 and, therefore, supports the education advisory board, but opposes the school building governing board because it duplicates the local school board's role.

Longer School Day and Year

The House has introduced legislation that would lengthen the required school year by two days each year beginning in 1995-96 until the school year is 210 days in the year 2010. A waiver would be available for exemption from the school year requirement.

MFB supports the authority of the local school board to most effectively utilize their property and resources, therefore, the decision to either increase the length of the school day or increase the school year beyond the state required days should be the decision of the local school board.

Student Education Bank Account:

A bill has been introduced in the Senate that would establish a trust account of up to \$24 billion to help pay for the first two years of education or job training after high school.

The state would contribute \$200/year/student that would build up in the student's account during K-12 school years. Upon graduation from high school, the fund (\$2,400 in current dollars) would be used towards the first two years of college or trade school, and be considered full payment of community college tuition.

MFB opposes the college trust account because it does not directly involve K-12 education and any dollars that the state generates should be directed towards K-12 funding.

Education Warranty:

Upon issuance of a high school diploma, the school district would issue a warranty guaranteeing the graduate has achieved a set of basic proficiency skills. Up to two years after graduation, if an employer finds that an employee is deficient in certain skill areas, the employer and the student may make application to the school system that issued the warranty to be retrained in the deficient areas at no cost to the employer or the student. The employer must use a state issued proficiency test.

MFB supports the concept of an "educational warranty" if a diploma and warranty is issued only to those students who have met minimum state standards and authority be given to school systems to allow them to expel disruptive students.

STATUS

Several bills have been reported out of both the House and Senate committees and are being considered on the floors of both houses this week.

MFB CONTACT
Vicki Pontz, Ext. 2046

See page 17 For a question and answer presentation on school finance issues

Oil Pollution Liability

MFB POSITION

Farm Bureau opposes the unreasonable level of oil pollution liability or insurance and will file comments with the MMS to eliminate or significantly reduce the impact.

MFB CONTACT
Al Almy, Ext. 2040

The Oil Protection Act of 1990, enacted by Congress in response to the Valdez Alaska oil spill, now appears to be much broader than Congress intended. The act may apply to many businesses, individuals and farms, unless Congress takes action to correct mistakes.

The act requires firms and individuals to show proof of the ability to be financially responsible for \$150 million in potential oil pollution liability. For smaller firms without that level of assets, \$150 million in insurance would be required to cover each facility. The definition of "facility" in the act includes "any structure that is used to produce, transport or store petroleum." The term includes motor vehicles, rolling stock and pipelines.

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) of the U.S. Department of Interior has issued an advance notice of proposed rule-making to implement the act. MMS recognizes the problem businesses and farmers will have in complying with the \$150 million oil pollution liability or insurance requirements. However, the act does not appear to permit any flexibility for MMS to waive or limit the extent of the coverage.

Amendments to the Recreational Trespass Act

MFB POSITION

S.B. 504 and 505 have passed the Senate and the House and are awaiting the governor's signature. Farm Bureau offered several amendments to the original bill and supported the substitute.

MFB CONTACT
Vicki Pontz, Ext. 2046

Senate Bills 504 and 505, sponsored by Sen. Faust (D-Westland), amend the Recreational Trespass Act to allow a peace officer to seize property and enforce the act upon complaint of the landowner. Penalty provisions are provided for a first-time violator at 90 days in jail or \$100 fine or both, and subsequent violations within three years increase the fine to \$1,000 and 90 days in jail or both.

The courts may order the violator to pay the costs of prosecution and to make restitution for any damage to the property arising out of the violation. If the person trespasses while hunting or fishing, the court may revoke the person's hunting or fishing license for up to three years. Language offered by MFB also ensures that no cause of action shall arise against the owner of the property for an injury unless there was an unreasonable risk of harm that the owner was aware of and the owner failed to exercise reasonable care to make the condition safe.

Posting of property is not required on farmlands. No one may post another's property without written consent of the owner. The requirement that consent to use another's property has to be in writing was removed.

Senate Bill 505 amends the Revised Judicature Act to include violation of the Recreational Trespass Act in the definition of "crime," which was necessary to enforce the seizure of property.



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Weather

90-Day Forecast – Warmer Than Normal with Normal Precipitation Expected

Temperatures during October were more typical of late November or early December, with mean temperatures for the month generally ranging from 2-5 degrees F below normal.

The cold weather was the result of a persistent upper air troughing pattern over the Great Lakes region, which allowed cold, arctic-origin air masses to move southward into the central and eastern U.S. While some sections of the state experienced periods of heavy rain and significant fieldwork delays early, several stretches of drier weather allowed harvest to continue by month's end.

The current jet stream pattern accompanied by colder than normal temperatures is expected to continue for a least a few more weeks, with the latest National Weather Service 30-day outlook for November calling for below normal temperatures and near normal precipitation.

However, the biggest news weatherwise may be the recent strengthening of El-Nino circulation in the Equatorial Pacific Ocean. The current El-Nino event is now over three years old, the longest such event of the past century. If this circulation does continue to strengthen in the upcoming months, it may mean a warmer and drier than normal winter for Michigan. Sound familiar?

10/15/93 to 10/31/93	Temperature		Growing Degree Days		Precipitation	
	Observed Mean	Dev. From Normal	Actual Accum.	Normal Accum.	Actual (inch.)	Normal (inch.)
Alpena	44.9	-2.8	1991	2163	1.98	2.40
Bad Axe	46.2	-4.7	2313	2628	3.13	2.41
Detroit	51.9	-0.2	3132	2877	2.21	2.33
Escanaba	44.6	-3.3	1763	1697	2.11	2.57
Flint	48.5	-2.4	2651	2877	2.21	2.33
Grand Rapids	48.9	-1.2	2646	2943	4.32	2.99
Houghton	40.8	-4.1	1598	1948	1.90	2.57
Houghton Lake	45.5	-3.2	2180	2163	1.78	2.40
Jackson	49.1	-3.2	2663	2855	2.36	2.41
Lansing	48.5	-2.2	2636	2855	3.02	2.41
Marquette	41.5	-2.9	1634	1948	3.26	2.57
Muskegon	48.5	-2.9	2602	2495	1.75	2.94
Pellston	44.3	-2.4	1944	2241	2.74	2.75
Saginaw	49.0	-2.0	2579	2628	3.79	2.41
Sault Ste. Marie	41.5	-4.3	1479	1697	5.65	2.57
South Bend	51.2	-1.7	3020	2943	4.09	2.99
Traverse City	47.9	-2.5	2300	2241	1.13	2.75
Vestaburg	45.4	-5.1	2229	2571	2.75	2.59

Observed and growing degree day totals are accumulated from March 1 – August 31. Normals are based on district averages. Jeff Andresen, Ag Meteorologist, MSU

It should, as both of the past two winters, typified by warmer than normal temperatures, may have been, at least indirectly, related to El-Nino conditions several thousand miles away. Acknowledging the current strengthening of El Nino, the new National Weather Service 90-day Outlook for November through January calls for warmer than normal temperatures and near normal precipitation across much of Michigan.

Michigan and Major Commodity Area Extended Weather Outlook

T - Temp.	10/15... 10/31	10/15 12/31
P - Precip.	T.....P	T.....P
Michigan	B.....A	B.....A
W. Corn Belt	B.....B	B.....A
E. Corn Belt	B.....A	N.....A
Wint. Wheat Belt	N.....N	B.....A
Spr. Wheat Belt	N.....B	B.....N/A
Pac. NW Wheat	N.....N	A.....N
Delta	A.....N	A.....N
Southeast	N.....N	N.....N
San Joaquin	N.....N	A.....N

A-Above Average, B-Below Average, N-Normal, MA-Much Above, MB-Much Below, NP-No Precip. Source: National Weather Office

MDA Offers Tests for Dry Edible Bean Seed

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) is offering tests to detect diseases in dry edible bean seed, after a warm and humid summer created conditions conducive to the development of plant disease, according to Bill Schuette, director of MDA.

Some diseases are carried by seeds, including bacterial blight, bean common mosaic virus and anthracnose. Contamination of a field by disease can result in the loss of all or part of the crop.

Schuette said one way to ensure a healthy crop is to have dry bean seeds tested before the growing season. "Our tests for these diseases represent just one of the many ways the Department of Agriculture helps farmers grow healthy crops," he said. "This partner-

ship between our farmers and state government is vital to enhancing the strength of Michigan agriculture."

Laboratory testing is one of the measures farmers should take to prevent crop loss due to disease. Other important steps include the use of resistant varieties, field inspections, and seed treatment applications. Bin-run seed which has not been field inspected or lab tested should not be planted.

All dry bean varieties are susceptible to bacterial blight and are candidates for blight testing.

If a farmer wants several tests done on a single sample, five pounds is usually suffi-

cient unless the seed being tested is large, such as kidney or cranberry bean seeds. A gallon for large seed and one-half gallon for small seed is sufficient.

Samples for testing should be securely packaged and sent to: Michigan Department of Agriculture, Laboratory Division - Seed, 1615 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing, Mich. 48823. Farmers should submit samples in autumn or early winter for faster turnaround time. Results are reported on a first-come first-serve basis.

For further information, contact: Steve McGuire at (517) 337-5084 or Dr. Praim Sood at (517) 337-5091.

Michigan Crop Management Conference, Dec. 15-16

Discussion of increased regulations that will affect on-farm and commercial pesticide management will be part of the Michigan Crop Management Conference, Dec. 15-16. The conference, intended for growers, crop consultants and agribusiness representatives, will be held at the Holiday Inn South, 6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing. The program will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, and from 8 a.m. to noon, Thursday.

The opening session, following comments by MSU President Peter McPherson, will cover the new worker protection standards and other pesticide management regulations. Concurrent technical sessions Wednesday afternoon will focus on field crop production, a regulatory update and field crop pest management.

Thursday's program will include concurrent technical sessions on pesticide applicator training, pest management in field crops, fruit and vegetable production, and field crop fertility practices.

The conference is being sponsored by Michigan State University Extension, the MSU Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, and the Michigan Agri-Business Association (MABA).

Conference registration details and a program brochure can be obtained by writing to the MABA, 2500 Kerry St., Suite 104, Lansing, MI 48912-3657, or by calling (517) 485-8580.

BST Approved by FDA (continued from page 1)

In the Aug. 24, 1990, issue of *Science Magazine*, FDA scientists summarized more than 120 studies that examined the human safety of recombinant BST. The agency's conclusion that BST poses no risk to human health has been affirmed by scientific reviews in the past several years conducted by the National Institute of Health, the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment and drug regulatory agencies of Canada, the United Kingdom and the European Economic Community, and by an issues audit by the HHS Office of Inspector General.

In May, FDA sponsored a two-day joint advisory committee meeting on the labeling of food products derived from BST-treated cows. Based on the conclusions of the committee members, and on its review of the facts, FDA has concluded that it lacks a basis under the statute to require special labeling of these foods. Food companies, however, may voluntarily label their products provided the information is truthful and not misleading.

"There is virtually no difference in milk from treated and untreated cows," Kessler said about BST. "In fact, it's not possible using current scientific techniques to tell them apart. We have looked carefully at every single question raised, and we are confident this product is safe for consumers, for cows and for the environment." Somtribove is manufactured by Monsanto. It will be marketed under the trade name Posilac.



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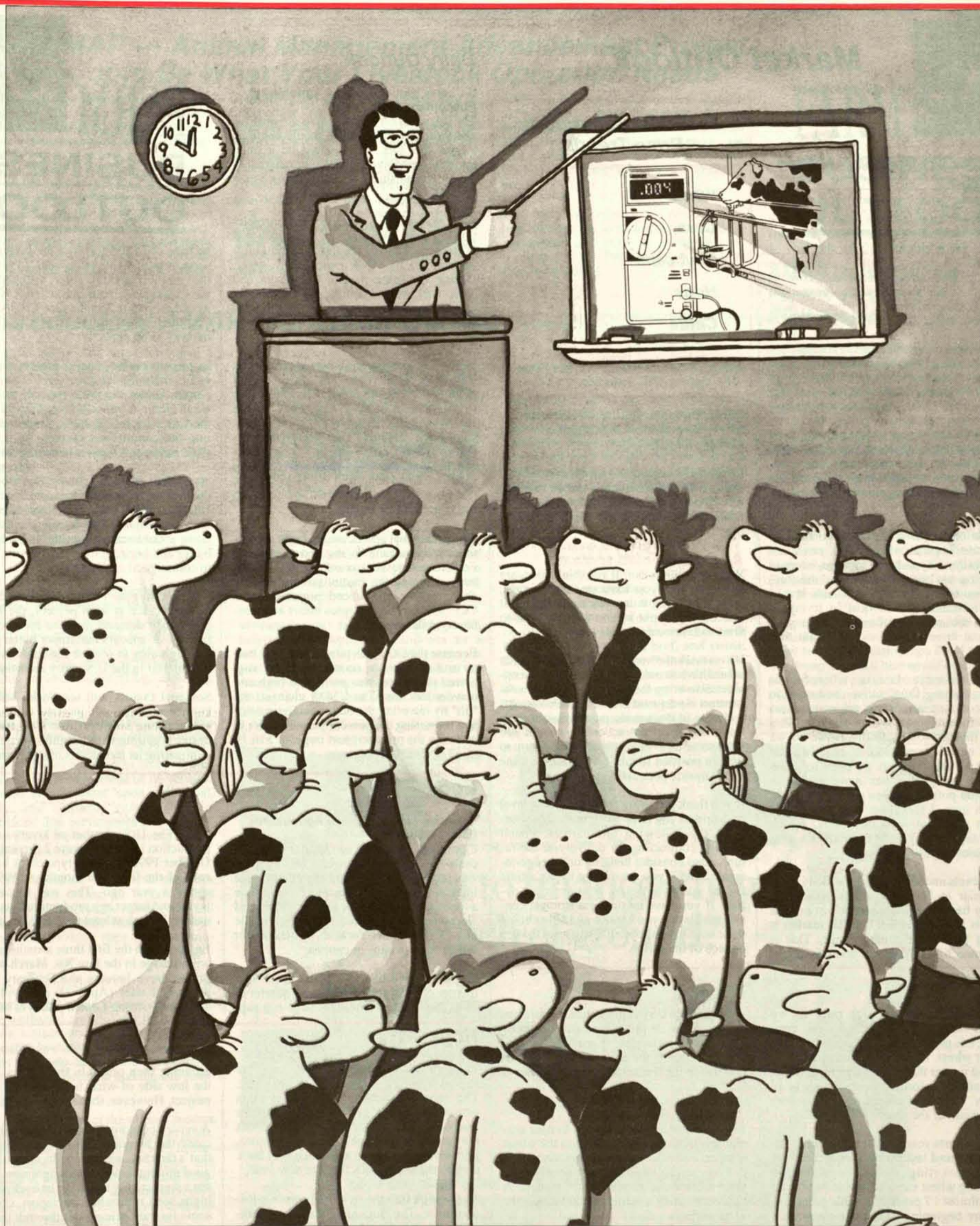
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of healthy, well-managed dairy facilities. This seminar is coming to your area soon, so watch your mail for more information. We're sure you'll want to attend. If you think you have a stray voltage problem, call Consumers Power's stray voltage specialists immediately at 1-800-252-VOLT.



Market Outlook...

Dr. Jim Hilker, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU

Corn - To Store or Not to Store?

Decision-making time is at hand. Do we store or not? By the time you read this report, the information from the Nov. 1 Crop Report, released Nov. 9, should have been incorporated into the markets. Now, as we go through the remainder of the marketing year, the demand side will become more and more important.

The two big demand variables are feed and exports. Feed use will be strong, but there are some questions as to how many hogs will be out there. The USDA forecast is for a considerable cutback in exports. And we are running behind a year ago. However, even at the slower pace, exports seem to be running at levels that will match expectations. Therefore, if we see a pickup in exports, it could be quite positive given the relatively tight ending stocks projected.

In making the storage decision, there are a number of factors which need to be considered. Several of the key ones are availability of on-farm storage, storage costs (interest rates), storability of the corn, direction of the market, and basis levels. This information is critical in trying to answer the question of will storage pay? The first three factors are particular to a farm, so I will concentrate on the last two.

Direction of the markets, i.e., where futures prices are going, is, of course, the hardest to answer. It appears future prices are near where fundamentals would suggest. This would indicate some stability. However, we know new information is entering the market all the time, so we need to guess whether the market has more upside or downside potential given the possibilities. At this time, I feel there is slightly more upside potential than downside, which would suggest staying in the market with at least some of your production.

Basis levels and where they are likely to go are easier to find and more predictable. Nearby basis levels are wider than normal and this is a suggestion that the market is willing to pay for some storage. This is confirmed by the forward contract prices

Wheat

Wheat was making a nice rally as we entered November. If that rally has continued, it is probably time to part with more of your wheat. Much of the rally had to do with the poorer than expected spring wheat crop and that information should all be in by now. Typically, it does not pay to store past the end of the year.

Wheat exports year-to-date are running 2.5 percent behind last year 5 months into the wheat marketing year. The USDA is projecting wheat exports for the year to be down almost 17 percent. At this point, exports are beginning to run at a rate which

Cattle

The Oct. 1 USDA monthly 7-State and quarterly 13-State Cattle-On-Feed Reports released Oct. 22 showed that there are plenty of cattle in the feedlots. On feed was up 10 percent in the monthly report and 9 percent in the quarterly report compared to a year ago. Placements were up 3 percent in the last quarter, but were down 1 percent in September. The weight breakdowns show that we will slaughter more cattle than a year ago through at least the first half of next year. Along with that, weights are very likely to be higher.

Remember, last winter, starting in November, the High Plains had a very hard winter and it is not likely to repeat itself. While prices will work their way back up into the mid \$70s this winter and the upper \$70s for

Seasonal Commodity Price Trends

Wheat	↔
Corn	↑ ?
Soybeans	↑ ?
Hogs	↑ ?
Cattle	↔ ↑

Index: ↑ = Higher Prices; ↓ = Lower Prices; TP = Topping; BT = Bottoming; ? = Unsure

offered for January delivery versus delivery today. Both of these indicate that on-farm storage will pay.

It is somewhat harder to justify commercial storage. If you look at the spread between futures contract, i.e., March versus May, the market is willing to pay storage through May for corn.

Strategy:

What does this mean? If you think prices are going up and you have on-farm storage, consider storing it unprotected or storing it and buying a put option if you want to eliminate some downside risk.

If you think the market is going up and you would have to use commercial storage, consider delivering the corn and taking a basis contract if you want to take all the risk to get a chance at the upside potential, or take a minimum price contract or buy a call if you need some downside protection and want to be in a position to take advantage of some of the upside potential.

If you think prices are going to remain level or drop and you have on-farm storage, consider the following alternatives. Pencil through contracting for delivery in the future. Also consider hedging or a hedge-to-arrive. And if you are willing to pay a little for the upside potential, consider a put option. If you have no on-farm storage, consider selling as you harvest and either being done with it, or buy a call if you want to keep a piece of the action.

will make the USDA projection. Russia has now said that its production will be below previous expectations. It may be a while before we know the effect of that information due to the financial problems Russia is facing.

Strategy:

The wheat basis has tightened to near normal levels. If you want to stay in the wheat market, consider moving from storage to delivery with a basis contract or taking all your money and buying a call option. A minimum price contract would serve the same purpose.

a while next spring, we are not likely to reach the \$80s without some disaster. And next summer and fall, we could drop back into the low \$70s. This is telling us that given the prices we have been paying for choice feeders recently, we will be seeing red ink for big chunks of the next year.

Strategy:

The critical decision is how much you will pay for feeders, and, I think, the market is paying too much given likely corn prices and choice steer prices. Should you limit your purchase price to your expected break-even? I realize this is easy to say and hard to implement. At this time, feeder supplies are tight. We are not likely to have many, if any, more available this year than last year.

Dairy Outlook

Dr. Larry Hamm, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU

The dairy market fundamentals are positive and farm level milk prices should continue to rise this fall. There could be a quiet revolution underway in the butter market as the long-term slump in butter demand may be over.

Milk production is just even with production last year. Production in Wisconsin was off 6 percent during the third quarter (July-September) of 1993 compared to 1992. During the same period, Minnesota and New York were down 2 percent. Most of the rest of the traditional dairy region states were just even with last year's production levels. Milk supply has been static.

However, commercial disappearance is continuing to increase. For the first eight months of 1993, commercial disappearance is estimated to be up 2.4 percent over the January-August period in 1992, adding upward price pressure. The Minnesota-Wisconsin (M-W) price was up 73 cents per cwt. in September and will go above \$12 for October. This strength in the M-W assures that farm level pay prices will be going up over the next few months.

This price relief is obscuring a quiet revolutionary turnaround in the butter markets. For the past several years, the USDA has been changing the "butter-powder tilt" by changing the announced prices that the CCC will purchase surplus butter and non-fat dry milk powder.

Because the CCC was purchasing only butter and no powder, economic theory suggested that butter was priced too high and powder too low. The USDA changed the "tilt" by lowering the butter purchase price and increasing the powder price in order to maintain the price support target at \$10.10 (3.67 percent test) per cwt.

Eggs

Henry Larzelere, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, MSU

Egg prices at the end of October were 3-4 cents a dozen above last year. This increase was largely offset by feed ingredient price increases -- at least two cents a dozen above a year ago. Egg prices in November and December are expected to average in the mid 70s in New York at wholesale for Grade A large eggs in cartons.

Egg prices will likely be lower in the first quarter of 1994 than in the same quarter of 1993 due to the potential for large egg sup-

Hogs

Through October, the last Hogs and Pigs Report seemed to be in line with slaughter. The report indicated that market hogs would be down 3 percent for the month. The weekly slaughter reports show about the same on average. If this continues, prices should begin to work their way back up into the upper \$40s into the new year.

As we look into the new year, more questions arise. The Hogs and Pigs Report indicated the breeding herd is down. If it is

Soybeans

The story for soybeans is much like corn, for much of the same reasons. You could just about go back to the corn section and insert the word soybeans in place of corn. In fact, for the marketing strategies, that is exactly what I will ask you to do.

Like corn, the basis is relatively wide and the market is indicating it will pay to store into the new calendar year.

On the market direction question, exports are the key. Exports are projected to be down 17 percent for the 1993-94 marketing year versus 1992-93. At this point, actual exports and sales for export have been running way behind, but there are some signs of them picking up.

FARM BUSINESS OUTLOOK

In July, the CCC lowered the butter price support to 65 cents per pound. In the past, the commercial butter price, as reported on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), would drop to reflect the new USDA price. The CME butter price did drop, but not all the way to 65 cents.

In recent months, due to market demand, commercial butter price is 73 cents per pound. Under the price support program, when Grade A butter is more than 72 cents, the CCC can sell its butter surpluses back into the commercial market. As a result, CCC butter surpluses are melting away.

As of Sept. 30, 1993, butter inventories in the U.S. were down 36.7 percent from 1992. USDA surplus butter inventories are off 36.1 percent. These dramatic reductions come about because the CCC is not buying butter and because it is selling butter back to commercial channels.

Through August 1993, commercial butter disappearance is up 8 percent, the largest percentage demand increase for any dairy product. It appears that lower butter prices are beginning to reverse the continued glut of butterfat in the U.S. dairy industry.

Seasonal factors will soon take hold and butter production will increase and demand will weaken. However, the U.S. dairy industry is getting within fighting distance to eliminating its mountains of butter surplus.

plies. The U.S. number of layers and egg production in October were 2 percent above October 1993. The egg-type chick hatch in each of the first nine months of 1993 was above a year ago. This will mean more layers and larger egg production than a year earlier through at least the first half of 1994.

Egg prices in the first three months of 1994 will average in the low 70s. March will see prices above January and February due to an early Easter (April 3), that will mean seasonally strong Lenten prices in March.

accurate, then prices in the futures are on the low side of what fundamentals would project. However, the report is questioned.

A survey coordinated out of Missouri indicates the breeding herd is increasing. If that's the case, we may be looking at some good pricing opportunities right now. If you see a market rally that takes us back near the highs seen right after the report, consider some forward pricing out through the next year if you have not already done so.

Given the tight ending stocks projections, it will not take a whole lot to be a positive market force.

Strategy:

Again, the marketing alternative for soybeans are the same as for corn once you have made your best shot at guessing market direction.

Also, a reminder to work with your elevator on these marketing alternatives. At many elevators, they will work with you to provide any of these alternatives using futures or options and you will not need a broker or be liable for margin calls if you commit to delivery.

7 AMAP — Animal Management Advancement Project It Could Be What Your Livestock Operation Needs

A management education program developed by MSU experts and Extension staff is available this fall to help livestock producers strengthen their business future.

With Michigan's livestock producers facing many challenges now and in the future, this program, known as the Animal Management Advancement Project, or AMAP, is a curriculum-based approach that will acquaint managers with the basic management skills to help them cope with these challenges locally, nationally and internationally.

According to a recent study on the future of agriculture, the outlook reveals a more capital- and management-intensive industry. There will be a bigger demand for stronger management skills, increased governmental regulations, continued demand for more environmentally-friendly production, globalized markets, products that meet specific consumer demands, greater emphasis on data and data management, and greater coordination of markets and factors of production through contract marketing.

AMAP gives the producer the management skills used by many businesses to stay productive. Written as an interdisciplinary effort by several MSU departments and field staff, the introductory AMAP workshop stresses the strategic planning process.

The workshop encourages a close interaction between the workshop experts and the participant, and strongly encourages all members of the farm business and their spouses to attend.



FARM BUSINESS OUTLOOK

Introductory AMAP Workshop Outline

The participants will have developed a business plan tailored to their own unique business in this 14-hour workshop. This business plan has four main components:

- 1) The business mission.
 - 2) Long-term goals to accomplish the mission.
 - 3) Short-term goals that achieve the long-term goals.
 - 4) Tactics that reach the short-term goals.
- These are illustrated through the use of a pyramid with the mission at the base, followed by long-term goals, short-term goals and tactics on the uppermost level.

Mission

The participants begin the workshop learning about management, and how it is defined. They also write their own definitions of management, and do an exercise that helps them visualize the areas of management that are most effective — planning, controlling, staffing, directing, and organizing.

In doing strategic planning, the state's competitive business environment is reviewed. Comparisons are made that allow for identifying Michigan's strengths and potential problems. The development of the mission statement is dependent upon individual, family, and business values and circumstances. The participants end the mission portion of the workshop having written their own mission statement.

They also complete homework exercises which includes taking the Myers-Briggs Personality Inventory, the rating of critical success factors for their business, and discussing and rewriting their mission statements.

Long-Term Goals

The participants come to the second phase of the workshop and discuss their revised mission statements. Their Myers-Briggs Personality Inventory is scored, and observations are made on how their personality might influence decision making and relating to people.

They discuss the use of the critical success factors in developing their long-term goals. The use of the acronym D.R.I.V.E. (directional, reasonable, inspiring, visible, and eventual) is introduced in assessing long-term goals. Participants develop their own long-term goals for their farm business, and learn how to handle conflicting goals.

Russia to Privatize Farmland

A pilot project to break up large state-owned farms to pave the way for private land ownership was announced by Russian officials, according to a Reuters story. Under the plan, six collective farms about 300 miles east of Moscow will be turned over to private farmers.

More than 90 percent of farmland in Russia is still owned by the state, but officials hope privatization will improve efficiency and increase crop yields. In addition to the pilot project, Gaidar said President Yeltsin was due to sign a decree allowing land to be inherited, bought or sold.

Short-Term Goals

Based upon the long-term goals they've developed, they learn how to develop short-term goals to accomplish the long-term goals. The acronym S.M.A.R.T. (specific, measurable, attainable, rewarding, and timed) helps in the development of these goals. After writing short-term goals, participants "score" them to see if they support their long-term goals.

Tactics

In the final phase of the workshop, participants learn to develop a tactical plan and "to do" lists. The tactical plan provides a road map of activities to be done to meet the short-term goals.

Written "to do" lists can be shared with family and employees, and act as a reminder and monitor toward reaching a goal. Participants review the case of an example farm, and create a tactical plan and "to do" lists. They then do this for their own farm business.

Supplemental Workshops Also Available

Supplemental workshops follow the introductory workshop and deal with major areas of concern to agricultural business managers. These help producers identify options for the future that are based upon a total farm systems approach. These include personnel and financial management, dairy analysis, dairy feeding and manure systems, and information systems for management.

Where are the AMAP Sessions Being Held?

This winter introductory AMAP sessions will be held in several areas of Michigan. Each introductory AMAP session focuses on a particular livestock species. **There will be workshops for dairy, beef, and swine. The schedule on page 9 indicates the location, livestock species and dates for the scheduled introductory workshops. If you wish to attend one, please contact the respective person indicated.**

AMAP Gets Positive Farmer Reviews in Pilot Project

The AMAP concept has been reviewed with leaders from the livestock industry. They feel AMAP is the type of program that will help keep the Michigan livestock industry prosperous and healthy.

Producers participating in the initial AMAP introductory workshop also had positive comments. These producers, from the Thumb region of the state, evaluated the program anonymously, and had the following comments:

"The shift (in AMAP) from agricultural production to business management was a useful change for agricultural programs. Farmers must begin to view their livelihood as a business if they intend on competing."

"A 'must' for all producers who plan to stay in business."

"I enjoyed it greatly and would like to get it all working on the farm... I can see problems that can be corrected after going through the things in these sessions."



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8 Neighbors Lend Helping Harvest Hands in a Time of Need

Eleven combines and a fleet of trucks and wagons arrived at the soybean fields of Warren Swanson recently, to harvest approximately 150 acres in southern Clinton County, according to St. Johns farmer Bob Kissane, who helped to organize the event with John Schumaker. Swanson was killed in a mid-September farm accident. According to Kissane, many farmers were quick to volunteer with the harvest project. "Each of us just took a few hours from our own fields to come over and help out," Kissane said. "If it had been under different circumstances, it would have been fun." Swanson's wife, Doris, with a tear in her eye, said, "It's times like this, that we realize just how much neighbors and friends really do care."



Know When to Say "No" to Children

One important step in preventing childhood accidents on the farm is learning to say "No." When a youngster begs to go along with you and your farm machinery, or wants to be with you out in the fields, please remember this:

Agricultural accidents continue to injure or kill far too many children across our nation. An estimated 100 youngsters lose their lives in tractor-related incidents each year. Children ages one to nine are most prone to runover incidents, while youth ages 10-19 are most susceptible to over-returns while operating farm tractors.

Some tractors and machinery sit high off the ground, making it difficult for the operator to see immediately in front of and behind the equipment.

Operators should always know where children may be working or playing -- and should exercise special precautions when operating equipment in areas where children are present. Remember, too, that children are easily distracted and forget adults' instructions.

At no time should children be carried as extra riders on tractors or other farm equip-



From Farm Bureau Insurance

ment. Since seating for riders is not likely to be secure, and the operator's attention may be distracted at any time, any extra riders are in danger of falling under the wheels of the tractor or trailing implements.

It's also good to keep children away from areas where grain is being loaded or unloaded. Most victims of engulfment in grain transport vehicles are under age 16 -- buried during loading from a combine or storage, or drawn into the flow of grain as a vehicle is being unloaded.

It can be difficult to say "no" to a child, but by doing so, you'll be protecting a precious future.

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Conklin	Arends Farm Service.....	616-899-2136
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Dorr	Dorr Farm Products.....	616-681-9570
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Dowagiac	Joe Van Tuyle.....	616-782-8275
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Homer	Tri-County Agra Services	517-542-3196
Lake Odessa	Mark Erickson.....	616-374-8538
Mason	R & S Crop Service.....	517-628-2036
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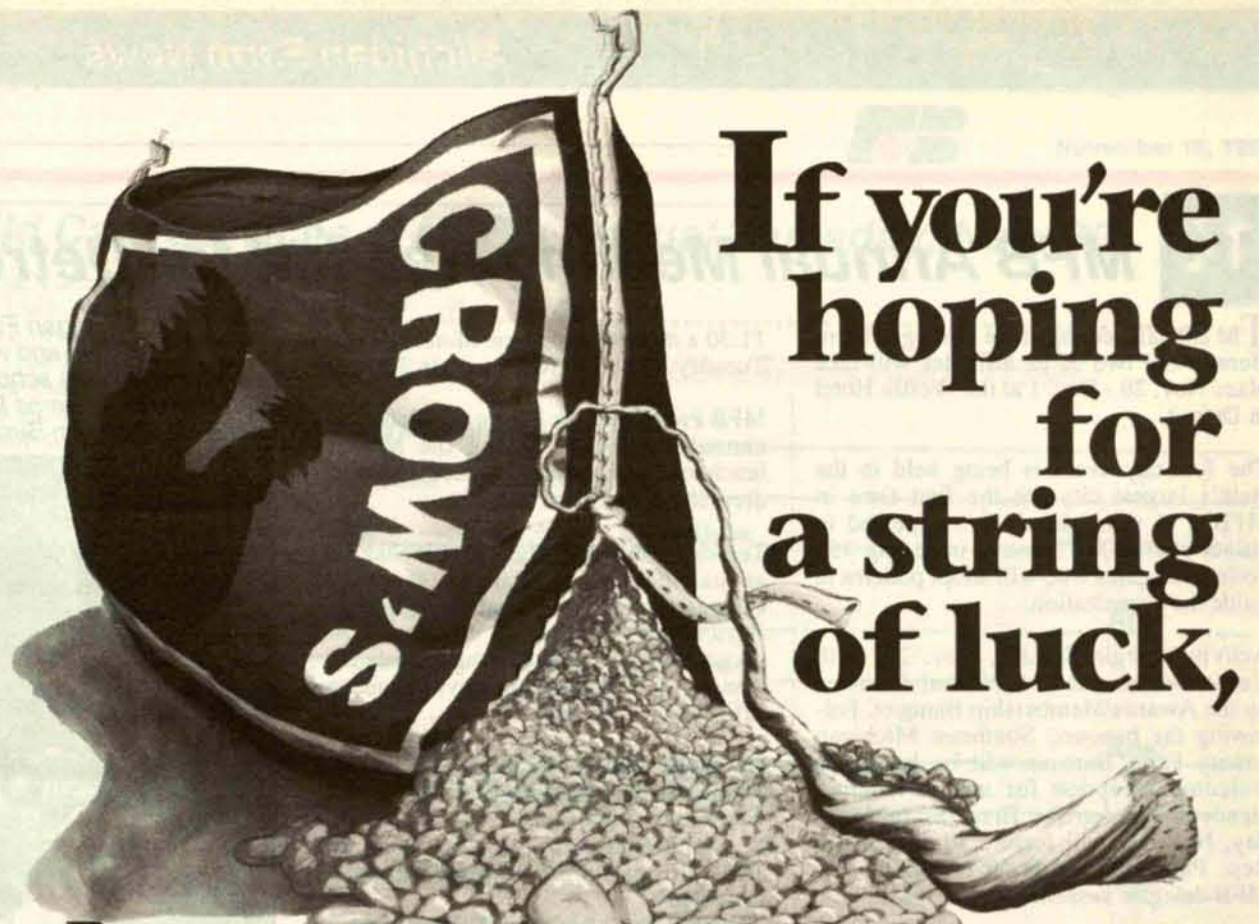


AMAP — Animal Management Advancement Project Dates and Locations

Scheduled AMAP Introductory Workshops

Livestock Type	Dates*	Contact Person
East Central Region:		
Dairy	Nov. 30 Dec. 7 & 14	Brian Troyer Sanilac County 37 Austin St. Sandusky, MI 48471 (313) 648-2251
Dairy	Dec. 1, 8 & 15	Mike McFadden Isabella County County Building 201 N. Main St. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 (517) 772-0911
Dairy	Dec. 2, 9, & 16	Dave Elzinga Clinton County County Services Building 306 Elm St. Johns, MI 48879 (517) 224-5240
Dairy	Jan. 10, 17, & 24	Roger Swartzendruber Huron County County Building, Room 104 250 East Huron Ave. Bad Axe, MI 48413
Beef	March 18 & 25 April 1	Joe Shaltry Saginaw County 705 Adams Street Saginaw, MI 48602 (517) 799-2233
Northern Region:		
Dairy	March 21 & 28 April 4	Gerald Lindquist Osceola County Courthouse P.O. Box 208 Reed City, MI 49677-1149 (616) 832-6139
Southern Region:		
Dairy	Jan. 14, 21, & 28	Bill Ames Washtenaw County County Services Building 4133 Washtenaw Ave. Box 8645 Ann Arbor, MI 48107 (313) 971-0079
Southwest Region:		
Dairy	Jan. 11, 18, & 25	Bill Bevens Jackson County 412 Erie Street Jackson, MI 49202 (517) 788-4292
Dairy	Jan. 13, 20, & 27	Bill Bevens Jackson County 412 Erie Street Jackson, MI 49202 (517) 788-4292
Swine	Feb. 11, 18, & 25	Roger Betz Van Buren County Suite A, 801 Hazan Street Paw Paw, MI 49079-1075 (616) 657-7745
Swine	March 4, 11, & 18	Laura Rhodes Ingham County - A 706 Curtis Street P.O. Box 319 Mason, MI 48854-1655 (517) 676-7207
Upper Peninsula:		
Dairy	Feb. 10, 17, & 24	Warren Schauer Delta County 2840 College Avenue Escanaba, MI 49819 (906) 786-3032
West Central Region:		
Dairy	Jan. 12, 19, & 26	George Atkeson Montcalm County 617 North State Road P.O. Box 308 Stanton, MI 48888 (517) 831-5226
Dairy	Feb. 9, 16, & 23	Roger Peacock Muskegon County 635 Ottawa Street Muskegon, MI 49442 (616) 724-6361
Dairy	March 9, 15, & 22	Ira Krupp Ottawa County 333 Clinton Street Grand Haven, MI 49417 (616) 846-8250

*There may be the need to shift some dates.



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10 MFB Annual Meeting Headed for Detroit Nov. 28 - Dec. 1

The annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau and two of its affiliates will take place Nov. 28 - Dec. 1 at the Westin Hotel in Detroit.

The four-day event is being held in the state's largest city for the first time in MFB's 74 year history. It's expected to attract over 1,000 farmers, including 454 voting delegates who will adopt policies to guide the organization.

Activities begin Sunday, Nov. 28, with Vespers at Mariners' Cathedral followed by the Awards/Membership Banquet. Following the banquet, Southeast Michigan county Farm Bureaus will be hosting a welcome reception for annual meeting attendees. The AgriPac Breakfast on Monday, Nov. 29, will feature an address by Rep. Paul Hillegonds (R-Holland). The MFB delegate session opens at 9 a.m.

The "Showcase of Agriculture" -- a consumer-oriented collection of farm animals, interactive learning displays, and samples of Michigan food products -- runs from

11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday and on Tuesday, Nov. 30, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

MFB President Jack Laurie will deliver his annual address following the Monday luncheon. Gov. Engler is scheduled to address the delegates at 3 p.m.

Tuesday's program highlights include the annual meetings of Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc., (FPC) and the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA); Young Farmer Discussion Meets and award activities; and the MFB annual banquet.

On Wed., Dec. 1, the breakfast program will feature an address by Dr. Sandra Batie, who was recently appointed to fill the Elton R. Smith Endowed Chair for Food and Agricultural Policy at Michigan State University.

The delegate session and annual meeting is scheduled to conclude at 12:30 p.m. For more annual meeting information, contact your county Farm Bureau office.

Nearly 460 Michigan Farm Bureau members will be meeting throughout the MFB annual to discuss and vote on Farm Bureau policy direction for the next 12 months on issues such as school finance reform, health care, private property rights, and numerous other items forwarded to the MFB Policy Development Committee from all 69 county Farm Bureaus.



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MFB Annual's "Showcase of Agriculture" Telling Agriculture's Story in Detroit

Nearly 25 different Michigan-based agricultural commodity organizations will be joining forces in Detroit during the MFB annual meeting at the Renaissance Center on Nov. 29 and 30, to help bring the story of Michigan agriculture to consumers, according to event manager, Julie Chamberlain, manager of MFB's Promotion and Education Department.

"The business of feeding and clothing consumers, agriculture, is the second largest industry in the state," explained Chamberlain. "With the Showcase of Agriculture, students from several schools, as well as the general public and news media and the 11,000 people who work in the Renaissance Center each day, will be able to see farm animals, videos of animal birthing, participate in computer simulations on groundwater education and have a chance to be involved in a number of other interactive programs."

Chamberlain expects the program to be a tremendous learning opportunity not only for school children and consumers, but also for farmers and commodity organization staff. "What better way to bring producers face to face with their customers?" Chamberlain asked. "Hopefully, we can learn some things about consumers, and some of their beliefs, whether they're right or wrong that can aid agriculture in the future."

The commodity organizations slated to participate in the two-day program thus far include:

- Michigan Nursery and Landscape Assoc.
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield - Birthing Exhibit
- Michigan Apple Promoters
- Michigan Beef Industry Commission
- Michigan Pork Producers Assoc.
- Michigan Department of Agriculture
- USDA Soil Conservation Service
- Michigan Milk Producers Assoc.
- Monitor Sugar Company
- Great Lakes Sugarbeet Assoc.
- Michigan Sheep Breeders
- MSU Careers in Horticulture/Agriculture
- Michigan State Fair Farm Animals
- Michigan Vegetable Council
- Michigan Blueberry Marketing Group
- MSU Institute of Water Research
- Wayne County Extension Service
 - * Food Safety - Operation RISK
 - * The Wonderful World of Seeds
 - * Animal Science in the Classroom
 - * Food Mysteries
- Metropolitan Detroit Flower Growers
- Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems
- Michigan Soybean Promotion Comm.
- Michigan Compost Project
- Michigan Christmas Trees Assoc.
- MSU 2-Year Ag-Tech Program



Child Care Services at MFB's Annual, Tuesday, Nov. 30

11

Young Farmer activities, the MFB Trade Show, Showcase of Agriculture, resolution sessions...you'll want to be a part of it all on Tuesday, but caring for infants and children can make it difficult to attend all of the programs that you want to. That's why child care services are available for the youngest Farm Bureau members from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Tuesday.

If you'd like to take advantage of the child care services, please make reservations for each child. Registration is \$5 per child before Nov. 19; \$15 per child when registered after the deadline or with no reservations. Parents are responsible for meals.

Parents should provide toys, a playpen, diapering supplies for infants and toddlers, and snacks to the child care room.

For more information, call (517) 323-7000, extension 3066.

Child Care Reservation Form

Parent's Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Child's Name: _____ Age: _____
 Begin Care Time/End Care Time: _____
 Child's Name: _____ Age: _____
 Begin Care Time/End Care Time: _____
 Child's Name: _____ Age: _____
 Begin Care Time/End Care Time: _____

Please make check payable to MFB Corporate Services, Inc., and mail to: CSI Meeting and Travel Services, P.O. Box 27549, Lansing, MI 48909

The Westin Hotel and Renaissance Center - A City Within a City

MFB members attending the 1993 state annual meeting will have a chance to see the spectacular Westin Hotel, the tallest hotel in North America at 747 feet. With over 1,400 guest rooms and over 30 meeting rooms, the ground area of the Westin Hotel and the Renaissance Center covers nearly 14 acres.

Located on the river front in Detroit's fabulous Renaissance Center, the Westin Hotel represents the finest accommodations and dining in the downtown area and provides a wide range of business, entertainment and recreational facilities.

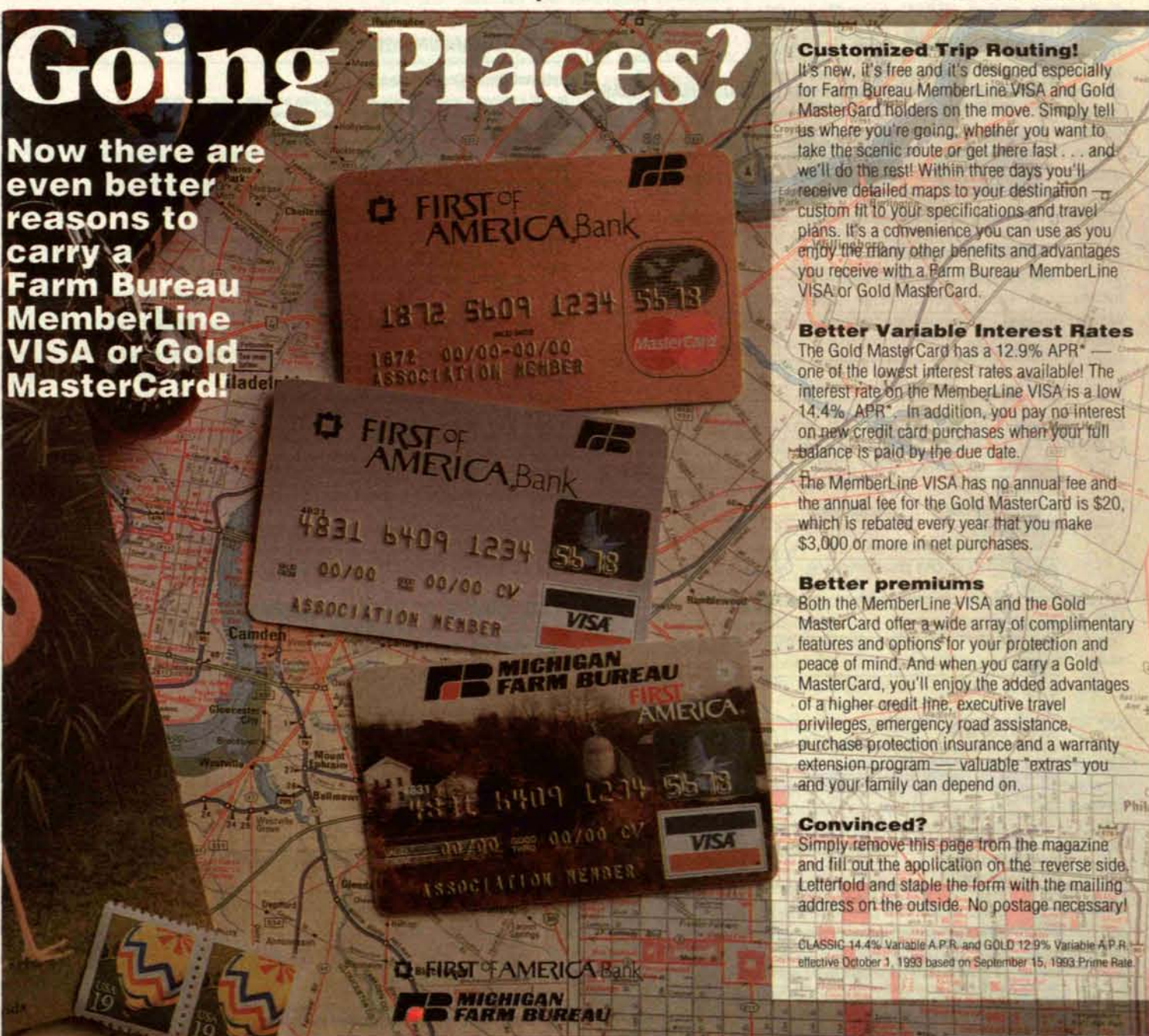
A "city within a city" of restaurants, movie theaters, shops and businesses, the Westin Hotel and Renaissance Center have been designed to meet the needs of convention travelers, all within a magnificent and exciting architectural environment. Guests can enjoy many activities without ever leaving the Renaissance Center.

There are over 35 interesting shops, a world-class Ford exhibit, and a fully equipped health club. You'll also find six restaurants and lounges, including the famous revolving Summit Steakhouse, with its 360 degree view from the 71st floor.

The Westin and Renaissance Center have played an important role in Detroit's rebirth. Over 11,000 people come to work in the Renaissance Center each day. Nearby freeways provide easy access to Detroit's most known attractions, like Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum.

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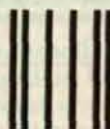
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Going to MFB's State Annual? Car Pool if You Can!

MFB members planning to attend this year's annual meeting in Detroit are advised to car pool if at all possible. Free parking for those attending the annual meeting is limited to the first 350 cars. As a suggestion, you may want to contact your county Farm Bureau office to coordinate trips to annual meeting activities.

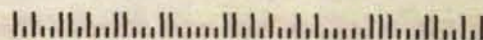


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12 MFB Annual Kicks Off Sunday With Vespers at the Historical Mariners' Church

"In a musty old hall in Detroit they prayed, in the Maritime Sailors' Cathedral. The church bell chimed til it rang twenty-nine times for each man on the Edmund Fitzgerald."

Many Farm Bureau members have no doubt heard of the Mariners' Church, made famous by the Gordon Lightfoot ballad, "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald." The shipwreck in November of 1975 took the lives of 29 crew members and sank just 15 miles from Whitefish Bay.

Every year on the first Sunday in November, the Mariners' Church commemorates the sinking with a service, which includes the ringing of the bell and reading of each crew member's name until the bell rings 29 times.

The Mariners' Church, originally established in 1842 through the will of Julia Anderson, the daughter of an importer/exporter who knew of the perils of the seas, was intended to serve as a house of prayer for all people involved in the maritime industry.

The present structure was completed in 1849 and was actually moved by the city of Detroit to its existing location in 1950.

Scattered throughout the church are paintings, photographs and ship models that symbolize its maritime history. The various stained-glass windows depict mariners, symbols of the Great Lakes and renderings of winter storms that often plague the Great Lakes and endanger the lives of the sailors who travel the waters.

MFB members can attend a Vespers service on Sunday, Nov. 28, at 4 p.m. as a part of annual meeting opening activities. Those wishing to attend the service at the Mariners' Church, which is within walking distance of the Westin Hotel, should get additional information at the time of registration.

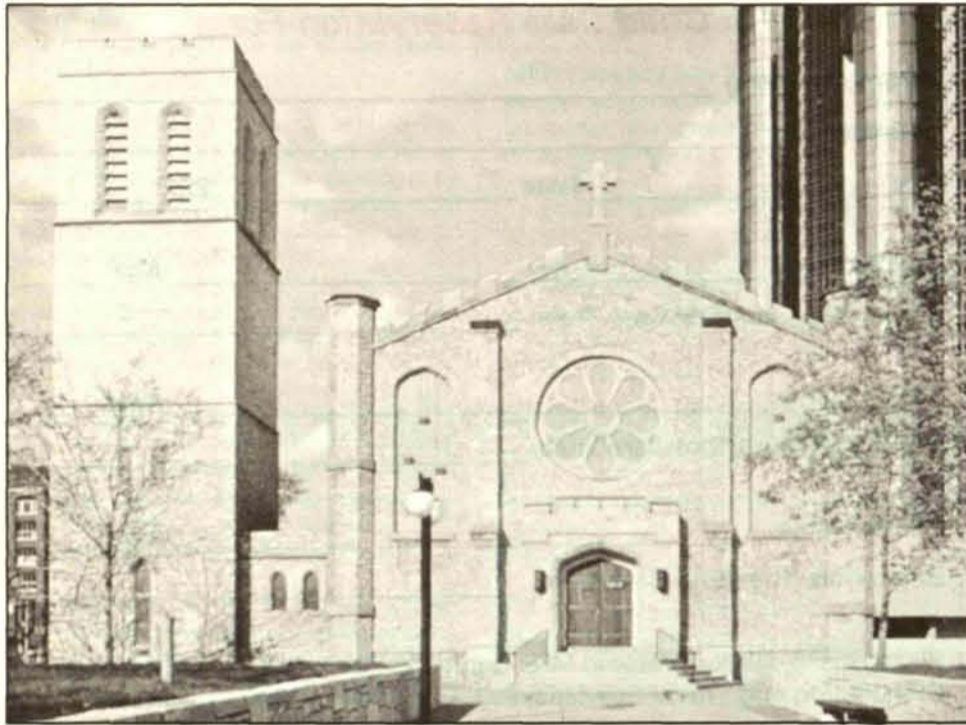
1993 District Discussion Meet Winners Head for State Competition - Nearly \$2,000 in Prizes at Stake!

The following Young Farmer Discussion Meet contestants were district contest winners, which were held in August and September. Discussion Meet Topics at the state level will include:

1. What are some alternative and innovative uses of agricultural commodities and by-products?
2. How will primary and secondary education be funded in the future?
3. What can be done to encourage the introduction of beginning farmers into agriculture?
4. What should be the provisions of the 1995 Food Security Act (farm bill)?

The following contestants will be competing for \$500 cash from Dodge Truck, \$1,000 worth of seed from Great Lakes Hybrids, Inc., and an all-expense-paid trip to Florida for national competition in January:

Name	County
Steve Fitzner	Huron
Gary Kirsh	Macomb
Dave Siemen	Huron
Amy Martin	Osceola
Sharon Hallack	Oceana
Andy Johnson	Mecosta
Sarah Anderson	Isabella
Dave Duyck	Bay
Dale Whitmore	Gratiot
Dave Dekam	Missaukee
Lorraine Nordbeck	Benzie
Bill Schoedel	Manistee
Lee Everitt	Iosco
Grace Beck	Ogemaw
Nick Hilla	Alpena
Jim VanDamme	Hiawathaland
Steve Brock	Menominee
Dave Johnson	Menominee
Mike Wenkel	Cass
Mike Rainey	Cass
Kelly Leach	Kalamazoo
Andy AcMoody	Branch
Matt Carpenter	Lenawee
Dan Anderson	Calhoun
Val White	Livingston
Todd Haselschwerdt	Washtenaw
Kristopher Neuvirth	Monroe
Kevin Sall	Ottawa
Boyd Endsley	Barry
Steve Ybema	Allegan
Patti Warnke	Clinton
Steve Cheney	Ingham
Angie Ball	Clinton



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APPLICANT (please print)

NAME AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR ON CARD

First Name Middle Initial Last Name

Social Security # Date of Birth / /

Home Phone ()

Address Years There Mos.

City, State Zip Code

Mortgage Rent Monthly Payment \$

Own (Free and Clear) Other (Describe)

Previous Address (if less than 2 years at present address)

Employer or DBA Years There Mos.

Position Business Phone ()

Previous Employer Years There

Annual Salary \$ Other Income \$*

Source of Other Income* (Alimony, child support, or separate maintenance payments need not be revealed if you do not wish to have it as a basis for repaying this obligation.)

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Nearest Relative (not living with you) Phone ()

Address

I/we hereby certify that each of the answers on this application is true and correct, and is made for the purpose of obtaining a loan or credit from the First of America Bank-Central (Bank). I/we hereby authorize the Bank to investigate my/our credit record to the extent it deems necessary and to verify my/our credit, employment and income references. I/we further authorize and instruct any person or consumer reporting agency to furnish the Bank any information that may have or obtain in response to such credit inquiries. I/we further agree that this application shall become property of the Bank, whether or not it is approved.

I/we agree that if this application is accepted and a card or cards are issued that any use of the card(s) will be governed by the terms and conditions of the Bank's VISA/MasterCard Agreement and Disclosure provided before or with delivery of the card(s). I/we assume, if more than one jointly and severally, liability for all charges incurred in any use of the card(s).

X / / Applicant's Signature Date

X / / Co-Applicant's Signature Date

OPTIONAL GROUP CREDIT INSURANCE

Optional Group Credit Insurance

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Unemployment Benefit: If you become involuntarily unemployed, Chargegard will make your scheduled minimum monthly payments, subject to the master policy limit. Retirement is not covered. In NY, unemployment benefits are not payable for pregnancy and other medical conditions. (Coverage not available in CT, MA and MN; labor disputes/strikes excluded in AR, IL and NY.)

Life Benefit: If you or your joint applicant (spouse, if no joint applicant) die, Chargegard will pay the outstanding account balance as of the date of death, not to exceed your credit limit or \$10,000. (Suicide excluded except in MD and MO.) At age 65 (age 66 in IA), Life benefits convert to Accidental Death in HI, IN and VT. (Single Life coverage only in MA.)

Disability Benefit: If you become disabled, Chargegard will make your scheduled minimum monthly payments as long as you are under a doctor's care and unable to work, up to your credit limit or \$10,000, whichever is less.

Chargegard Costs: The monthly premium for Chargegard is 66¢ per \$100 of your average daily balance on your account in all states except as follows: 28.9¢ in MA; 29.3¢ in MN; 38.8¢ in NY; 46.9¢ in NH; 48.1¢ in CT; 56.7¢ in VT; 64¢ in NM; 65.8¢ in AZ; 57.6¢ in SC; 46.6¢ in TX; 57.5¢ in HI; 59¢ in WI; 60¢ in CA, IA, ID, IN, MO, NJ, OR, RI, WA, and WY. The monthly premium will be charged to your credit card account.

Coverage will be obtained by First of America and is underwritten by American Bankers Life Assurance Company of Florida and American Bankers Insurance Company of Florida, 11222 Quail Roost Drive, Miami, Florida 33157-6596. In NY, Life and Disability coverage is provided by Bankers American Life Assurance Company, TX Certificate numbers AD9139CQ-0791, AC3181-CB 3.50 & 3.53 R.A. and B2754E0-1089.

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Applicant's Signature (Your signature constitutes acceptance of this coverage.) Birth Date / /

CO-APPLICANT (please print)

NAME AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR ON CARD

First Name Middle Initial Last Name

Social Security # Date of Birth / /

Employer Years There Mos.

Position Business Phone ()

Previous Employer Years There

Annual Salary \$ Other Income \$*

Source of Other Income* (Alimony, child support, or separate maintenance payments need not be revealed if you do not wish to have it as a basis for repaying this obligation.)

Complete the following information if different from applicant

Home Phone ()

Address Years There

City, State Zip Code

Mortgage Rent Monthly Payment \$

Own (Free and Clear) Other (Describe)

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13 Michigan Groundwater and Freshwater Protection Act Almost Final

Measures in this legislation would be administered by the Michigan Department of Agriculture, to protect water quality and provide agriculture a measure of liability protection.

Under legislation recently approved by the state Legislature, the director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) will be required to develop and promote voluntary groundwater stewardship practices that farmers can use to prevent contamination of groundwater by pesticides or nitrogen fertilizers, according to MFB Legislative Counsel Vicki Pontz.

The legislation, sponsored by Sen. George McManus (R-Traverse City) and Sen. Joel Gougeon (R-Bay City), requires the MDA director to also develop a voluntary evaluation system, such as the Farmstead Assessment System, to help farmers determine the groundwater impact potential of their farming practices.

"The legislation, which has passed the Senate and the House, still needs to be concurred on by the Senate and signed by the governor, will provide farmers a great deal of liability protection, as long as stewardship practices are followed," Pontz said. "It also demonstrates to the general public that agriculture is taking a proactive approach to good stewardship and groundwater protection, which will help to avoid regulatory overkill in the future."

The act, once formalized, will require the following:

Groundwater Advisory Council - The director shall establish a broad-based groundwater advisory council to establish educational programs, coordinate technical assistance programs, and provide interagency coordination of groundwater programs.

The council shall include agriculture producers. Local stewardship teams may be established to implement groundwater protection programs.

Stewardship Program - Those farmers who have completed an on-site evaluation and develop a stewardship plan, which would be protective of groundwater, will be

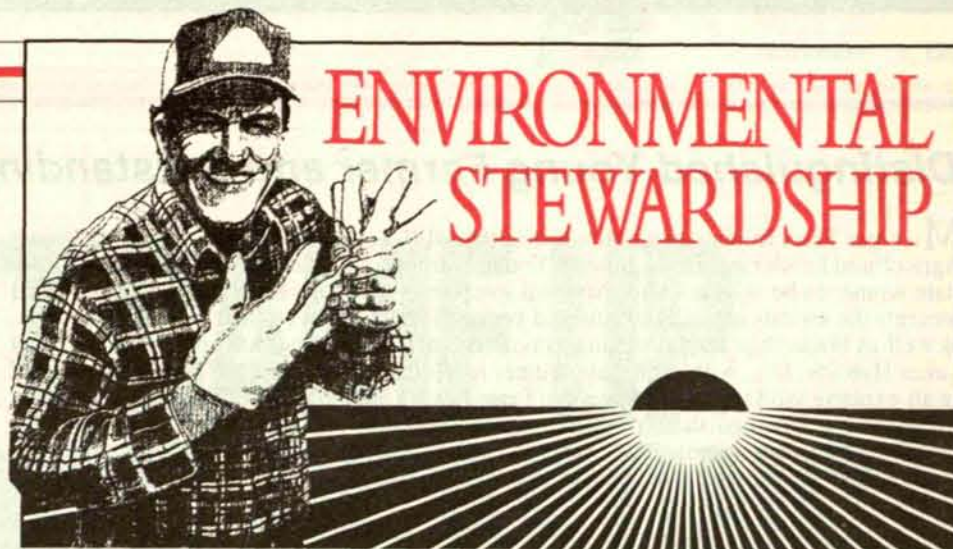
eligible to receive grants to implement the plan and be protected from liability for contamination unless he/she is not in accordance with state or federal law.

Freshwater Protection Fund - The fund will be established by requiring pesticide registrants to pay an annual groundwater protection fee for each product registered and nitrogen fertilizer distributors to pay a fee for each ton of fertilizer sold. The proposed fees are as follows:

- Specialty (non-agricultural) pesticides, \$100 per product.
- Agricultural pesticides, 0.75 percent of previous year's sales, (\$150 minimum).
- Specialty (non-agricultural) fertilizers, \$100 per product.
- Nitrogen fertilizers (agricultural) \$0.015 per percentage unit of N per ton.

"The total fund would be limited to \$3.5 million," Pontz explained. "The fund would pay direct assistance to farmers such as cost share programs for persons implementing groundwater stewardship practices or groundwater protection rules; cost share programs for persons who notify the director of potential sources of contamination; closure of improperly constructed wells; recycling programs for specialty and agriculture pesticide containers; pesticide pickup programs; monitoring of private well water for agricultural chemicals; and removal of contaminated soils and waters."

Indirect assistance programs such as education and technical assistance to pesticide users, implementation of on-site evaluation systems and stewardship practices, and research programs would also come from the fund.



Administrative costs to include monitoring, developing and enforcing groundwater protection rules and management of pesticide sales information, will be limited to 20 percent of the fund annually.

"The director of MDA is required to annually seek matching general fund appropriations in amounts equal to the fees collected under this act," Pontz said. "This section of the bill that authorizes the collection of fees is sunsetted seven years after the effective date of the act."

Response Mechanisms - The legislation also amends the Michigan Pesticide Control Act to authorize MDA to respond to agriculturally-related groundwater contamination by a pesticide. If pesticides are found in groundwater at a single location, the director shall assist in activities to prevent further contamination and perform an evaluation of practices.

"The director may require the person responsible for contamination at the site to develop an activity plan to correct the problem," Pontz said. "If activities are determined not to be in compliance with stewardship practices, the director may issue an order to cease or modify activities on the site."

Upon confirmation of groundwater contamination in three locations exceeding 20 percent of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), or when the EPA proposes to suspend or cancel registration of a pesticide because of groundwater concerns, MDA may develop a groundwater protection rule for a specific pesticide.

The director may also determine the scope and region of implementation for the rule. The director may require persons to furnish any information they have relating to identification, nature, and quantity of pesticides and fertilizers that have been used which may have impacted groundwater quality.

The director may authorize persons to land-apply materials contaminated with pesticides or fertilizers at agronomic rates. A person aggrieved by any order issued under this Act may request a hearing according to the Administrative Procedures Act, Pontz said.

"Farm Bureau (MFB) policy supports a comprehensive statewide plan to protect groundwater and surface water from agricultural chemicals and fertilizers that includes voluntary, incentive-driven programs," Pontz said. "MFB policy recommends the Michigan Department of Agriculture be given primary authority and responsibility to respond to agriculturally contaminated groundwater with site specific recommendations to the producer to mitigate contamination."

Pontz said that Farm Bureau policy also supports participation from agricultural producers in funding agricultural non-point source programs, only when at least equal contributions from public funding sources are made available.

Farm Bureau supported both bills. For more information, contact Vicki Pontz at (517) 323-7000, extension 2046.

Parson Chemical Cleanup First Time Commercial Use of ISV (continued from page 1)

Those factors made the Parson Chemical site an ideal candidate for the first commercial application of ISV technology, which can be done at under \$600 a cubic yard, less than a third the cost of other options.

Nearly 3,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil, excavated from an area at the rear of the chemical plant facility and from along a drainage ditch where chemicals had been dumped, will eventually be treated in a series of nine treatment cells constructed in 1990 for ISV application.

From 1945 to 1979, Parson's Chemical Works, Inc. manufactured agricultural chemicals at its Grand Ledge facility located on the western outskirts of the community. During those 34 years of producing pesticides, herbicides, solvents and compounds containing mercury, the company was also dumping chemicals into its drainage system.

After a bankruptcy in 1979, and subsequent investigations by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Eaton County Health Department and EPA, the Parson Chemical site was placed on EPA's national priorities list and became an EPA Superfund site in 1989. The ISV treatment process was initiated in July of 1993.

Site Preparation

Workers at the site constructed a treatment trench to hold the contaminated soil for the treatment phase of the cleanup. Concrete walls measuring 12 inches thick were constructed in the excavated trench.

A series of nine treatment cells, each measuring 28 feet x 28 feet by 16 feet deep, were constructed. Temperature sensors

Below, once the melt is complete in an individual cell, the hood is lifted by a crane to the next adjoining cell. The molten soil and the hole left by the melt is backfilled with clean dirt and seeded once the ground has cooled.



were installed in the trench to provide a means of monitoring the melting process.

The 3,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil were then placed into the treatment cells, with each cell containing four holes large enough to insert one foot diameter electrodes to start the melt.

Soil Treatment Phase

Because ISV is an on-site treatment technology, the equipment must be mobile so it can be relocated to future treatment sites. The ISV equipment includes a large metal

hood - a dome shaped structure that's 60 feet in diameter and 15 feet high. The hood overlaps the top of one treatment cell and is used primarily to vent off vapors for treatment before emission into the atmosphere.

Other parts of the ISV system include trailers for workers to monitor the melt, a trailer for a gas filtration system, and another trailer containing a transformer to provide a power source for the electrodes.

Other parts include a set of pipes to vent off the gas to the filter treatment system, and

the electrodes. Power cables, capable of carrying over 3.5 megawatts of electricity, run from the power lines to the trailer, and then the electrodes, which are fed down through the top of the hood.

Once the equipment is installed and the hood in place, workers place a "starter path" across the treatment cell. "Normally, soil has to be heated up and melted to make it conductive so that you can put power through it to continue melting the rest of the soil," said Zintak.

"Workers lay down a layer of graphite in a path between the electrodes to start the flow of electricity down into the ground," he said. "Once the melt actually starts, these one foot diameter electrodes are fed down into the ground, eventually reaching the 16 foot depth of the cell. The electrodes are manufactured in six foot lengths. Five of the electrodes are threaded together for a total length of 30 feet."

As the soil melt proceeds, and forms a thick liquid, its chemical structure is irreversibly broken down. Its volume is also reduced 20 to 30 percent since the melting removes water, organic material and air pockets.

Soil will be melted at the rate of one to two inches per hour, generally requiring five to 10 days to complete the melt in a cell before moving on to the next treatment cell. The ISV system consumes about the same amount of electricity as a small hotel on a daily basis, said Zintak.

It will take at least 12 months for the melted soil in each cell to cool and completely harden to glass, forming a single mass of glass in each cell.

Distinguished Young Farmer and Outstanding Young Agricultural Leader Finalists

14

Michigan Farm Bureau's eight finalists in the MFB Young Farmer's Outstanding Young Agricultural Leader and Distinguished Young Farmer contests have been selected, with the state winner to be selected after personal interviews at the MFB annual in Detroit. MFB presents the awards annually to selected young farmers based on their farming operation, as well as leadership and community involvement. The contests are sponsored by Great Lakes Hybrids, Inc., with each state winner receiving \$1,000 worth of seed products and an all-expense-paid trip to the American Farm Bureau annual meeting in January. The state winner in the Distinguished Young Farmer contest also receives 80 hours free use of a CASE-IH Maxxum tractor, and \$500 cash from Dodge Truck. All eight finalists will also receive a MFB Carhartt Jacket, compliments of Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

— Outstanding Young Agricultural Leaders —

John Crumbaugh
Ithaca, Gratiot County

Agricultural Operation:

Involved in 3,000 acre farm corporation with parents, raising sugar beets, edible beans, soybeans and corn. Responsible for record keeping, purchasing and marketing.

Community Involvement:

Served on Monitor Sugar Beet Growers Assoc. Board, B&W Coop Nominating Committee, Congressman Dave Camp's Advisory Committee, Chairman of Gratiot County Fair for Youth Pig Scramble, Rural Urban Committee, Member of Ithaca Chamber of Commerce.

Farm Bureau Involvement:

County Farm Bureau board member, state delegate, Washington Legislative Seminar participant, county Policy Development Committee, Gratiot County Young Farmer chairman, PROFILE graduate, Gratiot County Distinguished Young Farmer.



Carmen Hartwig

Central Lake, Antrim County
Husband: David

Agricultural Operation:

Owens and operates a 70-cow dairy operation raising nearly all of the feed for the approximately 200 head of livestock on the operation's 850 acres of hay and corn. Responsible for milking, breeding, DHIA record keeping, and herd health.

Community Involvement:

Served as chairperson and vice-chairperson on the Central Lake Planning Commission, tutor with Central Lake High School, tour guide with Soil Conservation Service, and active in numerous 4-H activities.

Farm Bureau Involvement:

Served on the Antrim County Farm Bureau board of directors, Young Farmer Committee chairperson, county Promotion and Education Committee co-chairperson, past district Discussion Meet finalist, and Outstanding Young Farm Woman finalist.



Robert Mayer

Bronson, Branch County

Agricultural Operation:

Involved in 2,700 acre farm corporation, raising over 1,500 acres of gladiolas, 75 acres of lilies, liatris, yarrow, allium, and peonies. The farm also custom operates approximately 1,000 acres of soybeans, navy beans, hay, seed corn, and field corn.

Community Involvement:

Branch County Community Foundation board of directors, Branch County Animal Shelter board of directors, active in Rotary Club activities, Bronson County Republican party precinct delegate, active in Bethel-Gilead Congregational Church committees.

Farm Bureau Involvement:

Member of Branch County Farm Bureau board of directors, Policy Development Committee member, Washington Legislative Seminar participant, Lansing Legislative Seminar participant, delegate to state annual, active in county Young Farmer activities.



Tamara Craig-Walton

Sturgis, St. Joseph County
Husband: Larry Walton

Agricultural Operation:

Family partnership consists of 625 acres of crops, including 600 acres of seed corn, commercial corn, soybeans, and alfalfa. The partnership also operates a 40-cow dairy herd, 25 feeder steers, and 30 head of commercial ewes and lambs.

Community Involvement:

FFA Alumni member and state secretary, 4-H volunteer, Lions Club volunteer, and Centreville United Methodist Church high school Sunday school leader and Publicity Committee member, MABA Crop Management Conference chairperson.

Farm Bureau Involvement:

Member of Young Farmer Committee, delegate to Young Farmer Leadership Conference, County Commissioner tour speaker on agricultural trends, district Discussion Meet contest judge, Ag-Citing Experience group leader.



— Distinguished Young Farmers —

Tom Barends

Fremont, Newaygo County
Wife: Jacqueline

Agricultural Operation:

Owens and operates a 50-cow dairy operation, with a rolling herd average of 22,671 pounds, in addition to marketing registered cows, bulls, and heifers. The farm utilizes rotational grazing throughout the growing season, with feed purchased for the remainder of the year.

Community Involvement:

Michigan Holstein Assoc. District 7 board member, Newaygo County DHIA secretary, Newaygo United Church of Christ youth group leader and council member, and 4-H Dairy Club leader. Operation also hosts an annual dairy promotion event called "Open Barn" each year in June. Received Outstanding 4-H Dairy Member Award, Progressive Genetics Award from the Holstein Assoc., Highest five-year Production Increase from DHIA, and Progressive Breeders Registry Award from the Holstein Association.

Farm Bureau Involvement:

Newaygo County Policy Development Committee member, Young Farmer Committee member and chairman, county Farm Bureau fair booth manager, and 1992 MFB Distinguished Young Farmer state finalist.



Pete Conrad

Ludington, Mason County
Wife: Connie
Children: Christopher, 1

Agricultural Operation:

Operates a 515 acre cropping operation, with 217 acres of snap beans, 45 acres of asparagus, 140 acres of corn, 65 acres of wheat, and 35 acres of rye.

Community Involvement:

Board member of Western Michigan Electric Cooperative, member of the Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board, member of Michigan Asparagus Research Committee, Amber Township Planning Commission, Emmanuel Lutheran Church group leader and council member.

Farm Bureau Involvement:

Mason County Farm Bureau board member, county Farm Bureau vice president and president, county delegate to MFB annual, Promotion and Education Committee member, chairman of county Young Farmer Committee, member of Policy Development Committee, and past Washington Legislative Seminar participant.



Jeff Horning

Manchester, Washtenaw County
Wife: Lynda LaVon
Children: Katelyn, 14 months

Agricultural Operation:

Active in family partnership on a 150-cow dairy operation, in addition to raising 175 acres of corn, 133 acres of hay and 22 acres of wheat. The herd sports a rolling herd average of 28,100 pounds.

Community Involvement:

4-H dairy judging coach, state 4-H dairy judge, active in Zion Lutheran Church, Holstein Association organization board, Washtenaw County Soil Conservation Service Conservation farmer of the year, state DHIA Progressive Farmer, and MMPA Outstanding Young Dairy Cooperative district alternate.

Farm Bureau Involvement:

Serves on county Young Farmer, Membership, and County Picnic committees. Chairman of the county Rural Education Days, state Young Farmer Leadership conference participant, 1992 MFB Outstanding Young Ag Leader state finalist, and past PROFILE participant.



Kenneth Oomen

Hart, Oceana County
Wife: Sandra
Children: Nicholas, 3;
Spencer, 7 months

Agricultural Operation:

In partnership on 744 acre cropping operation, growing 200 acres of asparagus, 155 acres of hubbard squash, 20 acres of butternut squash, 65 acres of carrots, 55 acres of green and yellow zucchini squash, 30 acres of green beans, 85 acres of corn, 40 acres of rye, and 50 acres of Christmas trees.

Community Involvement:

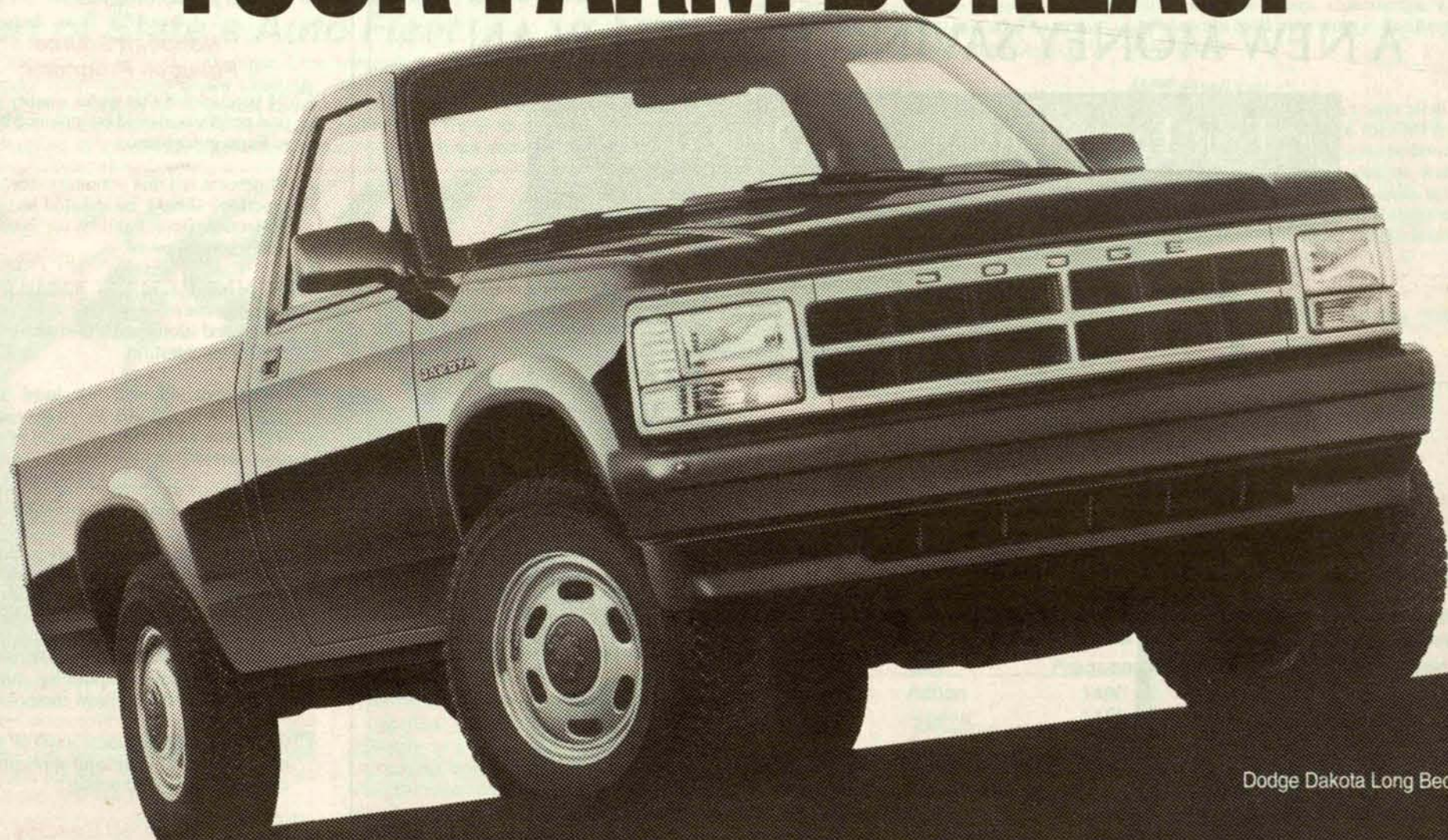
Member of the Michigan Asparagus Research Committee, active in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, and helped organize a community auction-open house dinner and fund-raiser.

Farm Bureau Involvement:

Member of the Oceana County Young Farmer, and MACMA Direct Marketing committees, chairman of Community Action Group, delegate to MFB annual meeting, and past participant of state Young Farmer Leadership Conference.



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16 Stray Voltage Programs Slated

Michigan State University and Consumers Power will host statewide seminars this winter on profitable cow facilities. This program will be of interest to all dairy farmers.

Consumers Power has made a strong commitment to not only recognize stray voltage as a not uncommon problem, but also to commit resources to on-farm investigation by trained electricians with farm backgrounds. As often seen, cow productivity can be held up by more than one problem.

MSU departments of Animal Science and Ag Engineering have studied the characteristics of healthy, productive dairy cattle facilities. These factors will be of use to farmers who want to update present facilities and those who are building new barns.

The first meeting will run from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thurs., Dec. 2, at the Comfort Inn in Plainwell. The program is open to everyone, even those who are not supplied by Consumers Power.

There will be refreshments and a lunch with a small registration fee of \$5. Other seminar dates include Dec. 10 at Sparta, Feb. 21 at Charlotte, and March 10 at the Clarksville Ag Experiment Station. If you

need information on these other dates, call (616) 948-4862.

There will be a two-part agenda. Consumers Power will discuss and demonstrate what causes stray voltage, how cows react to stray voltage, how it is created and how to prevent and cure it. They will tell about their new stray voltage or neutral/earth voltage investigation service geared especially for farms.

Farmers who have never suspected a stray voltage problem or think it is associated with "poor managers" will find this program of great interest.

The second part of the program will feature Dr. Bill Bickert from MSU Ag Engineering talking about the importance of facility design and operation. Dr. Bickert feels that the facilities make it possible for a dairy farmer to implement a profitable dairy management plan.

In short, almost any dairy farmer will benefit from this seminar. It is a regional program open to all. Mark down the date of Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Comfort Inn in Plainwell, located at the junction of U.S.-131 and M-89.

MFB Members Call for Less Government in 1995 Farm Bill in Statewide Policy Survey

Approximately 5 percent of the policy surveys mailed to regular MFB members with their Aug. 15 issue of *Michigan Farm News* were completed and returned to county Farm Bureaus to use in their policy development process, according to MFB Public Affairs Director Al Almy.

"This marked the first time MFB has undertaken such a comprehensive survey effort of regular members," Almy said. "This kind of input from the farmer-members certainly makes the policy development process a much easier and more thorough effort to stimulate grassroots participation."

Almy said that once the surveys were received at MFB, they were sorted by county and returned to their respective county Farm Bureaus for use by the county Policy Development Committee.

"Based on this year's response, we plan to conduct a similar survey in 1994," Almy said. "I'm confident that we'll have even more members taking advantage of the opportunity to provide input on their organization's policy direction."

Of those responding to the surveys, the following responses were received for each of the survey questions:

1995 Farm Program Elements:

- 47 percent called for market-oriented loan rates and target prices, while 22 percent disagreed.
- 33 percent agreed that the percentage of base acres not eligible for deficiency payments should be increased, while 38 percent disagreed.
- 34 percent felt that producer assessments should be used to reduce government farm program costs, while 37 percent disagreed.
- 40 percent said that export subsidies should be reduced, while 30 percent disagreed.
- 58 percent agreed that a "self-help" dairy program should be included in a 1995 farm bill, while 9 percent disagreed.
- 20 percent felt that increased environmental provisions should be a part of the farm bill, while 53 percent disagreed.
- Overall, 78 percent called for a reduction of government's role in agriculture, while only 10 percent disagreed.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Programs:

- 54 percent felt that water quality protection practices should be included in Right to Farm guidelines.
- 61 percent felt that voluntary stewardship practices should be created to provide protection from liability for contamination when followed.
- 18 percent said that mandatory best management practices should be developed along with cost-share dollars for implementation.
- 20 percent believed that local units of government should be responsible for regulation and enforcement of managing nonpoint source pollution on a water shed basis.

Composting

- 59 percent said that MSU should develop guidelines for on-farm composting and 53 percent said those MSU guidelines should be included in Right to Farm guidelines.
- 19 percent agreed that the Department of Natural Resources should be allowed to issue permits for on-farm composting.
- 27 percent felt that local units of government should regulate land application and composting of yard wastes.

Endangered Species

- 75 percent of the respondents said that economic impacts should be considered when determining if a species should be listed as endangered or threatened, while 21 percent said no.
- Only 27 percent agreed that the Endangered Species Act be amended to extend to species which in the future might be listed as endangered, while an overwhelming 71 percent said no.

Tort Liability and Lawsuits

- 90 percent said that non-economic pain and suffering, and punishment damage awards should have financial limits established, while 5 percent said no.
- 69 percent felt that contingency fees for attorneys should be reduced as monetary awards increase, instead of the flat 30 percent rate currently established. Only 7 percent disagreed with reducing the contingency rate.
- 78 percent said that standard monetary awards for specific types of injuries should be established to avoid vastly different settlements between juries, judges, and location; 8 percent disagreed.

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- 2-4 5-9
- 10-24 25 and over

Questions and Answers Regarding Michigan's School Finance Reform

17

The following is a brief overview of the governor's recent proposal for funding Michigan schools. The Legislature continues to debate the proposal and funding options. At least six other concepts have been offered as alternatives to the governor's proposal. As of this writing, the Legislature has not developed a clear consensus on the solution.

A major concern is the definition of homestead. The governor's proposal would exempt the homestead from the 16 mills for school operating. The current definition of homestead includes adjacent and contiguous land unless the land is rented to another. Rented land would be subject to the 16 mills. Real estate transactions exempted from the 16 mills would be subject to a four percent transaction tax, collected at the time of sale.

Because of the other proposals and the current debate in the Legislature, the details continue to change substantially and significantly. The following questions and answers are based on the proposal as presented by the governor.

Q. Is this a property tax cut?

A. Yes. This proposal will lead to over a \$6 billion property tax cut, the largest tax cut in Michigan's history. In addition, the proposal will eliminate local school property taxes for 530 school districts.

Q. What is the Real Estate Transfer Tax?

A. Forty states, including Michigan, levy a Real Estate Transfer Tax. No tax is owed until you sell your house when you pay the state 4 percent of the home's market value.

Q. Will I have to pay the 16 mill statewide property tax?

A. Only business property and second homes will be responsible for paying the 16 mill statewide tax. The property which is your primary residence will be exempt.

Q. Will my school lose funding?

A. No. In the first year, each district will be guaranteed an increase in their general operating revenue from the prior year. Many low-resource districts will see a significant increase in funds.

Q. Why was the Homestead Property Tax Credit eliminated?

A. Under current law, our Homestead Property Tax Credit program would reach almost a \$1 billion. With the significant reduction in property taxes, Homestead Credits would have automatically declined by \$850 million, leaving approximately \$150 million.

As a partial replacement, a refundable \$450 credit to all seniors with incomes below \$13,000 would be allowed.

Q. Why do we need a constitutional amendment?

A. The Michigan Constitution limits the total revenue the state can raise, which is substantially less than the tax cut in S.B. 1. There are basically two options: go back to local property tax, or amend the Constitution so that the state can fully meet its commitment to education.

Q. Why do we need a sales tax increase?

A. Michigan has one of the highest property tax burdens in the country and one of the lowest sales tax. Most economists believe a sales tax is more efficient than taxing income. Finally, the sales tax has a greater chance of being exported to non-residents than an income or property tax.

Q. Is this a tax cut?

A. Yes. Even after the recommended replacement revenues, Michigan taxpayers will see an estimated \$303 million decrease in total taxes the first year.

Q. How will local government be able to replace lost revenue as a result of S.B. 1 and state aid reductions?

A. Every local unit in the state will be able to levy additional allocated millage to replace their lost revenue sharing or to fund

transportation or economic development programs.

Counties will be able to levy 2 additional mills, cities 6 mills, townships 3 mills, and villages 2 mills. If local units can't generate enough revenue to replace lost revenue, the county must reimburse them up to \$5 million per county. The state will reimburse any remaining amount.

Q. How many local units will require reimbursement by the county or state?

A. Of the 1,500 local units in Michigan, about 45 cities, four townships, and 178 villages will be reimbursed for some amount by their county. Although many villages will receive payments from the counties, only three villages would receive payments in excess of \$100,000 and the average payment to villages would be less than \$20,000. Only one city, Detroit, will need to be reimbursed by the state.

Q. How will property tax abatements change?

A. The state will no longer be involved in the administration of property tax abatements. Local units and counties will have joint power to grant abatements. Local abatements will not apply to the state property tax.

MFB Position:

If agricultural land is not exempt from a 16 mill statewide property tax, then MFB supports a maximum of 16 mills to be levied on all property for K-12 operations with no exemptions. MFB supports a sales tax and an income tax increase. MFB opposes an increase in the Michigan Single Business Tax.

MFB Contact:

Ron Nelson, (517) 323-7000, Ext. 2043

Ten Ethanol Powered Cars Now a Part of State's Auto Fleet

MDA Director Bill Schuette, Michigan Corn Growers Association President Larry Nobis, Michigan Corn Marketing Board Chairman Dan Putman, and Governor John Engler are pictured with a 1993 E-85 Chevrolet Lumina at MSU's Ag Expo. The car, powered by fuel containing 85 percent ethanol, is being used by Schuette. The E-85 is one of 89 alternative fuel powered vehicles in the state's motor pool, 10 of which are powered by ethanol.



Michigan corn farmers will be helping to fuel 10 state-owned vehicles powered by ethanol produced from corn. Michigan Department of Agriculture Director Bill Schuette took delivery of his ethanol powered Chevrolet Lumina in July, one of the first ethanol powered cars delivered.

According to Maureen McNulty, spokesperson with the Michigan Department of Management and Budget (DMB), the state-owned fleet has become a hands-on application for indepth research of alternative fueled vehicles (AFV). The research will focus on technology, availability, cost and application of AFVs including ethanol, electric, compressed natural gas, and methanol. The state has ordered 89 AFVs for 1993.

"It's critical that this research be conducted in a controlled environment where accurate usage of fuels can be identified and the reliability of the data verified," explained McNulty. "The controlled environment will also allow for adequate driver education and comments as we develop the program further to facilitate long-term success with AFVs."

McNulty said the state plans to aggressively expand its AFV test program in each of the next five years, with a goal of 40 percent of all new vehicles ordered to be an AFV by 1997.

AFV Issues

Fuel Distribution: If there's a significant problem with AFVs, fuel distribution ranks as number one, according to McNulty. "This is particularly important in a state as vast as Michigan," she said. "Our fleet is dispersed throughout the state, which can create a real

problem if an AFV is dependent on single refueling station in any given area."

McNulty said that fuel suppliers are generally in a "wait and see" mode before committing significant capital outlays for an adequate alternative fuel storage and delivery system.

Vehicle Availability: Despite the public's growing interest on AFVs, their availability is not as rapid as might be expected. Conversions are available, but they're questionable in terms of clean air, vehicle design and costs, according to McNulty.

Economic Justification: Another big hurdle that AFVs must clear is their cost compared to conventionally fueled vehicles. Conversion costs and equipment can range from \$1,500 to \$3,000 per vehicle. Depreciation, which is 50 percent of vehicle costs, will increase even more, McNulty said, because of the reduced buyers market for AFVs. The only economic gain is the reduced fuel costs of AFVs, which are marginal when the tax credits are removed from the formula.

Information: Despite numerous studies on alternative fuels, inconsistent findings and information have had an adverse impact on the overall success of AFVs, and ultimately, consumer acceptance.

Technology: McNulty said that continued research is an absolute necessity if AFVs are to be further developed and accepted. She points to several problems, such as natural gas cold-start problems; electrical battery development; ethanol's highly corrosive properties; methanol's inadequate energy output and highly toxic condition.



Serving Michigan Farm Families is Our Only Business

Since its beginning in 1971, Michigan Farm Radio Network's only objective has been to serve Michigan's farm families. This dedication to serve agriculture is shared by 29 local radio stations in Michigan. Through these stations, Michigan Farm Radio Network provides the latest in market analysis, weather and news to Farm Bureau members daily on the following stations:

Station	City	Frequency	Morning Farm	Noon Farm
WABJ	Adrian	1490	5:45 am	11:50 am
WATZ	Alpena	1450	5:30 am	11:30 am
WTKA	Ann Arbor	1050	6:05 am	12:05 pm
WLEW	Bad Axe	1340	6:30 am	12:50 pm
WHFB	Benton Harbor			12:30 pm
WKYO	Caro	1360	6:15 am	12:15 pm
WTVB	Coldwater	1590	5:45 am	***
WDOW	Dowagiac	1440	6:05 am	12:15 pm
WGHN	Grand Haven	1370/92.1	5:45 am	12:15 pm
WPLB	Greenville	1380	6:15 am	11:45am
WBCH	Hastings	1220	6:15 am	12:30 pm
WCSR	Hillsdale	1340	6:45 am	12:45 pm
WHTC	Holland	1450		12:15 pm
WKZO	Kalamazoo	590	**	11:30 am
WJIM	Lansing	1240	5:05 am	11:50 am
WWGZ	Lapeer	1530	*	12:15 pm
WOAP	Owosso	1080	6:15 am	12:30 pm
WHAK	Rogers City	960		12:15 pm
WSJ	St. Johns	1580	6:15 am	12:15 pm
WMLM	St. Louis	1540	6:05 am	12:20 pm
WSGW	Saginaw	790	5:55 am	12:20 pm
WMIC	Sandusky	660	6:15 am	12:45 pm
WCSY	South Haven	940		12:15 pm
WKJC	Tawas City	104.7		12:45 pm
WLKM	Three Rivers	1510/95.9	6:15 am	12:15 pm
WTCM	Traverse City	580	5:55 am	11:20 am

* Station signs on at different times during the year. Morning farm times change with the sign-on times.
 ** Station airs various farm reports between 5:30 and 6:00 a.m.
 *** Station airs various farm reports between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m.

Some stations carry additional market reports throughout the market day.

- Michigan Farm News Classifieds -

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Real Estate

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09
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11
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15

Special Events

UNIVERSITY OF Minnesota MN Ext. Service 11th Annual Dairy Tour, February, 4-March 3, 1994. Australia-New Zealand-Fiji Vacation. See dairy farming, marketing, research, scenery, farm stays. Fee, \$4295. Mpls, \$4095 LA, U of M, 405 Coffey Hall, St. Paul, MN 55108. Call 1-800-367-5363.

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Discussion Topic for December -- Promoting Farming as a Career

Ask most people what they think is agriculture's most important resource, and they'll probably answer that it's water, soil, equipment or capital. In fact, qualified, well-trained young people are our farming industry's most important - and increasingly coveted - resource.

Many people are worried that high capital requirements for farming and difficulties obtaining credit prevent young persons with little equity from entering farming. In response to these concerns, policymakers have created programs offering direct assistance to beginning farmers. The 1992 Agricultural Credit Improvement Act provides for direct loans, guarantee of commercial loans and interest rate subsidies to beginning farmers.

Even though it is a challenge for a young person to enter farming, there are great opportunities in production agriculture. That's especially true now that MSU has begun rebuilding and revitalizing the animal agriculture facilities. This "Animal Agriculture Initiative" holds tremendous potential for boosting economic activity across the spectrum of our industry.

MSU aggressively recruits for their two-year Ag Tech program and the four-year degree programs in agriculture and natural resources. "Some of the most plentiful job opportunities are on dairy, livestock and crop farms," said Cliff Jump, director of the Ag Tech programs and coordinator of the ag business program at MSU.

A majority of the young people in MSU's Ag Tech program come from farms, but MSU tries hard to inform non-farm youth about the job opportunities in production ag. "We love to be able to recruit some non-farm people who want to be in agriculture and go into production agriculture jobs," Jump said. "The swine industry is an example. We always get more requests for people than we have to fill those positions. And interestingly, 90 percent of our two-year graduates stay in Michigan and two-thirds go back to their communities."

Precise figures for Michigan are not available, but USDA said that about 3,650 job openings for agricultural production specialists are expected across the country through 1995. Two-thirds of those positions will be farm managers and forest land resources managers.

The size and complexity of many commercial farms in the future will make it increasingly necessary to hire people who have college degrees instead of just high school

diplomas, according to USDA. More college-educated farm managers will be hired in commercial plant and animal operations as each become more economically integrated. There will be excellent production management opportunities in commercial horticulture and turf operations.

In larger farm operations, highly specialized production managers will become more common. Others will focus exclusively on marketing functions or financial management, and some may specialize in mechanical systems operations. In some cases, the increased specialization will require managers with advanced degrees in highly specific areas of expertise.

What can farmers do to promote production ag as a career?

"They can be active in their organizations and tell others that there are career opportunities, that agriculture is still a dynamic industry and that it has a future," according to Jump. "Farmers can help themselves by promoting agriculture as a good way of life."

Although there may not be as many opportunities as there were 30 years ago for young people to get into farming on their own, production agriculture and the rural way of life still hold a powerful appeal. In your interactions with non-farmers, be sure and point out that Michigan agriculture plans to grow in the future and needs the talents of our young people to make that happen.

Discussion Questions:

1. Is it important to encourage young people to examine production farming or ag-related careers? Yes/No Why?
2. What is the biggest obstacle to young people in choosing a career in production farming or an ag-related field today?
3. On the other hand, what are some of the positive, fulfilling aspects of production farming and ag-related careers that should be promoted to young people considering their futures?
4. What can be done in your local communities and schools to increase student's awareness of opportunities in the agricultural field?

MFB Family Trade Show Focus on MFB Services



Members attending the MFB annual meeting will be able to learn more about their member service programs during the 1993 MFB Family Trade Show on Mon., Nov. 29, from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Tues., Nov. 30, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. MFB member service programs on exhibit will include:

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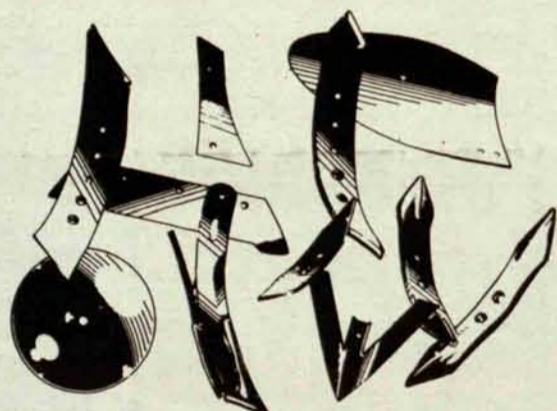
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20 Building Barns the Way They Used to (continued from page 1)

"We had made detailed drawings - I don't know why - but I had gone up into the loft, taken dimensions of beams, noting their location and distance between them and so on," Saunders said. "Those drawings were given to Mike at the time he was working on the barn and this has enabled him to duplicate the original barn as much as possible."

According to Saunders, once the new barn is completed, it may have a few additional windows and doors, but basically it will be the same barn as the one that went down in 1988.

"I think Mike was personally devastated when the original barn fell over and felt somewhat responsible," Saunders commented. "Mike made a commitment and he just made up his mind that he was going to replace the barn one way or another."

Five years later, Stitt made good on his promise to Saunders by contacting Tillers International in April of 1993 to garner their assistance in putting together a work crew that could help in the actual reconstruction

of the barn, according to Dick Roosenberg, executive director of Tillers International.

"Tillers is a non-profit organization that's committed to researching our own rural history and finding various techniques that are low cost and yet productive that might be adaptable to international agriculture," explained Roosenberg. "What we do is try to draw on our great grandfather's skills and make those available to young men in other parts of the world who don't necessarily have access to new technology."

Roosenberg said the offer by Stitt to make the barn raising an educational opportunity was something that appealed to Tillers and, in no time at all, three workshops had been scheduled to design the barn, do the actual layout and marking of the beams, and finally, the actual barn raising on Oct. 30 at the Saunders farm.

"This seemed to be a good opportunity to work with a lot of craftsmen and draw some



of the people together that enjoyed wood-working skills and are involved in Tillers," Roosenberg said. "Our principle role was in

pulling together the people and organizing a workshop format for it."

On the day of the actual barn raising, Roosenberg said nearly 60 workers showed up to help. By nightfall, all but the rafters and roof had been completed. Several of the workers planned on returning the following weekend to complete the remainder of the barn raising project.

"Rebuilding this barn was a monumental undertaking," Saunders concluded. "The bottom line, however, is that it will be super when it's done and we'll utilize it."

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Calendar of Events

- Nov. 24 – Northern Mich. Livestock Assoc. Feeder Sale, Gaylord, 2:30 p.m.
 - Nov. 26 – All-Breed Calf Sale, Lake Odessa Livestock Auction, 1 p.m.
 - Nov. 26 – Lake Odessa Feeder Sale, Lake Odessa Livestock Auction, 6 p.m.
 - Nov. 28-Dec. 1 – MFB Annual Meeting Westin Hotel, Detroit, Mich.
 - Dec. 2 – Stray Voltage Program, Comfort Inn, Plainwell, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Barry County CES, (616) 948-4862
 - Dec. 3-4 – West Michigan Livestock Show & Market Sale, Lake Odessa
 - Dec. 3 – Michigan Livestock Exchange Feeder Sale, St. Louis, 1 p.m.
 - Dec. 4 – Michigan Livestock Exchange Feeder Sale, Battle Creek, 1 p.m.
 - Dec. 8 – Northern Mich. Livestock Assoc. Feeder Sale, Gaylord, 2:30 p.m.
 - Dec. 9 – Dairy Nutrition Update - Montcalm Community College, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Montcalm CES (517) 831-5226
 - Dec. 11-12 – Michigan Winter Beef Show. MSU Livestock Pavilion, East Lansing
 - Dec. 11 – Michigan Winter Potato & Field Seed Conference, Michigan Crop Improvement Assoc. and Michigan Foundation Seed Association annual meetings, Midland Valley Plaza Inn, (517) 355-7438.
 - Dec. 15-16 – Michigan Crop Management Conference - Holiday Inn - Lansing,
 - Dec. 16 – Owosso Livestock Sales Co. Feeder Sale, Owosso, 3 p.m.
 - Jan. 8 – Michigan Cattlemen's Convention, MSU, East Lansing
 - Jan. 9-13 – AFBF 75th Anniversary Annual Meeting Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
- Send or FAX information (include contact name and phone number) three weeks in advance to: Michigan Farm News, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, MI 48909-8460. FAX: (517) 323-6793