

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

MICHIGAN'S ONLY STATEWIDE FARM NEWSPAPER

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU



MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

October 30, 1996
Vol. 73, No. 18



Added cost funding issue hits home for state's agri-science programs

Michigan farmland PDR program gets \$1 million boost

Getting several Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) programs beyond the concept stage in Michigan took one giant step toward implementation recently, with a \$1 million farmland protection grant from the USDA. The grant is part of \$14.5 million released by USDA under the Farmland Protection Program, created under the 1995 farm bill, that will be leveraged with state-level funds creating a total nest egg of \$55 million for farmland protection nationwide.

Michigan was one of 18 states receiving a grant under the program. According to Dave Skjaerlund, executive director of the Rural Development Council, the \$1 million will be used with matching state and local funds to purchase PDRs from 15 parcels of farmland in the Traverse City area and another seven parcels in southeastern Michigan.

Approximately \$300,000 of the \$1 million grant will be matched with funds generated by a 1.25 mil property tax in 1994 in Peninsula Township in Grand Traverse County. The remaining \$700,000 will be matched with funds generated by the state's Farmland Open Space Act, or P.A. 116, lien fund to purchase additional PDRs in north-east and southeast Michigan.

The existence of ongoing farmland protection efforts in Michigan gave the state an advantage over other states, says Skjaerlund. "To qualify under this program there had to be a pending offer, or at least something in process. In other words, you had to submit actual parcels in the funding request," he pointed out.

Skjaerlund coordinated the Governor's Michigan Farmland and Agriculture Development task force in 1994. That study showed that between 1982 and 1992, over 854,000 acres of Michigan farmland — 10 acres every hour — was lost to development. That acreage loss equates to a \$100 million loss in local farm revenue.

The use of PDRs to preserve farmland has started to gain momentum both in Michigan and across the country, with an estimated 50,000 additional acres in 18 states being protected as a result of this most recent \$14.5 million grant program. Skjaerlund says PDRs allow producers to capitalize on the development value of the farmland without actually selling the farm.

"Basically we're compensating the landowner for the value of his development rights, which is the difference between the development value and the agricultural value," he explained. "In exchange the landowner agrees to not build houses on the land or use it for other non-agricultural purposes. The farmer can still farm the land and

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Hastings High School teacher Ed Domke's agri-science classes will be hit hard with the loss of added cost funding dollars to their program. "I think it's pretty sad when agriculture is the number two industry in Michigan and the largest in the world and we've fallen to the bottom of the list — something's wrong," Domke explained in disbelief. "Every week someone asks for a student to fill a job and I just don't have enough students to go around," Domke adds. "This program won't continue without added cost funding."

COVER STORY

"What we've got, essentially, is a fundamental problem that developed because of the state's inability to predict need and demand in agricultural labor which, consequently, gets translated into reduced support for agriculture programs in the state."

Dr. Fred Poston, dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, MSU

The stakes in the never-ending funding battle for the state's 120 agri-science programs were raised for at least 25 programs that will lose a portion of their operating budget under the Michigan Department of Education's (MDE) added cost funding program for career and technical education, according to Mark Forbush, agri-science instructor at Perry High School.

Added cost funding dollars, used by many agri-science programs to cover added costs such as summer programs, leadership contests, greenhouse operations and numerous other activities, were jeopardized with MDE's recent ranking of agri-science programs, which plummeted from 15th on the list in 1995 to 28th for 1996.

MDE annually doles out between \$27 and \$30 million for vocational program funding. Programs ranked 15th place or higher are funded directly from 60 percent of the total funds. Funding is based on a \$151 per student hour reimbursement formula, which means approximately \$15,000 annually to the Perry agri-science program.

The remaining 40 percent of the funds are then distributed to Regional Educational Service Districts (RESA), formerly known as Intermediate School Districts, for distribution, as they see fit, at the local level, which may or may not include local agri-science programs within area high schools.

Forbush got involved in the added cost fund-

ing issue two years ago as president of the Michigan Association of Agri-science Educators. He says the ranking, which is based on Michigan Employment Security Commission (MESC) statistics for ag labor demands and actual student placement as determined by surveys of graduating high school seniors, is inadequate and simply inaccurate.

"How can we be the number two industry in this state and be the 28th most important career technical program in Michigan?" Forbush asks. "How can one in eight jobs in our state depend on agriculture which contributes over \$37 billion to our state's economy, and be the 28th most important program in our state? Something's wrong with the system if it doesn't reflect a more urgent need for people than that."

Forbush says an overhaul of the methodology used to establish the ranking is long overdue and says this year's 28th place ranking should be a wake-up call for changing the system. The use of MESC for labor demand ranks high on Forbush's list of problems with the current method of ranking programs, which currently shows a total agricultural workforce of only 110,900, including owner/operators. He argues that few farmers utilize MESC as a source for finding new hired help.

"If a farmer in my area needs hired help, he generally calls me; I'm placing kids in farm

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Lawsuit brought against ADM by Michigan Pork Producers in lysine price fixing scheme

ADM already agrees to penalty of \$100 million to settle federal charges of price fixing

In a complaint filed in Kent County Circuit Court, the Michigan Pork Producers Association (MPPA) contends that the four major lysine producing companies — ADM, two Japanese-based companies and one Korean-based company — violated anti-trust laws by working together to set the price of lysine charged to feed companies and pork producers, according to Sam Hines, MPPA's executive director.

Over the course of five years, the Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM) conspired with the three other foreign companies to set the price of the commonly used feed additive at inflated levels alleges the MPPA and five other individual pork producers who filed as co-plaintiffs and serve on the MPPA board of directors.

"Our interest was peaked as a result of the fact that Michigan law is a little unique," explained Hines. "There are about six states that have state law in place that will allow a secondary user, such as an individual pork producer, to claim damages in a price fixing situation. Michigan law states that if indeed you can prove it is a flagrant violation, it allows for triple damages."

"We have been mulling this over for several months," stated Hines. "Finally we felt we

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A Publication of the Michigan Farm Bureau
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Lansing, Michigan 48909-9460

News in Brief



From the President

Making your vote count

Nov. 5 is a crucial day for agriculture. The choices you make on election Tuesday will have a significant impact on the future of your farming enterprise.

For perspective, look at the positive results of the ballots you cast in the 1994 election. Thanks in large part to the "Friends of Agriculture" you helped elect that pivotal year, the agricultural industry has enjoyed a series of tremendous legislative and congressional victories. In Lansing, we saw passage of important P.A. 116 amendments, unemployment compensation reform and no-fault insurance tort reform. On the national level, congressional representatives, elected with the help of Farm Bureau members like you, passed a historic farm bill, a presidential line item veto, Delaney reform and health care reform.

But what happens next? We can't afford to rest on our laurels. Already, agriculture's opponents are gearing up to roll back the progress we've made. If we want to continue moving forward on implementing our policy priorities, it is critically important that we elect lawmakers who support Farm Bureau objectives.

On the state level, that means supporting candidates who will work with Gov. Engler to address important issues like wildlife crop damage, transpor-

ation, natural resources and fine-tuning of tax policy. We need legislators who are willing to look at the agricultural perspective and make decisions that will help ensure the continued viability of farming as a diverse and important segment of the Michigan economy.

On the national scene, we need congressional representatives who will continue the historic progress made during the 104th Congress. But that progress could be short-circuited if we don't elect a president who will permit Congress' free-market, regulatory reform proposals to be enacted.

That is why your support for Bob Dole is important. In this presidential election, having a strong turnout in rural areas will make a big difference. Recent polls have shown Dole gaining ground on President Clinton. But for Dole to have a fighting chance, every single one of his supporters across the country must cast their ballot.

A Dole presidency would mean support for Farm Bureau priority issues at the highest level. Bob Dole believes: farmers should be compensated when the value of their land is diminished by wetland determinations or endangered species designations, that bureaucratic involvement in wetland determinations should be reduced, that regulations should be subject to meaningful cost-benefit analysis, in agriculture programs focused on growth-oriented policies, that rural economies should be revitalized, that government should leave more money in the pockets of taxpayers, and in improving the competitiveness of U.S. farm exports.

No doubt about it. Voter participation is the key to shaping the outcome of this year's election. In 1992, 55 percent of eligible voters made it to the polls. The number declined to 37 percent in 1994. If that trend continues this year, the traditionally high-percentage farm and rural vote could be pivotal.

Make your vote count. Refer to the "Friends of Agriculture" list in the Oct. 15 issue of *Michigan Farm News* and visit the polls on Nov. 5.

Jack Laurie

Jack Laurie, President
Michigan Farm Bureau

ORGANIZATIONAL BRIEFS

Wanted: Enthusiastic, knowledgeable people willing to tell kids about Michigan's most important occupation

The Michigan Farm Bureau will be spreading the message about farming to Traverse City area children Dec. 12. Volunteers are needed to go to the schools and present the third- and fourth-grade lesson plans in teams of 2-3 people. There will be a training session Dec. 11. The event is in conjunction with the MFB state annual meeting.

"Last year's venture into the classroom was a great success," said Julie Chamberlain, manager of Promotion and Education at MFB. Over 2,000 fourth- and fifth-grade students learned about Michigan's most important industry, she said. This year, third- and fourth-grade lessons will be presented. The third-grade activity is titled, *Understanding Insects as Friends or Foes*, while the fourth grade

will learn *Food and Fiber Products — Friendly to the Environment and You!*

The third-grade lesson will focus on insect identification and integrated pest management. Fourth-grade students will learn how agricultural products are a part of their everyday lives and how farm products are used for industrial purposes. The lesson materials will be provided, and kids will learn through hands-on activities. Plan to make a difference in the education of these youth.

Farm Bureau members who enjoy children and want to tell the story of agriculture are invited to assist. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, call Cindy Kelly or Karen Stoneman at (517) 323-7000, ext. 3202. ■

Merchant accepts advertising sales rep. position

Joshua Merchant has accepted the position of advertising sales representative for the Michigan Farm Bureau member publications, the *Michigan Farm News* and *Rural Living* magazine. Originally from an Ithaca-area 1,100-acre cash crop



operation in Gratiot County, Merchant graduated from Albion College with a degree in communications, with a marketing concentration. He was most recently employed with UNUM American, Inc. as a sales/account representative servicing 500 client accounts on long-term health care insurance products, and has had previous sales experience with United Way, Starr Commonwealth, Johnson and Higgins, and the Gratiot County Chamber of Commerce. If interested in learning more about advertising in the *Michigan Farm News* or *Rural Living*, contact Merchant at 800-292-2680, ext. 6543. ■

Michigan producers part of Ag Resource Management Study

Over 235 Michigan producers will be asked to participate in the Agricultural Resource Management Study, a national survey of 18,000 producers, to gather reliable and objective information about numerous management practices according to the Michigan Agricultural Statistic Service.

Information on crop protection, production practices, pest management, and selected production costs are some of the topics to be measured during October, November, and December. Only 18,000 of the nation's 2 million farm operators will be asked to participate in the study, so every re-

sponse is critical.

Farmers selected to participate in the study will be making an important contribution to the overall welfare of the agricultural community.

Producers selected to participate in the study will be notified by letter and interviewers will visit with them personally to collect their reports (at the operator's convenience). USDA will publish national information on agricultural chemical usage, as well as analysis of commodity production costs and returns, in a series of reports in 1997. ■

Propane stock reduction shouldn't affect Michigan farmers

Propane stocks reached a 26-year low for the start of the heating season, but the effects on Michigan farmers should be negligible. National stocks were just 50.4 million barrels on Sept. 30, 7 million below last year's level.

However, Midwest supplies gained 500,000 barrels to put them at 23.5 million. Don Peppel, of Farmers Petroleum Corporation, said there has not been any surge of prices. He noted that the pro-

pane prices followed crude oil prices, but that is normal activity. Crude oil has risen \$4.68 since the beginning of September. Propane has risen \$9.60 since Sept. 1, but only \$3.20 since Oct. 1.

There should be no shortage for Michigan farmers' grain dryers, said Peppel. He added that it is difficult to determine the effects until mid-November, when new estimates for the winter supply are made. ■

Sheridan chairman of the board

William Sheridan, of Mason, has been elected to chair the Michigan Beef Industry Commission. Gov. Engler appointed him to the board to represent the livestock markets in the state. Sheridan co-owns and operates the Owosso Livestock Sales Company and manages Sheridan Livestock Marketing Service. He is past chairman of the Michigan Beef Exposition, past president of the Livestock Marketing Association and former director of the Michigan Auctioneers Association.

The Commission administers the beef checkoff program which is designed to strengthen beef's position in the marketplace. The beef checkoff funds programs in the areas of promotion, consumer information, industry information, foreign marketing and research on both the state and national levels.

Other elected officers include: Karen Stoneman, Breckenridge, vice chairperson; John VanderBoon, Ada, secretary; and Velmar Green, Elsie, treasurer. ■

EQUIP funding hits a snag

The government will soon be giving farmers and ranchers money to help implement conservation measures. Already, a portion of the program is under criticism. At issue is who will qualify for waste treatment funds: "small" farmers or "big" farmers.

The voluntary Environmental Quality Incentives Program, created by the 1996 farm bill, pays up to 75 percent of the cost of building manure containment lagoons, the costs of switching to farming techniques that require fewer pesticides and other conservation measures.

Advocates for small farmers and several lawmakers, including Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.), have said that the rules proposed

Friday by the Agriculture Department do not define clearly who qualifies for the \$200 million in funding. They say that corporations could get some of the money to build pollution controls that the Clean Water Act already requires they have in place.

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman admits that the rules do not preclude that, but he promised that wealthy corporations would get nothing. "I have no intention of awarding large-scale operations any of this assistance. Period," he said.

Farm Bureau believes that the cost-share funds for livestock operators should not be limited due to the size of the operation, but rather should be based on environmental benefits. ■

Worries persist in spite of Delaney reform

The reform of the Delaney Clause was welcome news for America's food producers, but the implementation of the "negligible risk" standard in determining whether pesticides can be used hasn't wiped out the worry among farmers.

According to *The Packer* newspaper, a great deal of anxiety exists among producers because it is uncertain how the Environmental Protection Agency will translate the new Food Quality Protection Act into policies and regulations.

"There's a lot of anxiety associated with the new law," said John Aguirre of the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association. "We'll need a high

degree of industry involvement."

One major concern centers on the belief that if the produce industry loses key crop-protection compounds, the volume and quality of produce will decline, prices will rise and consumption will fall.

Some concerns revolve around the fate of pesticides that might not meet the "negligible risk" standard. Wally Ewart of the Northwest Horticulture Council said Delaney reform created some positives for agriculture, but he worries that the negatives could cancel them out. He said EPA must review all the current pesticides in light of the new standard, and this might lead to the loss of key chemicals for produce. ■

READER COMMENTS

BST SALES GROWING

The Sept. 15 issue of *Michigan Farm News* referenced a *Wall Street Journal* article describing the disappointing sales of Monsanto's Posilac bovine somatotropin. Actually, in just the past two years, Posilac has become the largest selling dairy animal health product in the United States. Sales increased significantly in 1995 over 1994 — in the range of 15 to 20 percent.

For the first three quarters of 1996, sales volumes are up 40 percent from the comparable period in 1995. Acceptance of Posilac continues to grow with 15 to 20 new dairy producers joining the Posilac program each business day.

Michigan producers were among the quickest in the country to adopt the Posilac technology in 1994, and herds representing 30 percent of the state's cows continue to use Posilac today. We anticipate continued growth as more producers recognize the value that Posilac can bring to their dairy business.

Roger Swartzendruber, Area Market Manager
Protiva, a unit of Monsanto Company

EXTENSION NOT ASSOCIATED WITH CLUB CALF SALE

Michigan State University is not directly affiliated with the West Michigan Club Calf Sale as an article in the Oct. 15 *Michigan Farm News* may have implied. MSU Extension agents from Newaygo and Muskegon counties have served in an advisory role but assume no responsibility or financial liability for the consignments or function of the Nov. 2 sale.

Joel Cowley, EANR Livestock Agent,
Northwest Michigan

Send your comments to:

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The *Michigan Farm News* (ISSN:0743-9962) is published twice per month except in the months of November, December, June and July when only one issue is printed, as a service to regular members, by Michigan Farm Bureau, 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48917. Member subscription price of \$1.50 is included in annual dues of Michigan Farm Bureau regular members. Additional subscription fees required for mailing *Michigan Farm News* to nonmembers and outside the continental U.S.A. Periodical postage paid at Lansing, Michigan, and additional mailing offices.

Letters to the editor and statewide news articles should be sent to: Editor, *Michigan Farm News*, Post Office Box 30960, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8460. POSTMASTER — Send address changes to: Michigan Farm Bureau, Post Office Box 30960, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8460.

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Capitol Corner

For more information on legislative topics in the Michigan Farm News, call 800-292-2680.

NATIONAL ISSUE

Hazardous materials transport

The Research and Special Program Administration (RSPA) in the Department of Transportation has published a proposed regulation for the intrastate transportation of hazardous material within each state. If given final approval, the federal government would in effect be telling the State of Michigan specifically what it must do to regulate the transportation of hazardous material within its borders.

Currently, each state establishes its own regulations concerning the transportation of hazardous materials. The proposed regulation by the RSPA would force farmers who move fertilizer, pesticides and fuel from farm to field and from field to farm to comply with the same requirements as commercial over-the-road haulers moving from state to state. The requirements include such things as placarding, obtaining shipping papers and maintaining a 24-hour emergency response telephone line.

Farm Bureau strongly opposed the proposed regulation because of the adverse impact it would have on many farmers. Further, the quantity of fertilizers, pesticides and fuel transported from farm to field and back by many farmers is not large enough to pose a significant risk to public health. The University of Illinois conducted a study to determine what the financial impact would be for an average

farm to comply with the proposed rule change. The University estimated that it would cost the average farm \$2,070.

When it became apparent the Department of Transportation was not interested in addressing problems the proposed regulation would cause farmers, legislation was introduced to provide relief. The legislation would have given each state authority to grant exemptions to farmers and retailers from requirements of the proposed regulation.

During consideration of the legislation by the U.S. House of Representatives, the bill was amended to only delay implementation of the proposed regulation for 18 months. The House of Representatives then passed the bill with the 18-month delay language.

When the House-passed bill arrived in the Senate, a "hold" was placed on it by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) which prevented consideration by the Senate. Senator Lautenberg's efforts apparently occurred in response to environmental concerns. The bill died when the Senate adjourned for the year. Efforts will be made again to address this issue when the new 105th Congress convenes in early 1997. The Department of Transportation is expected to issue its final rule by the end of 1996.

MFB contact: Al Almy, ext. 2040.

NATIONAL ISSUE

Pesticide data program

The Pesticide Data Program (PDP) is a USDA program that collects pesticide residue data for food. USDA contracts with state agencies to do the actual testing and the results are used by EPA to determine pesticide registrations. Without the data, EPA assumes maximum residue levels exist, thereby jeopardizing the availability of pesticides. The PDP is important to the administration of the recently enacted Delaney Clause reforms.

Congress has passed and President Clinton has signed legislation containing \$10.2 million for

the PDP during FY 1997. The legislation directs EPA, rather than USDA to conduct the testing. During debate on the legislation it was recognized that EPA has no program to test for pesticide residues in food. Members of Congress engaged in debate on the issue, which provides congressional intent that EPA can continue to contract with state agencies for the testing. Farm Bureau supported the PDP appropriation and the congressional intent language.

MFB contact: Al Almy, ext. 2040.

NATIONAL ISSUE

Animal Drug Availability Act

Congress passed and President Clinton is expected to sign the Animal Drug Availability Act. The Act makes changes in Food and Drug Administration procedures to provide the agency with the flexibility to approve more products that are safe and effective for various types of animals.

The bill clarifies and expands the types of tests FDA can accept as evidence of an animal drug's effectiveness; removes the requirement that field investigations of drug's efficacy be required in every instance, while preserving FDA's right to require such tests when necessary; creates a binding pre-submission conference at which FDA and drug sponsors will

agree on the types of data the agency will need for reviewing an application; and streamlines the approval requirements when companies seek to market two previously approved drugs in combination.

In addition, the legislation enhances the veterinary oversight of many non-prescription drugs by establishing a veterinary feed directive classification for some drugs; creates a single facility licensing process for feed mills; and allows FDA to set import tolerances for animal drugs not approved in the U.S.

MFB position: Farm Bureau supported enactment of the Act.

MFB contact: Al Almy, ext. 2040.

STATE ISSUE

Natural rivers

S.B. 1194, sponsored by Sen. George McManus (R-Traverse City), amends P.A. 451 of 1994, the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, pertaining to designations of Natural Rivers.

The objective of a natural river classification is to identify natural or outstanding existing values which shall be permanently managed for the preservation or enhancement of the river.

Under current law, the DNR has the ability to designate natural rivers and develop long-range plans through a certain public process. Once a river receives the classification, the DNR may determine that uses of land along the river shall be controlled by zoning contributing to accomplishment of the purposes of the plan.

If the local unit of government does not, within 1 year after notice from the Department, have in effect the recommended zoning ordinance, the Department may promulgate a zoning rule for them. A zoning rule promulgated by the Department may control certain land uses up to 400 feet from the river's edge.

S.B. 1194 includes the following:

- Eliminates the the DNR's ability to require local units of government to adopt the Department's zoning recommendations within 1 year.
- Allows for the DNR to designate natural rivers and develop zoning recommendations for local units to consider.
- Requires that the Department shall notify, in writing, all owners of property along the river whose properties are within the proposed natural river designation.

MFB position: Farm Bureau supports S.B. 1194. The policy specifically calls for a review of all regulations and enforcement policies that encroach on the rights of property owners.

Action needed: If your property is within a proposed natural river area, contact your legislator in support of S.B. 1194. Rivers proposed for Natural Rivers designation are: Big Huron, Black, Cass, Dowagiac, Escanaba, Fence, Fish Creek, Grand, Indian, Kalamazoo, Little Manistee, Muskegon, Ontonagon, Paint, Paw Paw, Presque Isle, Shiawassee, St. Joseph, Sturgeon, Tahquamenon, Thornapple, Thunder Bay and Whitefish.

MFB contact: Scott Everett, ext. 2046.

STATE ISSUE

Land application of biosolids

H.B. 6071, sponsored by Rep. Carl Gnodtke (R-Sawyer), would require the Department of Environmental Quality, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, to develop rules to properly manage the land application of sewage sludge (biosolids).

All current local ordinances regulating the land application of biosolids will be preempted by this bill. For a local governmental unit to regulate or

restrict biosolid applications beyond state law, there is a process outlined within the legislation to ensure it is determined to be based on factual and unreasonable adverse affects on public health and/or the environment.

MFB position: Michigan Farm Bureau supports the bill.

MFB contact: Scott Everett, ext. 2046.

STATE ISSUE

Special assessments — SEV or TV

S.B. 1112-S.B. 1119, sponsored by Sen. Michael Bouchard (R-Birmingham), would require that special assessments be levied on the taxable value. They can best be characterized as technical correction bills following the passage of Proposal A.

Special assessments are levied on the property for a specific purpose such as lighting, sewers or water that specifically benefits the property subject to the special assessment. Generally this is levied separate from the general property tax. With the passage of Proposal A in 1994, assessments on property for tax purposes are limited to 5 percent or the rate of inflation. Both the taxable value (TV) and the state equalized value (SEV) are calculated each year for the property. The taxable value reflects the

value at which the property is taxed and capped.

The bills are a series of technical bills that amend the General Property Tax Act dealing with sidewalks, pavements, lighting, public improvement projects, drains, police and fire protection, water, sewer, and township parks.

By levying the special assessment on the SEV, the amount of revenue would be greater than if levied on the taxable value. In all cases, the bills would clarify that special assessments are levied on the taxable value after 1996.

MFB position: Farm Bureau policy is silent on this issue.

MFB contact: Ron Nelson, ext. 2043.

STATE ISSUE

Adverse possession

Sen. Joe Conroy (D-Flint) sponsored S.B. 631 and 632 to repeal the doctrine of adverse possession which is founded in English common law and has evolved as a mechanism to solve land disputes. The doctrine is the basis for determining ownership when two parties disagree on the ownership.

Adverse possession is established by a clear proof of possession that is actual, visual, open, notorious, exclusive, and continues uninterrupted for a period of time covered by statute, generally considered to be a minimum of 15 years.

The bills as introduced would repeal the doc-

trine of adverse possession. Property lines, or possession of land that is in dispute would then be settled by a court based on surveys that exist or are requested.

If property is in dispute and a property line had been assumed to exist contrary to the survey and the adjoining property owners (i.e. farmers) had farmed to the visible line, that line apparently would be re-established by the existing or new survey.

MFB position: There is no Farm Bureau policy on this issue.

MFB contact: Ron Nelson, ext. 2043.

STATE ISSUE

Drain Code

H.B. 6150, sponsored by Rep. Carl Gnodtke (R-Sawyer), to amend Michigan's Drain Code, P.A. 40 of 1956, has been introduced. For nearly two years, the Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners' Statute Review Committee has been formulating proposed changes. Their work is now complete and introduced in the form of H.B. 6150. Farm Bureau will take part in several consensus meetings prior to the bill being placed on the agenda of the House Agriculture Committee.

The following is a summary of the proposed changes important to agriculture as recommended by the Statute Review Committee:

- Reduction of the number of signatures required for a drainage project to 5, or 25 percent of the land area of the drainage district liable for assessment.
- Ability for the Drain Commissioner to "recess" the Board of Determination meeting to gather more information and/or perform an estimate of cost.
- Clarification to explicitly permit the drain commissioner to direct the investigation of natural resources impact and consider them in a project alternative.
- Drain Commissioners allowed to establish general performance standards for storm water facilities to regulate the volume and quality of discharges.
- Require a review and written approval of the county drain commissioner or intercounty drainage board before construction begins on any street or highway that crosses a county drain or requires the relocation of a county drain.
- Drain commissioners and drainage boards be required to inspect all newly constructed drains and ones that are comprehensively restored on at least a triennial basis in order to provide proper and timely maintenance.
- Increase the current \$2,500 per mile limit on maintenance projects to \$5,000 per mile.
- Develop guidelines for generally accepted construction standards and maintenance procedures for use by all county drain commissioners.
- Require all county drain commissioners be elected.

- Require agreements between the drain commissioner and developer to provide the necessary drainage for proposed developmental projects. Additional construction may also be required by the commissioner or drainage board downstream in order to maintain proper drainage of the district.

- Inclusion of an administrative fee for the operation and maintenance of the Drain Commissioner's office in the amount of 3 percent of the total annual assessment against the county at large.

- Require all developed or non-developed public lands pay their assessment based on benefits derived (currently public land is exempt from drainage assessments).

- Under Chapter 22, development of a comprehensive watershed management planning process.

Related statutes

- Amendments to the Subdivision Control Act, Site Condominium Act and Mobile Home Commission Act requiring a mandatory site plan review by the drain commissioner. Require that under these Acts, the commissioner has the ability to charge fees for the review and require the proper construction of appropriate outlets and downstream facilities.

- Exclusive authority for the county drain commissioner to be the county enforcing agent (CEA) under Part 91 of P.A. 451 of 1994 the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act.

- Ability for the CEA to establish a minimum width for permanent vegetative filter strips along drains based on soil type, topography and other pertinent data.

- Ability for the CEA to establish minimum criteria for the restoration of logging and mining sites along drains.

MFB position: Farm Bureau policy supports several of the above mentioned proposed changes. Farm Bureau has no official position on the entire bill at this time.

Action needed: Continue to monitor this section of the Michigan Farm News as progress takes place on this issue.

MFB Contact: Scott Everett, ext. 2046.

New pesticide certification exam is released

AFTER 10 MONTHS, EXAM TO BE UNLEASHED IN NEW FORM

by Steve Tomac

The "monster" that many farmers have been dreading is here. But the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) wants you to know that the private pesticide applicator exam has been tamed. The exam, in place by the first week of October, is the revamped version of the test that was originally used at the beginning of the year. Many people had difficulties with that original exam. Al Krizek, Extension agent for Eaton County, said he thought that 50 to 80 percent of the people from his area were failing the exam. Krizek

was not pleased with that result. "We can't be putting farmers out of business by not letting them purchase pesticides," he said.

Dan Keane, MDA regional supervisor for the Saginaw Valley and Thumb area, felt that much of the problems were the result of poor preparation. He said that the study manual, also a recent revision, had a new format that may have tripped up some people. The manual, divided into two sections, was meant to be studied in whole by private applicators. Many examinees failed to realize this, and as a result were unprepared.

Gina Davis, Pesticide Certification Manager for the MDA, said that it was decided to stop using the test by the third week of January. They began studying results to find out what went wrong.

One of the first things done to the exam was to check for typographical errors, wording errors, and poor answer choices, according to Davis. MDA then collaborated with a wording specialist from

Purdue University to eliminate any other hang-ups.

After analyzing the questions and wording, improvements were made that included "uncoupling" questions. This meant that questions dependent on answers from a previous question were eliminated, she added.

Portions of the exam will be organized, so that similar questions are together. This will ease test-taking, because the exam will not bounce from section to section. It will also allow MDA to provide feedback to exam takers, such as where they have difficulty, and what to study to improve.

Once the improvements to the exam were made, over 80 people in four counties took the test. This pilot exam session sought to gain the perspective of the people taking the test. The volunteers were encouraged to write comments directly on the test. These suggestions were then used to finalize any changes.

John McManus, an Eaton Rapids farmer, took

part in a pilot test session. He said that the revised exam seemed very easy. Steve Poindexter, Extension agent for Saginaw County, also took the exam. He felt that it was straightforward, worded nicely, and was a fair test.

Davis said she is confident that the changes made to the test are good. She also said that support materials will be sent to county offices to coincide with the re-release of the pesticide applicator exam.

Nearly 14,000 private applicators are certified in the state of Michigan. Certification lasts for three years; however, due to the cyclical nature of the process, nearly 5,000 private pesticide applicators have certification up for renewal this year.

For more information, contact your county Extension agent. They can also assist you to prepare for the exam. Manuals can be purchased through your county Extension office or call the MSU bulletin office at (517) 355-0240. ■

ADM already agrees to penalty of \$100 million to settle federal charges of price fixing

Continued from front page

really needed to do something because it looks like the amount of dollars that are involved are fairly significant and we felt like we would be remiss if we didn't try to recoup that on behalf of the state's pork producers."

"We're seeking to have the court declare this a class action," explained Joel Boyden, an attorney with the Grand Rapids-based firm Boyden, Waddell, Timmons and Dilley, representing MPPA and the five producers named as co-plaintiffs. "Whoever are the named plaintiffs are in essence bringing it for a much larger class of people who have been harmed by the price fixing conspiracy engaged in by the four manufacturers of lysine. In order to obtain that standing, it will require a hearing before the court and a demonstration that we meet all of the criteria that are necessary to become a class action. I am confident in this case that will prove to be so."

"If we're successful in following through on this and there is a judgment handed down and a plea bargaining arrangement," Hines said, "those dollars will be metered out to the individual pork producers in the state. That was our intent as to why we filed it."

According to MPPA President Phil AcMoody, one of the five co-plaintiffs in the lawsuit, the dollar

amounts that could be returned to Michigan's pork producers could be substantial.

"There is \$0.10 to \$0.60 per hog that could be potentially be available to a producer over a 3½ year period," AcMoody stated. "The feeling is that there is probably much greater probability of getting far more than \$0.10 than there isn't. When we compound that, if it is \$0.30, or \$0.40, or \$0.50 over a 3½ year period, that's certainly substantial dollars in producers' pockets."

According to Boyden, the fact that five individual producers have become co-plaintiffs in the lawsuit adds to the viability of it in court. "Actually, MPPA would not have standing to go ahead and process this lawsuit by itself," adds Boyden. "It has been behind it as an organization simply as a service to pork producers to try to get the thing on a fast track and obtain the best representation they could find."

What exactly is lysine used for?

"Lysine is an amino acid," states Hines. "It is generally the most limited amino acid in a swine ration. Corn is rather low in lysine, so the main reason you add soybean meal is to add the lysine. That brings the proper amount of protein or lump the amount of lysine. It is essentially the most limiting amino acid in swine and poultry rations. It began to be manufac-

tured synthetically quite a number of years ago and these companies have a corner on the market."

ADM accepts plea bargain

On Oct. 14, ADM agreed to pay the largest criminal anti-trust fine in history of \$100 million to the U.S. Treasury by pleading guilty to federal anti-trust charges of fixing the price of lysine and citric acid.

According to Boyden, ADM's admission of guilt in the four-year federal investigation will further expedite MPPA's suit. "I doubt there is going to be any real debate over whether a class (action lawsuit) should be established," he explains. "Then after that, it's a matter of proof of damages."

"One hope I have at the back of my mind is that since at least two of the defendants have been so forthright in admitting their guilt, is that the four defendants will simply look at this and say, 'we did something wrong, we owe some money to the Michigan pork producers as a whole and let's sit down and figure out what that figure is and be fair about it' and not go through umpteenth months of legal gymnastics," Boyden said.

"It's the farmer who really can't make up the

loss," he adds. "The wholesaler just jacks up the price for whatever it is that the four manufacturers have conspired to set it at and passes that along to the farmer."

"The middle people, the people like Master Mix, Akey and Super Sweet, that have bought lysine from these companies, they're getting an adjustment," stated AcMoody.

How long will the legal process take?

"There is no hearing date set so far," stated Boyden. "Court processes are generally slow. We're doing everything we can to accelerate. The first thing we have to do is to secure either effective service or effective acknowledgment of service on the various defendants."

"Since a lot of these companies are foreign companies, this thing could go on for quite some time," Hines adds.

"It's our intention to push this case aggressively and get the best possible results for pork producers across Michigan — not just MPPA who's taken and seized the lead, but pork producers across the state," explained Boyden. ■

Michigan farmland PDR program gets \$1 million boost

Continued from front page

retains all other rights with the land."

Depending on which program is used, either the state or the local entity of government takes ownership of the development rights. Skjaerlund is hoping the PDRs taking place in northwestern and southeastern Michigan will serve as models for future PDR programs elsewhere in the state. For more information, contact Skjaerlund at (517) 373-4550 or Rich Harlow with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources at (517) 373-3328. ■

Do you want that in an oak, cherry or wheat?

The development of new binding materials and a growing demand for "green" products is making the use of wheat-straw in building materials an attractive alternative.

According to a recent *Wall Street Journal* article, WheatBoard is growing in demand for furniture products in nursing homes, hospitals and schools. WheatBoard is a particle board composed of wheat-straw and a formaldehyde-free resin binder used for kitchen cabinets and other furniture. ■



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 27 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 Report	Noon Report
WABJ	Adrian	1490	5:45 am	11:05-12:00 pm
WATZ	Alpena	1450	5:30 am	11:30 am
WTKA	Ann Arbor	1050	6:05 am	12:00-1:00 pm
WLEW	Bad Axe	1340	6:30 am	12:50 pm
WHFB	Benton Harbor	1060		12:15 pm
WKJF	Cadillac	1370	5:45 am	11:10 am
WKYO	Caro	1360	6:15 am	12:10-1:00 pm
WTVB	Coldwater	1590	5:45 am	12:00-1:00 pm
WDOW	Dowagiac	1440	6:05 am	12:15 pm
WGHN AM	Grand Haven	1370	5:45 am	12:15 pm
WGHN FM	Grand Haven	92.1	5:45 am	12:15 pm
WPI.B	Greenville	1380	6:15 am	11:50 am
WBCH	Hastings	1220	6:15 am	12:30 pm
WCSR	Hillsdale	1340	6:45 am	12:45 pm
WHTC	Holland	1450		12:15 pm
WION	Ionia	1430	6:45 am	12:30-1:00 pm
WKZO	Kalamazoo	590	5:00-6:00 am	12:00-1:00 pm
WPLB FM	Lakeview	106.3	6:15 am	12:15 pm
WOAP	Owosso	1080	7:15 am	12:40 pm
WHAK	Rogers City	960		12:15 pm
WSJ	St. Johns	1580	6:15 am	12:05-1:05 pm
WMLM	St. Louis	1520	6:05 am	12:20 pm
WSGW	Saginaw	790	5:55 am	11:30-12:30 pm
WMIC	Sandusky	660	6:15 am	12:45 pm
WKJC FM	Tawas City	104.7		12:40 pm
WLKM	Three Rivers	1510	5:45 am	12:15 pm
WTCM	Traverse City	580	5:45 am	11:10 am

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Golden Harvest to offer Monsanto's YieldGard gene

Golden Harvest Seeds Inc. and Monsanto have announced a licensing agreement that will allow the seed company the use of the YieldGard technology in three different varieties. YieldGard uses a naturally occurring protein to protect corn plants against the European corn borer.

Pending regulatory approval, Golden Harvest plans to have limited seed supply available for the 1997 growing season, according to Jim Shearl, executive vice president of Golden Harvest. "Adding the insect protection technology of YieldGard is an important benefit for our customers," Shearl claimed. "This Bt trait will be incorporated into Golden Harvest's front line hybrids immediately."

According to Monsanto estimates, corn borer infests 75 percent of U.S. cornfields, nearly 60 million acres in total. Yield losses can reach 30 percent in some cases, due to reduced nutrient uptake, standability problems, increased ear drop and jeopardize ear retention. Some industry analysts estimate that U.S. producers lose \$1 to \$2 billion in farm income annually.

The protection in YieldGard is provided by a protein derived from *Bacillus thuringiensis* or Bt, a common and naturally occurring microorganism. Bt has been used for insect protection for more than 30 years by home gardeners and organic growers, says Monsanto.

Once an insect eats any part of YieldGard corn, the protective protein is activated by enzymes present only in the gut of the corn borer. The chemical reaction turns the protein into an insecticide that destroys the lining of the borer's digestive tract. Death results in 24 to 72 hours.

Monsanto claims their Bt technology is superior to other Bt corn currently on the market, which only expresses the Bt protective protein through the pollen and green tissue of the corn plant and then declines later in the growing season. YieldGard produces effective levels of Bt protein throughout the plant and lasts until harvest — effectively killing first, second and even third generation borers.

"In one simple management step — hybrid selection — growers will be able to avoid the expense and time demands of scouting and insecticide application for the corn borer, and still harvest top yields from familiar, commercial hybrids," said John Nienas, marketing manager at Monsanto.

Golden Harvest plans to offer three Bt hybrids for 1997 including: H-2390, a 102-day variety; H-2493, a 108-day variety; and H-2530, a 114-day variety. The company has said that no orders will be accepted until after harvest. Although not firmly established, pricing for the seed is expected to be in the \$90 to \$100 range, according to Craig McManus, Golden Harvest district sales manager.



Statewide promotion will list growers with immature grains or forages for sale

Getting growers who have immature crops in touch with producers who will be short on dairy or livestock feeds and forages is the goal of the Michigan Immature Grain and Forage Information Exchange (MIGFIE).

The exchange, a joint effort of the Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Farm Radio Network and Michigan State University Extension, was instituted because of the unusual growing year that's left many of Michigan's livestock and dairy producers with limited grain and forage resources for winter feeding and cash crop producers with grain crops that would not provide a good return in the grain market.

Growers with corn or immature grain such as dry edible beans or soybeans that cannot be profitably dried for the grain market might be able to sell part of the crop as a forage or a high-moisture grain to dairy and livestock producers. In addition, growers with immature grain, silage or other plant material that would make a suitable livestock forage can be listed on the MIGFIE. The listing will include the grower's name, address and phone number and the type, quantity and quality of crop or forage available.

The listing is free. The MIGFIE will also list, free of charge, truckers who would like to haul immature grain or forages between farms. The listing will be made available free of charge to producers needing to buy immature grains or forage material. The listing will not carry the names of people who need grain or forage resources.

To be placed on the MIGFIE listing, sellers

should call (517) 432-1555 at MSU and ask for the MIGFIE list person, or call (800) 968-3129 at Michigan Farm Bureau. Growers can also call their MSU Extension office or county Farm Bureau to be listed.

Free copies of the list will be available through all MSU Extension county offices and through MSU Outreach Communications, Attn: MIGFIE, 312 Agriculture Hall, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824-1039. The MIGFIE list will also be available at county Farm Bureau offices.

MSU Extension county offices have guidelines on buying high-moisture shelled corn (Harvest Alert Factsheet #14) and on pricing immature corn as silage (Agricultural Economics staff paper #96-82).

"We aren't really sure how many farmers need forages and grain, but we know there are several areas in the state where crop growth was minimal," says Steve Poindexter, MSU Extension agricultural agent in Saginaw County. "In other regions of the state crop growth was good, but the combination of late planting and the recent frost prevented crop maturity."

Rather than face high drying costs or dockage assessments at the elevators, those growers might better market their crops through other farmers," he says. All MSU Extension county offices have guidelines on handling and feeding immature crops and forages to dairy and livestock animals.

No guarantee as to the quality of the grains or forages delivered between farms will be made by MSU Extension, Michigan Farm Bureau or the Michigan Farm Radio Network.



Dr. Grant Metz, Golden Harvest corn breeder, explains to Michigan farmers how YieldGard™ Bt gives protection from European corn borer damage in all parts of the plant, all season long.

Stacey named acting director of NRCS

With the recent relocation of former NRCS state Director Carol Jett to Washington, D.C., Jim Stacey has been named acting director while a nationwide search for a replacement is conducted. Stacey, an assistant for programs and budget management at NRCS, expects that a permanent

replacement will be named by early January of 1997.

Jett was named to one of four deputy chief positions for the area of resource management in Washington, D.C. and will oversee the divisions of NRCS that conduct soil surveys, and the natural resource inventory conducted every six years.

VOTE NO ON PROPOSAL D

Proposal D...it's not just about bears

Proposal D is Dangerous — Proposal D would strip Michigan wildlife professionals of their authority to scientifically manage the state's thriving bear population, thereby endangering those citizens and their property who live or travel in these bear populated areas.

Proposal D is Deceptive — The animal rights extremists want Michigan voters to believe the state's black bear is endangered as a species. In truth, through professional scientific management, the bear population has doubled since 1990 and is now at a record high level.

Proposal D is Destructive — Proposal D attempts to destroy a great heritage enjoyed by millions of Michigan families: your freedom to hunt and fish. Proposal D furthers the anti-hunting agenda of the animal rights extremists, their wealthy out-of-state supporters and Hollywood friends.

VOTE YES ON PROPOSAL G

Proposal G is Good for Wildlife

Proposal G is Good for Professional Wildlife Management — It allows the continued use of scientific management principles to regulate game and hunters for the best long-range protection of the species.

Proposal G Guarantees the Public a Voice — Every citizen will share the opportunity to express their views through mandated public meetings.

Proposal G is Great for Michigan Taxpayers and Property Owners — Bears by nature are predators, and an overabundance will threaten people and property if not managed by trained wildlife biologists. An out of control bear population causing property owner damage, personal injury or even loss of life could cost taxpayers and property owners millions of dollars.

Quotes from animal rights groups supporting Proposal D

"We have our eye on the prize; an end to sport hunting in America." Wayne Pacelle, U.S. Humane Society

"Michigan is one of those states where people would shoot their mother if she had four legs." Cleveland Amory, president of Fund for Animals, Detroit News and Detroit Free Press, June 11, 1996

Michigan Immature Grain and Forage Sellers and Truckers List

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone _____ Best time to call: _____ a.m. _____ p.m.

	Quantity in Bu.	Asking Price per Bu./Ton	% Moisture	Test Weight
Corn	_____	_____	_____	_____
Soybeans	_____	_____	_____	_____
Corn Silage	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other forage (please specify)	_____	_____	_____	_____

Transportation at this farm available? YES NO Cost _____ \$/mile

Please call the Extension office to cancel your listing when you have sold all of your crop or forage. This listing is for information purposes only. There is no recommendation or endorsement implied. The Michigan Grain and Forage List is sponsored by Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Farm Radio Network and Michigan State University Extension.

For Truckers Only

I am a grain hauler forage hauler

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone _____ Best time to call: _____ a.m. _____ p.m.

Capacity of the truck: _____ tons

Mail completed form to:

MIGFIE • Room 312 Agriculture Hall • Michigan State University • East Lansing, MI 48824-1039

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Market Outlook

by Dr. Jim Hilker,
Department of
Agricultural Econom-
ics, Michigan State
University



CORN

Larger than expected production and lower than expected export projections were not good signs for corn prices and they tumbled. The questions now become, "Is the tumble over?"; "Will corn prices recover?"; and "How much will they recover?" The Oct. 1 USDA *Crop Production Report*, released Oct. 11, suggested we will have a 9 billion bushel corn crop, 200 million bushels larger than the August estimate. They project the U.S. will have an average yield of 123 bushels per acre — the third largest on record and only 3 bushels under trend. Michigan's yield projection was left at a poor 94 bushels per acre, down from last year's 115.

The export projection for 1996-97, shown below in Table 1, was lowered 100 billion bushels from the August estimate and is 250 million below last year when we had the high prices. In the first 6 weeks of this marketing year, exports are already running 188 million bushels, or 60 percent, behind last year at this time. While some of the slow exports to date can be explained by the later harvest, more of it is explained by better crops in the rest of the world and the high prices they had to pay last year.

Are the lower prices at this time all bad? The answer is no. Although, with lower yields in much of Michigan, higher prices would be nice. Last year's extremely high prices slowed the expansion in poul-

Seasonal Commodity Price Trends

Corn	↔ ↑
Soybeans	↔ ↑
Wheat	↔ ↑
Hogs	↔ ↓
Cattle	↔ ↓

Index: ↔ = stable prices; ↑ = higher prices; ↓ = lower prices; TP = topping; BT = bottoming; ? = unsure

try and started liquidation in the hog and cattle sectors. It now appears the liquidation in the hog sector is quickly turning to expansion with good hog prices and lower feed prices. Poultry can turn up the speed again. Also, lower feed prices may make the cutback in the beef cow herd less drastic. I am somewhat optimistic that the feed use number shown below will have to be adjusted upwards by spring. The lower prices we are seeing now should also keep foreign use from dropping off.

It is unlikely that we have seen the final production figure. There are analysts on both sides of the fence. Some argue that a big crop generally gets bigger; others argue that the estimates are too high for Indiana and Ohio. My guess is that we are around the low now and there is somewhat more upside price potential than downside risk.

In their *Supply/Demand Report*, the USDA suggests the average price for the year will be \$2.80-3.00, which would indicate prices have fallen a bit too much. If their supply/use estimate turns out to be correct, I feel prices will be on the low side of that range. However, if the use estimate grows some, as I indicated above, we should be able to hit the middle of that range as an average.

The Michigan corn market is trying to send a little different message to producers than the national market. The nearby basis in Michigan is fairly strong, saying that the market wants the corn now. But the December-March and March-May spreads in the futures say the market will pay you more than on-farm storage costs.

WHEAT

The wheat situation has been relatively stable the past month compared to corn. On the supply side and domestic use side, there has been

some positive price news. The USDA lowered the total U.S. wheat production number 14 million bushels and the *Stocks Report* caused them to raise projected feed use 25 million bushels. This puts the total supply of U.S. wheat lower than a year ago; and with feed use projected at over twice as much as last year, domestic use is way up.

The problem with wheat is export demand. The wheat crop is up considerably from last year for the world as a whole. As shown in Table 2 below, the USDA estimates 1996-97 exports at 925 million bushels. This is 316 million bushels, or 25 percent, below last year. This does not mean that exports to date have been down; in fact, they are running above year ago levels. It means that exports will drop off sharply for the remainder of the crop year if the USDA estimate is correct. After only 4 months we have exported over half of the annual estimate.

Given the above situation and the fact futures are telling us not to store into the winter, it is hard to get enthused about staying in the wheat market. While there is always a chance for a rebound, considering taking advantage of that by pricing some new crop.

SOYBEANS

It appears that it is difficult for the country to get a poor soybean yield despite the weather. Last year, when corn yields country-wide were hit by drought, we had the third highest yield ever. And this year, even with the late plantings, we will establish a new third highest yield by a bushel and a half — only a half bushel off from the second highest on record. The USDA in its October *Crop Report* estimated the U.S. yield at 37 bushels per acre, which is 0.5 to 1 bushel over trend. As shown below in Table 3, that makes a 2.346 billion bushel crop.

The biggest difference between corn and beans is projected exports. While corn exports are expected to be down, as discussed above, soybean exports are expected to be even to up some. Soybean exports the first 6 weeks of the year are below year ago levels, but that is due to the lateness of the harvest.

Without some type of weather problem in South America and/or the U.S. this spring, I don't think we will get 1996-97 soybean prices back up to our previous pricing opportunities. I am cautiously

optimistic that prices will rebound some through the year. The projected ending stocks number relative to use is still quite tight. However, the future market spreads will hardly, if at all, cover on-farm storage, much less commercial.

HOGS

Pork retail prices set a new all-time high in September for the fifth consecutive month. While part of this was due to less product per capita on the market, much of it is due to strong demand. Recently, supplies have picked up to last year's levels, which, along with moving into the normal seasonal increase in fall slaughter, has lowered live hog prices. This would allow packers and retailers to lower prices in order to move product and still be in the black. That should help keep live prices over \$50 per cwt.

However, this is bound to change. Hog prices in the \$50's and corn prices under \$3 is a profitable position for hog producers and this means expansion. As reported in the last issue, the *Hogs and Pigs Report* indicated that the liquidation period was over and showed some signs of expansion plans. Along with that, sow slaughter has been way below year ago levels for some time.

Hog futures took quite a hit the first half of October which knocked out the good forward pricing opportunities. However, the lean hog futures trading after the first of the year is not way off the mark. If we see a strong rally, evaluate your forward pricing opportunities. Check out your feed costs and see if you can lock in a healthy profit on a portion of your 1997 production.

CATTLE

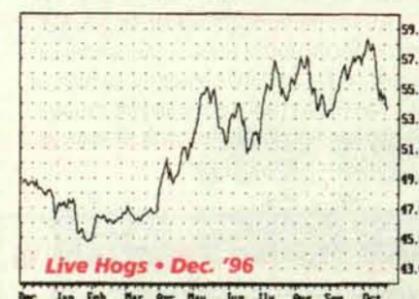
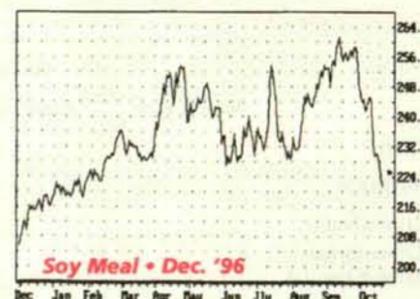
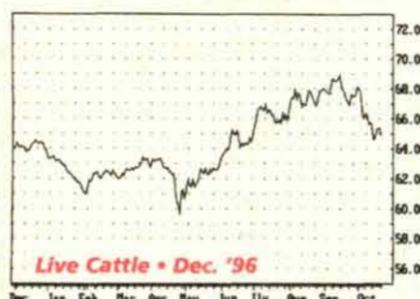
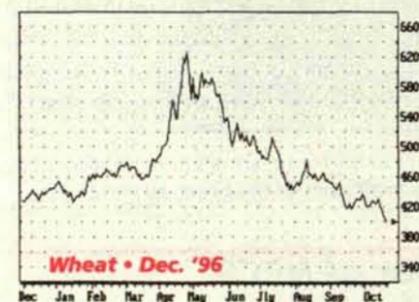
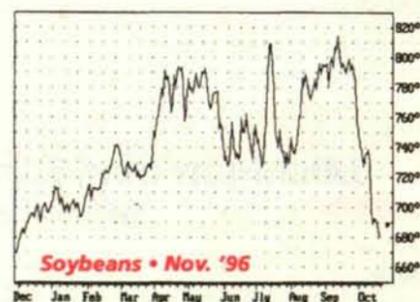
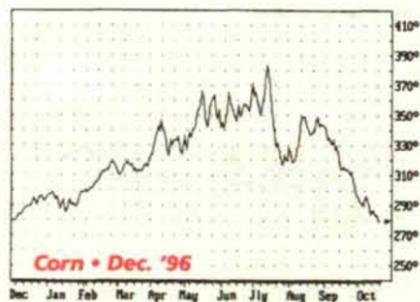
Even as fed steer prices held over \$70 the first half of October, December live cattle futures took a beating of several dollars. This shows that the market is convinced that the cattle not placed in the second quarter, but placed in mass in July and August, are going to hit the market by December. The October *Cattle on Feed Report* showed September placements were up 4 percent from a year ago. The trade feels that October placements will be up strong again.

The price of an average retail cut of beef was generally 40-50 percent higher than the average retail cut of pork for the period 1992-1995, and this is fairly typical. As we go through 1996, the retail price of beef has fallen off to only 20 percent higher than the retail price of pork. Much of this can be directly related to pork production being off some and beef production being up some for the year-to-date. However, this dramatic shift in relative prices may be due in large part to strong pork demand. While this is too short of a period to draw too many conclusions, it is something to be watched.

The sharp drop-off in cattle futures prices in October took out the good forward pricing opportunities for 1997 production. Watch for rallies back toward previous highs and evaluate the prices you could lock in versus your costs. We will have plenty of beef in 1997. We will not see the effects of any liquidation caused by the low calf prices until we get into 1998.

Source: Knight Ridder Financial

COMMODITY PRICE TRENDS



COMMODITY SUPPLY/DEMAND BALANCE SHEETS

Table 1 — Corn

(Million acres)	Hilker's Est. Hilker's Proj.		
	1994-1995	1995-1996	1996-1997
Acres set-aside/diverted	2.4	6.2	
Acres planted	79.2	71.2	79.6
Acres harvested	72.9	65.0	73.3
Bu./harvested acre	138.6	113.5	123.0
Stocks (million bushels)			
Beginning stocks	850	1,558	426
Production	10,103	7,374	9,012
Imports	10	17	10
Total supply	10,963	8,949	9,448
Use:			
Feed and residual	5,535	4,724	4,925
Food/seed & ind. uses	1,693	1,583	1,670
Total domestic	7,228	6,307	6,595
Exports	2,177	2,215	1,950
Total use	9,405	8,522	8,545
Ending stocks	1,558	426	903
Ending stocks, % of use	16.6	5.0	10.6
Regular loan rate	\$1.89	\$1.89	\$1.89
U.S. season average			
Farm price, \$/bu.	\$2.26	\$3.25	\$3.00

Table 2 — Wheat

(Million acres)	Hilker's Est. Hilker's Proj.		
	1994-1995	1995-1996	1996-1997
Acres set-aside & diverted	5.2	5.2	
Acres planted	70.3	69.2	75.6
Acres harvested	61.8	61.0	63.1
Bu./harvested acre	37.6	35.8	36.3
Stocks (million bushels)			
Beginning stocks	568	507	376
Production	2,321	2,182	2,282
Imports	92	68	70
Total supply	2,981	2,757	2,728
Use:			
Food	852	884	900
Seed	89	104	108
Feed	345	152	325
Total domestic	1,286	1,140	1,333
Exports	1,188	1,241	925
Total use	2,474	2,381	2,258
Ending stocks	507	376	470
Ending stocks, % of use	20.5	15.8	20.8
Regular loan rate	\$2.58	\$2.58	\$2.58
U.S. season average			
Farm price, \$/bu.	\$3.45	\$4.50	\$4.40

Table 3 — Soybeans

(Million acres)	Hilker's Est. Hilker's Proj.		
	1994-1995	1995-1996	1996-1997
Acres planted	61.7	62.6	64.3
Acres harvested	60.9	61.6	63.4
Bu./harvested acre	41.4	35.3	37.0
Stocks (million bushels)			
Beginning stocks	209	335	183
Production	2,517	2,176	2,347
Imports	5	5	5
Total supply	2,731	2,516	2,535
Use:			
Crushings	1,405	1,370	1,375
Exports	838	845	850
Seed, feed & residuals	153	118	115
Total use	2,396	2,333	2,340
Ending stocks	335	183	195
Ending stocks, % of use	14.0	7.8	8.3
Regular loan rate	\$4.92	\$4.92	\$4.97
U.S. season average			
Farm price, \$/bu.	\$5.48	\$6.77	\$6.95

Source: USDA and Jim Hilker

Bear stamps to benefit farmers?

An increase in the black bear population in western Maryland has risen by 50 percent over the past five years. An estimated 300 black bears have become a menace to farmers and other residents. As an alternative to hunting, Maryland officials have started selling \$5 black bear stamps to help compensate farmers and landowners for bear damage.

In response to a rising number of complaints, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources will likely allow bear hunting to a small degree. A citizen's task force has recommended the stickers and hunting to help manage the increased bear population.

"At some point in time we probably will need to control the population," said Joshua Sandt, director of the DNR's wildlife and heritage division. Sandt said the next step may be issuing special permits to landowners allowing them to kill "a few" bears. After much debate, the DNR — which has received more than 200 bear complaints this year — prohibited hunting this year.

The stamp program is expected to generate at least \$20,000 for the compensation fund. The state contributed \$10,000 to launch the fund.

Business Strategies

by M.P. Kelsey, Department of Agricultural Economics Michigan State University
1996 — End-of-Year Tax Planning

1. The basic management guideline is to avoid wide fluctuations in taxable income because a relatively uniform income from year-to-year results in the lowest income tax and largest homestead and farmland preservation credits over time. However, even in a low income year, plan to utilize personal exemptions and the standard deduction.
2. Congress passed three tax bills late this past summer, along with a bill in late spring to retroactively update some items that expired at the end of 1995. A key item for self-employed persons was the deduction of health insurance at 30 percent for 1994, 1995, and 1996, and an increase of the percentage to 40 percent in 1997, with a gradual annual increase to 80 percent in 2006.
3. Significant tax changes, all of which are applicable starting with the 1997 tax year, include:

Tax management tips for farmers

- a. An increase from \$250 to \$2,000 for the annual unemployed spousal IRA contribution.
 - b. Penalty-free IRA distributions may be taken to pay for medical expenses and/or health insurance premiums to the degree expenses exceed 7.5 percent of adjusted gross income.
 - c. The section 179 (direct expense) deduction for capital purchases increases from \$17,500 in 1996 to \$18,000 in 1997, with a gradual annual phase-in to \$25,000 in 2003.
 - d. Several special items such as a new work opportunity credit; a deduction for long-term health care, including insurance, but only for itemizers to the degree medical expenses exceed 7.5 percent of adjusted gross income, Sub-chapter S changes to bring the business form closer to a partnership, and an adoption credit and exclusion.
4. Depending on your tax situation, you may wish to reduce or increase net income for 1996. Following are some of the best income eveners:
 - a. Buy or delay purchase of supplies such as fertilizer, seed, farm supplies, small tools and repairs (tax shelters can only deduct items when used). Note: these expenses cannot exceed 50 percent of your total Schedule F expenses for the year for which economic performance has occurred. In most cases, it will be hard to reach that level of expenditure.
 - b. Pay in 1996 or delay payment to 1997 on real estate taxes and other annual bills. (Insurance premiums, real estate rental for 1997 and interest cannot be paid in advance to obtain an earlier tax deduction, but 1996 expenses of insurance rentals and interest can be deferred to 1997 if income is low this year.)
 - c. Watch the timing of sales of livestock and crops ready for market near year-end. Possibly they can be held for sale next year at little cost or sold earlier to even out taxable income.
 - d. Some expenses are deductible as current year business expenses even though not made every year. These include minor repairs on improvements and machinery; painting of buildings; purchase of small tools and supplies; and, within limitations, cost of approved soil and water conservation expenses. Get these jobs done and paid for before year-end

if you wish to reduce net income.

- e. Where capital purchases have been made, or can be made, study the depreciation alternatives carefully. The direct expense deduction of up to \$17,500 on personal property can be taken on current year capital purchases. Its use, however, cannot reduce your taxable income from farming (plus other earned income) below zero. Taxable income includes net farm profit plus gains on the sale of business assets such as breeding livestock. Where pre-productive expenses are not a consideration, there are four choices for depreciation: Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) which is 7-year 150 percent declining balance on machinery; MACRS straight line; the Alternative Depreciation System (ADS), which is 10-year straight line on machinery; and 150 percent declining balance using the ADS guideline. For the first year, the mid year convention is used, (1/2 year's depreciation) unless 40 percent or more of your capital purchases are made during the last 3 months of the year. In that case,

Continued on page 8

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Cyanamid submits registration for LIGHTNING 70 DG herbicide

American Cyanamid Company has submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) an application for registration of LIGHTNING 70 DG herbicide. LIGHTNING is an imidazolinone that will provide growers with a one-pass, early postemergence, residual weed control program for use with IMI-Corn seed hybrids only. LIGHTNING herbicide will allow growers to maximize corn yields by controlling a broad spectrum of grass and broadleaf weed species early with season-long residual control. LIGHTNING will be used at one low rate for all soil types and in any tillage system, including no-till.

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The EPA may grant registration of LIGHTNING herbicide by next spring. For more information about LIGHTNING and IMI-Corn seed hybrids, growers should contact their local Cyanamid sales representatives or Cyanamid AgriCenter dealers.

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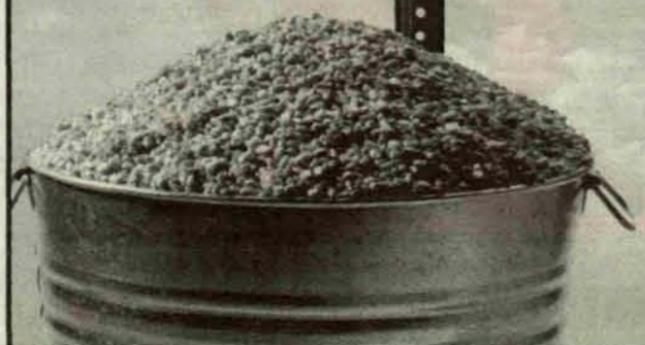
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Tax management tips for farmers

Continued from page 7

- the mid-quarter convention is used (87.5 percent of a year's depreciation for purchases made during the first 3 months, 62.5 percent for purchases in the second quarter, 37.5 percent for the third quarter, and 12.5 percent in the final quarter).
- f. Pay your children wages for work actually performed for the farm. If the child is under 19 or regularly enrolled in school, they can earn any amount and the parent can still claim an exemption for them if the parents pay over half the child's support. The parents must use the dependent exemption. The child must file a tax return only if they earn over the standard deduction. A return, usually a 1040A, must be filed by a child under 14 if investment income is greater than \$500. Children under 14 will have unearned income (over \$1,000) taxed at the parents' rate. Form 8615 is used to calculate the tax.
 - g. For Michigan income tax an individual who is eligible to be claimed as a dependent on someone else's return and has an adjusted gross income of \$1,500 or less is entitled to a refund of all Michigan tax withheld. If they have an adjusted gross income of more than \$1,500, they are entitled to only a \$1,000 exemption allowance.
 - h. Frequently unrecorded and forgotten expenses include:
 1. Educational expenses that maintain or improve your skills, such as magazine subscriptions, books, fees at Extension or other agricultural organization meetings.
 2. Travel expenses connected with your business, particularly if it includes meals and lodging.
 3. Entertainment expenses when hosting others where the "predominant purpose" is the furthering of your farm business operation.
 5. Social Security and hospital insurance rates for the self-employed are 12.4 percent and 2.9 percent for a total of 15.3 percent on 0.9235 of net farm profit up to \$62,700 for 1996. One-half of the Social Security tax will be deducted as an adjustment to income. In addition, the 2.9 percent hospital in-

surance tax continues on income over \$62,700. For 1997 the wage base will be \$65,100.

Long-Range Tax Planning

1. Maintain a good set of records to ensure that all expenses are taken. Small cash purchases are easily forgotten. A good recordkeeping system is essential for end-of-year tax planning, as well as working with credit agencies.
2. Where income is high enough, plan the purchases of machinery to fully utilize the direct expense deduction.
3. Plan your personal deductions. Many medical expenses and contributions formerly spread over 2 years can be paid in 1 year and itemized as deductions. In the next year, the standard deduction may be taken. Changes in itemized deductions include medical expenses in excess of 7.5 percent of AGI, no personal interest is deductible, moving expenses are now an itemized deduction and most miscellaneous deductions are deductible only to the degree they exceed 2 percent of AGI.
4. If your medical insurance and medical expenses are not currently deductible, explore the medical benefit alternatives for the self-employed and choose an alternative that best fits your situation.
5. Investigate a Self-employed Retirement Plan. There are three potential tax deferred retirement plans available. A defined contribution Keogh and Simplified Employee Plan (SEP) require that certain employees also be covered. Tax deferred contribution limits "to a profit-sharing plan" are an effective 13.0435 percent (15 percent of net income less the contribution). The third alternative is an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Employees do not have to be covered if a self-employed person utilizes an IRA; however, the maximum contribution is \$2,000 per year, with an additional \$250 in an unemployed spousal IRA. An IRA deduction cannot be utilized if either spouse is eligible to participate in another retirement plan where the AGI exceeds \$50,000 for a married taxpayer, or \$35,000 for a single taxpayer with reduced contribution limits for AGI down to \$40,000 and \$25,000, respectively.
6. Your farm business is a built-in deferred compensation and tax loss program. Investments and current expenses are made that substantially improve the value of the business property and can be sold at a later date. Establishing a fruit orchard and increasing the size of a breeding livestock herd, for example, fit this situation. "Crops" that fit this category are timber and Christmas trees as well as the build-up in year-end inventories.
7. Use installment sales of capital items to spread income over a number of years. However, with fewer and wider tax brackets and depreciation recapture considerations, an installment sale may not be advantageous.
8. If approaching 55 years of age and retirement, keep in mind the \$125,000 exclusion of gain from tax for that portion of a farm sale attributed to your residence. Also, plan for more of your income from rent, dividends, interest, and pensions rather than ordinary income so that income will not be taxed as self-employment income for Social Security or reduce Social Security benefits. Earned income levels that will decrease Social Security benefits for 1996 are \$8,280 per year for those under age 65 and \$12,500 for persons age 65 to 69. The decreases are \$1 for every \$2 of excess earnings for those under 65 and \$1 for every \$3 excess earnings age 65 through 69. For age 70 and over there is no reduction.
9. Be sure to deduct as large a portion of business-personal expenses as is justified in your situation. Frequently, considerably more than 50 percent of the electricity and phone costs can be considered business. Also choose the method for auto deductions that is best for you. The standard mileage rate for 1996 is 31 cents per mile for all business mileage. Mileage for charitable purposes can be itemized at 12 cents per mile; for medical purposes, 9 cents per mile.
10. Be aware of the Alternative Minimum Tax in tax planning. Alternative Minimum Taxable Income (AMTI) includes tax preference items such as the difference between MACRS and ADS depreciation, and tax-free interest as well as regular income. There is a single \$45,000 exemption for those filing joint returns (\$33,750 single) and a tax rate of 26 percent on the first \$175,000 of alternative minimum taxable income and 28 percent on AMTI in excess of \$175,000. It is paid to the degree the tax exceeds your regular tax, which for farmers is likely to occur only when investment tax credit carryover reduces the regular tax, or when MACRS depreciation deductions are very large and taxable income is low.

Intensive alfalfa production seminar in Grand Rapids Nov. 12-14

Everything growers need to know about alfalfa from seed to feed will be covered Nov. 12-14 in the Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar at the Crowne Plaza Grand Rapids in Grand Rapids.

The seminar is sponsored by the Certified Alfalfa Seed Council with arrangements made by Michigan State University Extension. The cost is \$500, which includes instructional materials and three meals.

This will be the first time the seminar has taken place in Michigan, says Richard Leep, MSU Extension agronomist.

"The quality of the instruction and depth of the content will measure up to the expense," Leep says. "Enrollment is usually limited to around 30 people so that as much individual attention is given as possible. Anyone involved with the production, distribution or use of alfalfa will substantially benefit from the seminar."

The seminar will focus on the history and importance of alfalfa, alfalfa genetics and seed production, soils suitable to alfalfa growth and nutrient needs, alfalfa growth and development from spring into winter, and establishing and maintaining an alfalfa crop.

Other topics will be alfalfa pests and pest management, forage quality and marketing, and the end use of the product with livestock — dairy, beef, swine, sheep and horses.

The speakers will include agronomists from the University of Nebraska, Iowa State University, MSU, the University of Kentucky, the University of Minnesota and the University of Wisconsin.

To register for the seminar, write to Jerrold Johnson, Certified Alfalfa Seed Council, 23 Toyon Dr., Woodland, CA 95695, or call him at 916-662-6565.

Arrangements for lodging at the Crowne Plaza Grand Rapids can be made by calling 616-957-1770.

More information about the seminar content can be obtained from Leep by calling 616-671-2323.

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Precision Agriculture

Computer technology is one of the key elements that makes precision agriculture possible. A computer can take huge volumes of detailed, site-specific data about a farmer's land and crops and pull it together into a coherent picture that helps the farmer make effective decisions about his crop production system.

But the information power of a computer isn't limited just to the data that gets entered into it. A personal computer, equipped with the right hardware and software, can tap into the Internet — a worldwide computer network with a seemingly endless supply of information on almost any subject, including precision agriculture.

A surprising amount of information on the Internet is relevant to farmers. More and more ag retailers, equipment manufacturers, universities, trade associations and publications have Internet sites that include a wide variety of agriculture-related topics. Best of all, this information is available free to anyone with Internet access.

To join the growing ranks of Internet users, someone who already has a personal computer needs a modem, special software and a service provider. The modem links a computer to the rest of the world through telephone lines. A modem's speed — how fast it transmits and receives signals —

Connect with precision ag on the Internet

is measured in bits per second (bps). Accessing information on the Internet is faster with a modem that has a speed of at least 28,800 bps (usually expressed as 28.8 Kbps).

Special software programs called Web browsers simplify the process of locating information on the World Wide Web. The Web is the best-known part of the Internet and is the most user friendly. Web sites are different from the text-only sites found on much of the Internet and may include images, sound, animation and video. The Web also allows users to jump from one site to another by clicking on highlighted text that appears in most sites. Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer are two popular, easy-to-use Web browsers. Both are available free on the Internet.

Internet service providers (ISPs) offer the link between someone's personal computer and the Internet for a monthly fee that ranges from \$15 to \$30. The fee usually includes a specified number of hours of Internet access each month. If the user exceeds this base time, the ISP may have additional per-minute or per-hour charges.

Some areas may not have a local ISP. In that case, a commercial on-line service such as CompuServe or America Online may provide Internet access.

What agriculture information can farmers find on the Internet? Search services make it simple for Internet users to locate Web sites with information on specific subjects. Yahoo! is one of the most popular search services available on the Internet. Enter-

ing key words like "agriculture" or "precision agriculture" into Yahoo! results in a list of possible sites.

At the Terra Industries Web site (www.terraindustries.com), major topics include agricultural products and services, company news, nitrogen manufacturing information, company and investor information, professional products and services, and precision agriculture. A farmer interested in precision agriculture will find:

- explanations of precision agriculture's components;
- a bibliography of recent precision agriculture articles; and
- information on grid soil sampling, global positioning systems, variable rate technology, geographic information systems, field mapping and pest control.

Terra encourages Web site visitors to use electronic mail (e-mail) to provide the company with feedback about material on its site. This ability to send messages from computer to computer is another Internet feature. In fact, it's the most popular use for the Internet. Groups with common interests use e-mail to hold electronic discussions on the Internet.

Agriculture-related discussion groups exchange ideas and solutions with others who may have similar problems and concerns. Farmers should consider the Internet another information tool that can help them stay informed about technological advances in agriculture and help them make better decisions about their crop production systems. ■

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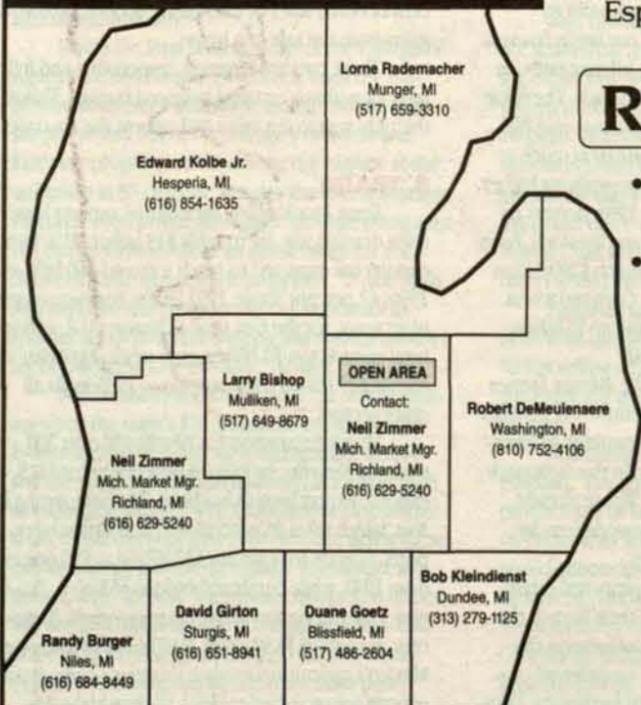
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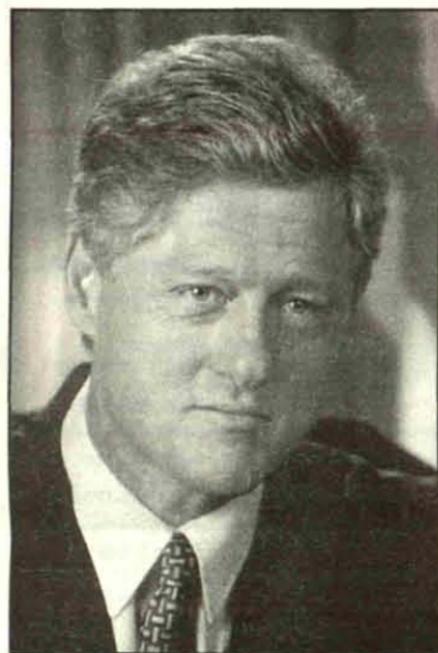
* Indicates territory supervisor

Candidates respond to questions on key Farm Bureau issues

Editor's note: As American voters prepare to make their choice in the 1996 presidential election, the American Farm Bureau is again providing the candidates from the two major parties an opportunity to express their views on issues important to agriculture.

The following list of questions was submitted to President Bill Clinton, the Democratic candidate; and the Republican challenger, former Sen. Robert J. Dole. We are including their responses as they were written, in their entirety.

We hope that you will find this information helpful. Don't forget to vote your choice on Nov. 5!



WILLIAM J. CLINTON

1. USE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY

I have acted to protect private property. Any American who is willing to work hard and play by the rules should be able to buy a home and provide for his or her family in a neighborhood that is free from crime, drugs and toxic contamination.

I believe that we must balance the rights of property owners with our obligation to preserve the environment for our children. Examples of policy areas where we are working to reach this balance are found below — the Endangered Species Act, wetlands reform and reinventing government.

2. ENDANGERED SPECIES

I am committed to leaving our children a better nation, where land, air and water are unspoiled and natural beauty is undiminished. We won passage of a farm bill that reflects the strong commitment to the environment that this administration and America's farmers share. This law includes an unprecedented \$2.2 billion for conservation, helping farmers and ranchers preserve soil, water and other critical resources important to their livelihood.

Our common sense approach to the Endangered Species Act has been to solve legitimate problems while protecting our country's biological heritage. I am committed to preserving the core purpose of ESA — to safeguard endangered and threatened species and the ecosystems on which they depend.

I recognize, however, that ESA reform is needed. Working with state and local governments, other federal agencies and private landowners, both large and small, my administration has made ESA more flexible by creating new tools to respond to landowners' concerns. I directed the Department of Interior to work with landowners on developing public-private agreements known as Habitat Conservation Plans. I have asked that ESA focus on the greatest biological risks, essentially exempting landowners.

I support reauthorization of the ESA according to 10 principles designed to better balance endangered species protection and economic development. Under this plan, states would have greater ability to guide species protection and recovery within their borders. Science would be assured a

1. USE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY

Would your administration support a policy providing fair compensation to landowners in cases where real property values and uses have been diminished as a result of environmental regulation? If yes, what would you propose to be a reasonable determinant for such compensation? If no, explain your reasoning.

2. ENDANGERED SPECIES

How can agriculture grow and prosper while faced with increased demands to provide species habitat and other protection? How can farmers and ranchers best provide species protection? Should the Endangered Species Act be amended; if so how?

3. WETLANDS

What policy would you propose to

stronger place in decision-making. Small landowners would encounter more flexibility and less regulation. All landowners would be encouraged to provide good habitat for listed species and not be penalized for doing so.

3. WETLANDS

My administration is reforming wetlands programs to make them work better for homeowners and small landowners. In July 1995, we announced a new policy that allows homeowners to build or expand a home without an individual wetlands permit under the Clean Water Act if they are modifying up to one-half acre of non-tidal wetlands. As a result of the wetlands reform efforts, more than 99 percent of all wetlands permits are approved, and they are approved in an average of 26 days — a 20 percent cut in the processing time since 1992.

We have increased certainty and flexibility for identifying wetlands on agriculture land — by making 53 million acres of agricultural land identified as prior-converted swampland exempt from regulation under both the Clean Water Act and swampbuster. We also gave the Agriculture Department the responsibility for identifying all wetlands on agricultural land for both regulatory programs. To help farmers interested in restoring wetlands on their property, the wetlands reserve program was expanded to cover 50 states. The WRP assists farmers interested in restoring wetlands on their property by offering cash payments for placing conservation easements on their wetland property, as well as cost-sharing assistance for restoration work.

USDA has revised compliance rules and wetlands reform, promoting incentive-based — not punishment-based — regulation and giving farmers greater flexibility. With these actions, most homeowners will never have to think about wetlands laws. My administration has also protected landowners by allowing people to create wetlands in one place in order to allow future development in another.

4. REGULATORY REFORM

In February 1995, I directed all regulators to: review every single regulation and to cut those which are obsolete; reward results, not red tape; get out of Washington and into the country to create grassroots partnerships with the people who are subject to regulations; and, whenever possible, negotiate rather than dictate. We also implemented unprecedented common-sense regulatory reforms, eliminating 16,000 pages of obsolete government regulations and revising another 31,000 pages.

In September 1993, I issued an executive order directing each government agency to issue risk assessments to help set regulatory priorities on matters within its jurisdiction intended to "reduce risks to public health, safety or the environment." My objective was to ensure that all government agencies conduct cost-benefit analyses to ensure that the benefit of regulations justify their costs. In addition, we established a regulatory working group to make government regulation work better and cost less. That group has developed and issued principles to guide agencies in the use of risk assessment, management and communication, and to evaluate the success of those risk programs.

I support regulatory reform legislation that does not make it more difficult to protect our fami-

lies' health and provide them with safe air to breathe, clean water to drink and healthy food to eat. Our "reinventing government" efforts have shown that health and environmental standards can be met with a more efficient and less bureaucratic approach that does not endanger our health.

4. REGULATORY REFORM

Compliance with federal regulations is an increasingly costly part of agriculture. To what extent should risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis be incorporated into promulgation of new regulations?

5. FARM PROGRAMS

The Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (FAIR) includes greater planting flexibility and decreasing levels of government income support. Would your administration propose

any modifications to the law before it runs its seven-year course? If yes, what would these proposals be?

6. FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

What initiatives would you begin to surface over the next four years to guard against shifts in the predominantly family-owned-and-operated structure of American agriculture?

7. TAX POLICY

What tax policy changes would your administration advocate to encourage economic growth?

8. TRADE

What steps would your administration take to negotiate new and monitor the implementation of existing foreign trade agreements to create opportunity and ensure fairness for American agriculture?

5. FARM PROGRAMS

To make farm programs simpler and more flexible, we fought for and won provisions in this year's farm bill that increase planting flexibility. Under my leadership, USDA made it easier for farmers to participate in federal farm programs and achieved a record level farm program enrollment this year — 99 percent. In 1996, 334 million acres are planted to principal crops — an increase of 15 million over last year.

But I signed FAIR into law with reservation. I believe the bill fails to provide an adequate safety net for family farmers. The fixed payments in the bill do not adjust to changes in market conditions, leaving farmers and the rural communities in which they live vulnerable to reductions in crop prices or yields. I am committed to submitting legislation and working with Congress next year to strengthen the safety net for farmers.

I was also disappointed that Congress rolled back an important reform of the crop insurance program, which had been enacted 18 months before. But FAIR does embody a clear commitment to maintain crop insurance as an alternative to costly, unreliable ad hoc crop disaster programs of the past. In this respect, my administration strongly supports the development of new "revenue insurance" approaches over the coming years so that the crop insurance safety net can play an increasingly large role in the farm economy. This is a key component of our strategy to continue to help farmers manage the risks they face.

6. FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

My administration continues to work to strengthen the overall position of our family farmers. There is much encouraging news. Interest rates are low and the U.S. economy remains steady. The value of land and other farm assets continues to rise. Net farm income is projected to increase by as much as \$15 billion this year. Farmers are also realizing higher prices. From June 1995 until June 1996, farmers received 19 percent more for crops and livestock. Farm cash receipts are expected to approach \$200 billion in 1996, up \$25 billion since 1992. Corn and wheat reached record-high prices this year, up \$6 billion over 1995 and \$10 billion over 1992.

We are continuing to help the average farmer by ensuring that prices are competitive. My administration has created an advisory committee to investigate the effects of concentration in the meat packing industry on producer prices. We are already responding to committee recommendations by fighting anti-competitive practices.

My administration has also proposed estate tax relief to help families transfer their farm to the next generation. We are working to increase the value of the estate that is eligible for deferred payment of estate taxes and to reduce further the interest rate on the taxes that are paid overtime. These changes would reduce a family's need to sell farm assets to pay taxes.

7. TAX POLICY

I support tax reforms and targeted tax cuts that are fair to working families, that strengthen our economy and communities, and that maintain our commitment to a balanced budget.

For example, my 1993 deficit reduction plan cut taxes for 15 million working families by expanding the earned income tax credit, and created the first federal Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities to revitalize distressed rural and urban communities. My plan also made 90 percent of small businesses — including farmers — eligible for a tax cut by increasing the small business expensing limit 75 percent to \$17,500 and creating a targeted small business and farm equipment expensing limit to the \$25,000 level I first proposed in 1993. The legislation also contains many of my proposals to expand pension coverage, portability and security to help working families save for their retirement and increase the health insurance deduction for the self-employed.

My certified balanced budget contains additional tax reforms and tax cuts targeted at education, child rearing and home ownership, all of which are fully paid for by spending cuts and closing unwarranted corporate tax loopholes. My balanced budget also includes targeted estate tax relief to make it easier to pass a family farm from one generation to the next, and provides for a second round of Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities.

My budget also reforms the tax code to provide incentives for investments in people and education in addition to physical capital. It makes higher education and training tuition — up to \$10,000 — tax deductible, and provides a \$1,500 refundable tax credit for tuition in the first two years of college to help make two years of college as universal as four years of high school. It provides a \$500 per child tax credit, doubles the income limits for IRAs and allows penalty-free IRA withdrawals for education, first home purchases and major medical expenses, and eliminates the capital gains tax for over 99 percent of home sales by exempting up to \$500,000 in gains from the sale of a home.

These cuts are targeted, responsible and fully paid for within a certified balanced budget. This is the right way to cut taxes and reform the tax code.

8. TRADE

Since I took office, agricultural exports have risen dramatically, by roughly \$18 billion. U.S. farm exports are expected to reach a record \$60 billion in 1996, 42 percent above 1992 levels. For two consecutive years, for the first time in history, U.S. agricultural exports top \$1 billion each week. Agriculture's record \$29 billion trade surplus in 1995 leads all other sectors.

My administration has negotiated over 200 trade agreements, helping to generate record U.S. exports. Export growth has been especially strong in Asia, which takes 46 percent of U.S. agricultural exports. Exports to Japan are \$12 billion, up 50 percent from 1992, while combined exports to Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Malaysia are up nearly 70 percent at a record \$8.9 billion. NAFTA has helped open Mexico's agricultural market; this year's agricultural exports are projected to reach all-time highs. My trade policies have helped to increase farm income, which is projected to increase by as much as \$15 billion this year, totaling \$55 billion. ■


ROBERT J. DOLE
1. USE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY

Anyone who opposes fair compensation when the federal government reduces the economic value of land should read the Constitution. In both wetlands determinations and endangered species habitat designations, farmers and ranchers must be compensated when the value of their land is diminished. The Dole administration will work to protect those who have been burdened with a government taking to ensure they receive just compensation.

I am committed to stopping the government assault on property rights of private citizens. For too long, government agencies have imposed intrusive regulations with no regard for the Fifth Amendment rights of property owners.

Last year, I introduced the Omnibus Private Property Rights Act to restore common sense protection to individuals. Citizens shouldn't have to waste millions of dollars fighting arbitrary government property seizures. A Dole administration, along with a Republican Congress, will make important strides in restoring the private property protection our forefathers so clearly established in the Constitution.

2. ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Endangered Species Act is clearly in need of reform. The bitterness and controversy surrounding ESA works against the responsible environmental stewardship that we depend on our agriculture community to provide. I believe that individuals are responsible stewards of our environment. I believe we can achieve a balance that reforms the ESA, while ensuring the protection of endangered species and preservation of private property rights.

3. WETLANDS

I am particularly proud of the conservation title of the 1996 farm bill. This legislation is widely recognized as the most pro-environment farm bill ever passed. It contains important modifications to provisions governing the use of both wetlands and highly erodible land, which are patterned after my own conservation bill. In the farm bill, I sought to provide farmers with certainty and clarity on what constitutes a wetland. Unfortunately, in the Clinton administration's recently released rules, clarity and certainty have been replaced with vagueness and confusion. Farmers who once were told they did not have wetlands will now have USDA come back and take a second look. We must continue to streamline, clarify and simplify the bureaucratic involvement in wetland determinations.

I believe strongly that the constitutionally protected private property rights of individuals — farmers, ranchers, small business owners — have too often been disregarded. Reforms are needed to ensure that voluntary, incentive-based approaches to protecting wetlands and endangered species are pursued rather than continued reliance on command and control regulations that limit property rights and free enterprise.

4. REGULATORY REFORM

I sponsored legislation ensuring that benefits must justify costs for any major federal regulation and that risk assessment and good science be used in making this determination. Small businesses, including agriculture, particularly suffer from significant regulatory burdens. It is time to think about how things could be done differently and better in the future. That means focusing our scarce resources on the most important problems. Meaningful cost-benefit analysis will help ease the burden on the agriculture community that suffers from the current flawed regulatory system.

5. FARM PROGRAMS

The Dole administration will not propose any changes to the seven-year contracts that guarantee payments to producers. When President Clinton signed the farm bill into law, he stated that he would seek changes in 1997. This is highly irresponsible, as it undercuts efforts by producers to plan for the future. It shows that the Clinton administration does not fully understand the agriculture industry. In fact, the Clinton administration was virtually AWOL during the farm bill debate and opposed the bill until the very end.

Farmers and ranchers across America shared with me their frustrations with outdated farm policies that stifled farm prices and incomes. Based on these accounts, I am convinced we desperately need to simplify agriculture programs and focus on growth-oriented policies.

This year's farm bill achieves much more than that. We give producers greater planting flexibility so they can better respond to growing export markets and better manage their soil to protect the environment. We also free them from the frustrating constraints of idling productive land. Most important, the farm bill ensures that farm programs are sensible and predictable.

The new farm bill represents a positive new direction for U.S. agriculture policy. The popularity of the program is indicated by a participation rate of over 90 percent across the country. The farm bill provides farmers with the certainty, simplicity, and flexibility that they have been asking for. Rewriting the farm bill before the ink is even dry would stall our efforts to transition American agriculture into the 21st century.

6. FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

Those of us who grew up in rural America were taught a strong set of values. Honesty. Decency. Duty. Personal responsibility. Love of family and country. These are values that guided America for more than 200 years. These are the values that have made us the greatest nation on Earth.

America's agriculture represents nearly 20 percent of our economic activity, including \$30 billion worth of net exports of farm products. Despite this contribution to the character and the economy of the nation, the lights of hope and opportunity are dimming for many rural families, small businessmen and women, and, sadly, for entire communities.

Revitalizing our rural economy is one of my top priorities. That means balancing a bloated federal budget, overhauling a burdensome tax system and reining in intrusive government regulations. It means diversifying farm economies, improving education and vocational training opportunities for rural citizens, and maintaining basic services, including health care providers and hospitals to attract new businesses and create new jobs.

7. TAX POLICY

My economic vision for America is one of lower taxes, less intrusive government and more economic freedom — all of which will produce a stronger economy. A stronger economy will increase job and investment opportunities for all. A stronger economy will raise both the standard of living and income levels for the hard-working wage earner.

My economic growth agenda, endorsed by four Nobel Laureate economists and more than a hundred prominent economists across the nation, will do just that. It is based on common sense economics: leaving more money in the pockets of taxpayers, and allowing them, not the federal government, to decide how their money should be spent. They are the ones who will put money back into the economy and into the productive uses that drive our economy forward, create jobs, build new busi-

nesses, and bring about prosperity and greater opportunity for all.

The Dole-Kemp plan has six key points:

- Adopt a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution;
- Balance the federal budget by 2002;
- Cut taxes across the board and replace the current tax code;
- "End IRS as we know it;"
- Reform education and job training; and
- Cut government regulation and reform our civil courts.

And on the federal spending side, the Dole-Kemp economic plan does not "cut" overall spending from current levels. The fact is, spending will be 12 percent higher in 2002 than it is now. In a growing economy, the president won't have to cut any of our vital programs to balance the budget.

8. TRADE

Bill Clinton is trying to take credit for this year's performance of agriculture trade. But the facts speak for themselves. The value of ag trade is up because of higher prices for U.S. ag products. The actual volume of total ag exports is down. In fact, USDA projects the volume of ag exports will decline 5.4 percent this year and another 6 percent next year.

Bill Clinton's record on ag trade has been disastrous. He nearly killed NAFTA by insisting on provisions favored by big labor and environmental extremists. This administration lost a clear-cut case against the Canadians on American dairy, poultry and egg imports. Finally, they have failed to end the European Union's beef hormone ban or resolve its third country meat directives.

The highest trade priority of a Dole administration will be to enforce the trade laws already on the books. I always have been a proponent of fair, free trade and I know that it takes an ongoing commitment to open new markets and expand existing ones. Foreign governments — both customers and competitors — must understand that the United States will not sacrifice its agriculture interests in the negotiation and enforcement of trade agreements. In addition, under a Dole administration there will be no selective embargoes that single out agriculture.

I will use all available trade tools, credit and market development programs to maintain and enhance demand for U.S. farm products. However, the ability to "compete" does not only mean access to a market or a president willing to fight to ensure that our trade agreements are upheld. It also requires tax, regulatory and legal reforms here at home that will enable our farmers and ranchers to compete economically with our competitors around the globe. Backed by a pro-growth business climate at home, American agriculture can compete with any country in today's global marketplace. ■

Added cost funding issue hits home for state's agri-science programs

Continued from front page

jobs all of the time," Forbush said. "They (MDE) needs to figure out how these kids are finding jobs and where they're working. If they continue to use MESIC, I think they'll forever miss a segment of the agricultural industry."

MSU's Dr. Fred Poston, dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, finds the employment statistics unrealistic as well, noting that job placement out of the college's two-year and four-year programs ranks among the highest at the university at 85 percent. Besides the loss of funding, Poston contends that the bigger message being sent out by the MDE worsens an uphill battle for the future of some agri-science programs. "It (the ranking) says that this program isn't as important as another set of programs, which just creates another set of problems to overcome," he said.

Poston also noted the irony of the MDE's ranking when the state's \$70 million investment in the livestock initiative is just now taking shape at MSU and the state's agricultural industry, as a whole, is in an expansion mode. "When you listen to the people at the Department of Education who are doing these estimates, they portray agriculture in this state as a dying entity," he said. "However, expansion is underway and producers are going like gangbusters. One of the great variables that can just sink this whole expansion is not having an adequate labor pool."

Even more ironic, however, is the exclusion of 30,300 farm laborers from the MESIC's labor demand for the agricultural industry. "At the present

time, farm laborers as a group are not included in that employment demand, which I think is an area that we need to look at much more carefully," admits Bob Pangman, supervisor of program development for the MDE.

Also excluded from the employment statistics are graduating seniors who opt for advanced training either in a two-year or four-year program. "If you go to college you're not in the equation," says Forbush. "I chose additional training in the field of agriculture, and teach agri-science, but that's not somebody that's in the field of agriculture according to the office of Career and Technical Education. Now if I had said I was working on my dad's farm, then I would have been counted."

Pangman acknowledges the ongoing debate as to what qualifies as agriculture and what doesn't. "If I'm selling an agricultural product, does that automatically mean it's an agricultural occupation?" he asks.

Redefining agriculture is an absolute must, says Forbush. "I've always told my freshmen that 'if all I'm producing is farmers, I will meet with those two kids on Friday after school — the other 114 kids can just go to science class.' However, if they're interested in agriculture, but don't plan on being a farmer, there's room for every one of those kids in my class. But Career and Technical Education has to start recognizing people other than just production agriculture."

After an early October meeting with MFB President Jack Laurie, Poston and several agri-science instructors, Pangman said the MDE agreed to form

a work group to re-evaluate their method of employment ranking for agriculture as well as their definition of agricultural employment — similar to an automotive industry study completed last year. "Agriculture could very well benefit from something like this," he suggested.

Laurie calls the proposed study a step in the right direction, but emphasizes the urgency in getting the added cost funding issue resolved. "Agriculture is the second largest industry in this state. The Department of Education's ranking totally ignores several facets of the agricultural industry's workforce," Laurie said. "Farm Bureau believes the MDE needs to take a very close look at related careers, and we're going to do that with them."

Laurie contends that the MESIC should expand the utilization of the Standard Industrialized Code or SIC categories developed and used by the U.S. Department of Commerce, to get a more accurate measure of all jobs directly and indirectly related to agriculture, including manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, finance, insurance, and real estate.

"Under the SIC manufacturing code, we've got food products, dairy products, preserved fruits and vegetables, grain mills products, bakery products and the entire sugar industry, for example, that all need to be considered," Laurie said. "The SIC clearly needs to be looked at when you're determining agricultural employment demand here in Michigan." ■

Michigan Department of Education 1996-97 Funding Policy State Rank List

Rank	Program Name
1	Manufacturing Technology
2	Business Services & Technology
3	Allied Health Technology
4	Machine Tool Operator/Machine Shop
5	Marketing Education
6	Electro-Mechanical Technician
7	Building & Home Maintenance & Services
8	Medium/Heavy Truck Technician
9	Construction/Building Maintenance
10	Drafting
11	Automobile Technician
12	Hospitality & Food Service
13	Industrial Equipment Maintenance/Repair
14	Transportation Services & Technology
15	Construction Trade
16	Diesel Mechanic
17	Woodworking & Furniture Making
18	Cosmetology
19	Electrical & Electronics Repair
20	Mechanics Cluster
21	Plastics
22	Clothing & Textile Production & Service
23	Law Enforcement
24	Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
25	Collision Repair & Refinishing
26	Commercial Paint/Interior Treatment Services
27	Auto Mechanics
28	Agri-science and Natural Resources

*An additional 21 programs are ranked below Agri-science and Natural Resources

Japan gives Ciba and Northrup King Bt corn approval

The final hurdle has been cleared, by soon to be merged Ciba Seeds and Northrup King Co., that allows the companies to export corn produced from Bt corn here in the U.S. into Japan. That's particularly good news for domestic corn producers, since Japan imported nearly 635 million bushels of corn last year, making it this country's largest customer for corn.

The Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries announced that the Bt corn complies with Japan's guidelines for the safety assessment of animal feed. The Ministry of Health and Welfare had previously approved the Bt corn for use in human food and food additives. According to Ciba Seeds Rich Lotstein, the clearances are specific for Ciba, Northrup King and Mycogen. Separate clearances

will be required for additional companies wishing to export their corn into the Japanese market.

Northrup King is also waiting for an additional clearance from the Japanese Ministry of Environment that would allow the company to export and sell Bt seed in Japan.

Calling it a vote of confidence in the safety of the Bt product, Mike Braun, Ciba field sales agronomist for Michigan, says that Ciba was pleased at the pace of the approval process by Japanese officials. "They have recognized the benefit of this product and they've given us their approval," he said.

Protests over product safety and calls for labeling are unfounded according to Braun, adding that even some Michigan-based elevators were expressing reservations earlier on about accepting corn

produced from Maximizer hybrids, Ciba's Bt corn varieties. "The fallacy behind this is that the Bt protein doesn't express itself in the ear, so there's no way of detecting Bt in the grain," he explained. "It's more of a political issue than anything else."

The 1996 growing season was an ideal one for demonstrating the effectiveness of the Bt corn, says Braun. First generation infestation in the state was severe, and damage was evident in field trials comparing the Maximizer hybrids and conventional corn hybrids. "Preliminary yield checks show a 10- to 15-bushel-per-acre yield difference over similar genetics in the same maturity group," he said. Nationwide, over 500,000 acres were planted to the Maximizer hybrid in 1996.

Although pricing for the Bt corn will remain

virtually unchanged from last year, Braun expects product availability to be short for the 1997 growing season, based on a growing demand for the relatively new technology. "Even in a perfect production year, I don't think either Ciba or Northrup King would have been able to supply enough corn to meet demand and this year has been less than perfect from a production standpoint."

Ciba will be offering 12 different Bt varieties ranging from 82-day to 112-day maturity. Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Braun says the company has been taking orders for the Maximizer hybrids since July, and expects to be sold out of the Bt corn by the end of harvest. "The guys who wait until after harvest to see results are going to be in tough straits," he claimed. ■

Rare entrapment deaths of youths are preventable

Though rare, entrapment and suffocation during stored grain handling is claiming lives, including children's.

The tragedy is that grain entrapment is preventable.

"Fatal entrapment and suffocation is extremely rare, accounting for less than 2 percent of all reported farm-related deaths," says Michigan State University Extension safety specialist Howard Doss. "But many of these accidents involve children, who

should not be playing around flowing grain."

In a study involving 23 states and one Canadian province, which ran from 1964 to 1994, statistics show that more than 40 percent of the fatalities in flowing grain were children under the age of 16. In grain transport vehicles such as gravity flow grain wagons, almost 90 percent of the fatalities were children younger than 15 years old.

Small children seem to have a tendency to play in and around grain wagons, and this is an

unnecessary risk for them.

"A modern combine can discharge a 210-bushel grain tank in less than two minutes," Doss says. "A child at the bottom of an empty grain wagon can be covered in a matter of seconds."

In storage bins, wet or frost-damaged corn may have a tendency to bridge and form a crusty surface layer with air pockets underneath. If the crust collapses under the weight of a person on top of the grain, it takes only a few seconds to become

fully engulfed in grain.

This year's late planting season may yield some crops that will go into storage in poor condition that could lead to crusting. Farmers need to recognize the risks of entrapment in grain and incorporate added safety precautions.

"It is up to every farmer to be his or her own safety director," Doss says, "and to identify and avoid the potential hazards of flowing grain and entrapment." ■

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Low-cost/no-cost energy management practices on farms

Few farmers would argue about the value of electricity on American farms. During the past 50 years, electricity's role in mechanizing on-farm production has increased to the point where, in the 1990s, over 33 billion kilowatt-hours were used on U.S. farms (exclusive of home use). As a whole, electricity accounts for only 10 percent of all energy used on the average farm. But on some highly mechanized dairy, hog and poultry farms, or irrigated crop farms, electricity may often provide half of all farm energy needs.

No-cost energy management practices

For heating applications

- Set water heater thermostat as low as permissible (while meeting sanitation requirements) to reduce tank and pipe losses, but not below 120°F.
- Purge water heater tanks every six months. This is especially important in "hard water" areas where softeners are not used.
- Turn electricity to water heater elements off during long periods when hot water is not needed.
- Check the water temperature in heated livestock and poultry waterers monthly. Adjust the thermostat to a point just below freezing. A higher setting heats water unnecessarily.
- Disconnect electric service from heated livestock waters during non-winter months.
- Check and adjust the height of heat lamps and other suspended electric brooders for maximum efficiency and safety. Weekly adjustment during the brooding period may be desirable.
- Turn off livestock/poultry brooders when not needed.
- Keep elements of electric heaters clean at all times.

For lighting applications

- Establish disciplined routines for switching off all lights when they are not needed.
- Light only work areas rather than the entire building, especially if buildings are large.
- Keep lamps, tubes, reflectors and lenses clean at all times.
- When replacing incandescent lamps, consider using more efficient, long-life fluorescent lighting.

For motor applications

- Select the right size motor for the job. Avoid over-sizing or under-sizing motor. Locate motors in the coolest, cleanest and driest environment possible.
- Inspect all motors on a regular basis. Clean whenever needed, which may be monthly in some livestock environments. Use oil sparingly. Follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Maintain proper belt tension and pulley alignment.
- When rooms or buildings require both ventilation and heat, check thermostats frequently to ensure most efficient operation. Keep controls free of dust and dirt.
- Avoid overloading (and overheating) by cleaning refrigerating condenser coils and ventilation fan blades and shutters on a monthly basis.

In grain drying applications

- Inspect drying floors and related facilities regularly to ensure free air flow.
- Keep grain as free of dirt and chaff as possible.

Low-cost energy management practices

For heating applications

- On dairy farms, add heat reclaimers to utilize heat from milk (being cooled) to warm water for sanitation or to provide heating in parlors or milk rooms.
- Repair or add insulation to heated livestock waterers as needed.
- Seal all openings around waterer base to reduce cold air infiltration.
- Install covers on and windbreaks around waterers when possible.
- Weatherstrip doors and windows of buildings requiring heat.
- Change to lower wattage heat lamps during summer months.
- Look for high efficiency equipment when purchasing new or replacing old electrical equipment.

For lighting applications

- Use efficient fluorescent lamps and fixtures when installing new or replacing old lighting systems.
- Install mercury vapor or sodium vapor lamps for large exterior or high-bay interior areas.
- Plan new buildings to take advantage of sunlight (with translucent panels) while accounting for summer shading for interior comfort.
- Consider increasing light levels in animal buildings. This can stimulate feed consumption and growth, improve reproductive rates and add to overall profits.

Continued on page 16

Rural electrification park gets facelift

by Steve Tomac

On M-36 near Meridian Rd. in Ingham County lies a small park. Few know its historical importance, but in February, many more will know. The park commemorates the Mason-Dansville electric line, which is 70 years old in February. Electrified in 1927, it was the first rural electric service in the state of Michigan.

On Sept. 14, volunteers from Mason FFA, Dansville FFA and Consumers Power Company joined forces. Their mission: clean up the park. It had gone into disarray following years of neglect. After hauling out nine truckloads of brush and removing dead trees, they had accomplished the mission. But the job was not over. The FFA chapters have begun long-term improvement projects to beautify the park.

Ron Behrenwald, chapter advisor for the Mason FFA, said that his chapter was happy to assist. "One of FFA's primary aims is to encourage citizenship and cooperation. We felt that this would be a good opportunity, working with Dansville FFA and Consumers Power, to fulfill those goals," he said. Behrenwald also said that the park has historical significance for the rural population of Mason, and the chapter didn't want to pass up the chance to assist.

In 1927, there were few farmers with electricity at all, let alone farms with electricity adjacent to each other. The Mason-Dansville line changed that. In February of 1927, seven miles of line connected 12 farms, ending in Dansville. Consumers Power had a



Mason and Dansville FFA students and Consumers Power Company employees at clean-up event.

grand total of 13 miles of rural line that year. Ten years later, that number was up to 10,000 miles and was still growing. 1949 marked the year that 100,000 farms had service, courtesy of Consumers Power. It was the first company to reach that many farms, and has remained the only one to reach that mark.

To signify the landmark event, the park was developed in 1938. It was built on the donated property of Ellis Haynes, one of the 12 farmers to connect to the Mason-Dansville line.

"The FFA members were wonderful to work with," said Dan Bishop, public information director for Consumers Power and coordinator of the clean-up. "Work needed to be done for both safety reasons and attractiveness."

The site serves as a historic monument to rural organizations, Consumers Power and Michigan State University. MSU was instrumental in studies and sponsorship of rural electrification in Michigan.



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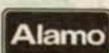
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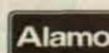
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Michigan Farm News Classified

Michigan Angus Breeders' Performance Sale — Vol. II

Sunday, November 10, 1996, 1:00 p.m.

Michigan Livestock Exchange, Battle Creek, Michigan

selling

75 Selected Angus • Serviceable Age Bulls • Cows and Calves • Bred Heifers
1996 Heifer Calf Show Prospects • 1996 Steer Calf Prospects

Featuring cattle from these leading herds:

- Bordner Angus Farm, Sturgis, MI
- Bill Hinrichsen, Silverwood, MI
- David Lutchka & Family, Grass Lake, MI
- Merriman Farms, Lowell, MI
- Michiana Livestock Ent., Warren, IN
- Randall Miller, Hemlock, MI
- Jack Reinhold, Clayton, MI
- Reitberg Farms, Hudsonville, MI
- Round Barn Farms, Ithaca, MI
- Seldom Rest, Niles, MI
- Shagbark Farm, Caledonia, MI
- Ann Strode, Alto, MI
- DeVir Taylor, Decatur, MI
- Tobias Angus, Nashville, MI
- Zelinko Brothers, St. Charles, MI

Sale co-sponsored by the Michigan Angus Association

The cattle selling in this sale represent the best from leading Angus herds across Michigan. They have been inspected and selected for this event!

Special Highlights: Featuring daughters of QAS Traveler 23-4, Pine Drive Big Sky, DHD Traveler 6807, Leachman Prompter, TC Dividend and VDAR New Trend 315

For a free reference catalog, contact anyone in the offices of the Sale Managers Tom Burke/Dick Beck/Kurt Schaff, American Angus Hall of Fame, World Angus Headquarters, Box 660, Smithville, MO 64089-0660. Phone (816) 532-0811. Fax (816) 532-0851. Auctioneer Jerry L. Lehmann • Bill Hinrichsen, Sale Chairman • 3117 Clifford Rd., Silverwood, MI 48760 • Phone (517) 761-7470

Attention Junior Members: Many outstanding show prospects sell!

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40 x 60 x 12	\$7,976
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60 x 100 x 10	\$15,957
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17 Auctions

FARM AUCTION

Featuring tractors, trucks, potato equipment. Having discontinued farming, the following will be sold at public auction on the premises located 4-1/2 mi. north of Stanton, Mich., on M-66 then 1 mi. west on Coral Rd. and 3/4 mi. south on Holland Rd. (Montcalm Co.)

Friday, November 8, 1996, 10:00 a.m.
Tractors: 1973 JD 7520 4x4 DSL Tractor, JD 4430 DSL Tractor, JD 2940 MFWD DSL Tractor, JD 4020 MFWD DSL Tractor, IH 826 DSL Tractor, Farmall M Tractor.

Trucks: 1976 Chevy C-65 Single Axle Truck, 366 V-8, 34,000 mi., w/16' potato box; 1976 Chevy C-65 Twin Screw Truck w/20' potato box; 1974 IH Loadstar Twin Screw Truck w/20' potato box; GMC 7500 Twin Screw Truck w/20' potato box; IH Loadstar 1800 Twin Screw Truck w/20' potato box; 1975 Loadstar 1800 Twin Screw Truck, no box; 1973 GMC Astro 95 Long Frame Twin Screw DSL Truck, no box; GMC 70 Truck Tractor, 4 parts; 1966 Dodge 500 Single Axle Truck, no box; 1978 Ford F-350 1 Ton Truck; Tandem Axle 16' Flat Bed Trailer.

Machinery: Bidwell bean combine w/red seal engine, dbl. cyl.; Heath 12 row hyd. fold planter, 30' rows, 3 pt.; JD 230 27-1/2' hyd. wing fold disc; Hardi 500 gal. tandem sprayer w/45' leveling boom; JD 3200 6x18" trailer plows, spring reset; Willrich 32' hyd. fold field cultivator; JD 20' rotary hoe w/transport wheels; Westgo 30' field cultivator w/S-lines; Brillion 15' cultipacker; Gandy 24 hoe air drill (4 parts).

Potato and Pickle Equipment: Lockwood Mark IV potato harvester, 2 row; Detroit dsl. 453 power unit; Hesston 225L, 2 row potato windrower; Lockwood 4 row potato planter; 4 row Hiller; 2-Wilde 2 row tractor mtd. pickle harvesters w/elevators & dump trailers; Lockwood 40' bin piler w/grading table; 1500 gal. wash tank on tandem trailer; 1500 gal. wash tank; Lockwood 30' picking table w/feed elevator; Kerian speed sizer 5' expanding sizer up to 6'; Perkins dsl. engine (needs attn.); Advance 30' potato bin piler; 20' alum. belt elevator w/motor; Shop Built pickle picking table.

Irrigation: Perkins dsl. unit w/6x6 pump, Murphy switched; approx. 100 pcs. 8"x30" H+L alum. pipe; approx. 60 pcs. 6"x30" H+L alum. pipe; misc. fittings & elbows; Hale 1000 GPM PTO pump; 1/4 mi. wheel irrigation traveler, 5' alum. pipe (this traveler is located near Coral, Mich. Will be sold by photo at auction site); irrig. pipe wagon.

Misc. items from around the farm. There will be no small items. Plan to be on time! Terms: CASH or good check w/proper ID.
Dean and Theresa Larson, Props. For info, call 616-354-6677
Sykora Auction Service, Inc. Jim & Scott Sykora, Auctioneers
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11 Agricultural Services



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FIFTH ANNUAL BEEFALO AUCTION

Saturday, Nov. 2, 1996
1:00 pm, at Lake Odessa Livestock Auction
3675 Tupper Lake Rd. • Lake Odessa, MI

Sale will include all registered feeder and breeding stock. Animals available for inspection at 10:00 am auction day. Catalog and information available at 810-387-4543

Sponsored by Michigan Beefalo Association

05 Livestock

LLAMAS: North American Sittling Bull and Essex bloodlines. Pet males and weaning females. Reasonably priced! Call for more information and visit. 1-517-645-2719.
Miller's Llamaland
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PIEDMONTESE CATTLE Lean, tender, double muscled, good calving ease. Quality registered breeding stock. Also available embryos and semen.
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07 Dogs and Puppies

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01 Farm Machinery

4-210 WHITE with duals, 6 ton grain bin with auger, windmill, tandem axle hay wagon for round bales, single chain elevator for grass or silage. 1952 Ford pickup, restored, 51,000 miles. Buggy sleigh and antiques. 1-810-346-2340.

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Symon's
1-517-271-8445, Gaines

G.T. 380 TOX-O-WIX BATCH grain dryer, PTO or electric, LP, \$3300. Call days, 1-810-384-1352, evenings 1-810-384-6952.

INTERNATIONAL 843 4 ROW corn head for sale. \$2000 firm. 1-517-738-7518.

JOHN DEERE 850 or 950 front mounted snow blower drive unit for 666 blower. Also New-weather break cab. Call 1-616-536-2779.

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Hamilton Distributing Co.
1-800-248-8070

MASSEY FERGUSON 1135: Cab, air, heat, 4900 hours. \$8500. Also International hydro 100; 3900 hours, \$9500. Both excellent condition! Call 1-616-546-3856.

MASSEY FERGUSON 265: 2000 hours. Excellent condition! \$7500. Call 1-616-897-9421.

NEW IDEA 2 row narrow corn picker, 8 row husking bed and 329 sheller unit. 570 Innes bean windrower with a lot of new parts. Brilliant cultipacker, 10' 4 row John Deere mid mount bean puller. 616-754-9404.

USED DEUTZ 5506 for sale. Excellent condition! Call 1-517-626-6642.

02 Livestock Equipment

1978 CHEVY C-65 22' LIVESTOCK truck, 427, 5 & 2, radial tires, running condition, \$3500 or best offer. Also 28' aluminum double deck livestock bed, good condition, \$6,000 or best offer. 1-616-467-7384 after 5pm.

03 Farm Commodities

HAY FOR SALE: Call 1-517-644-3905. Weidman, west of Mount Pleasant.

05 Livestock

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Michigan Farm News Classified

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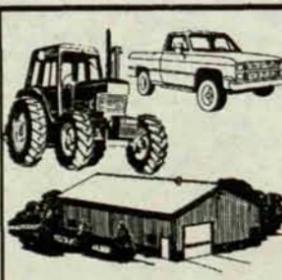
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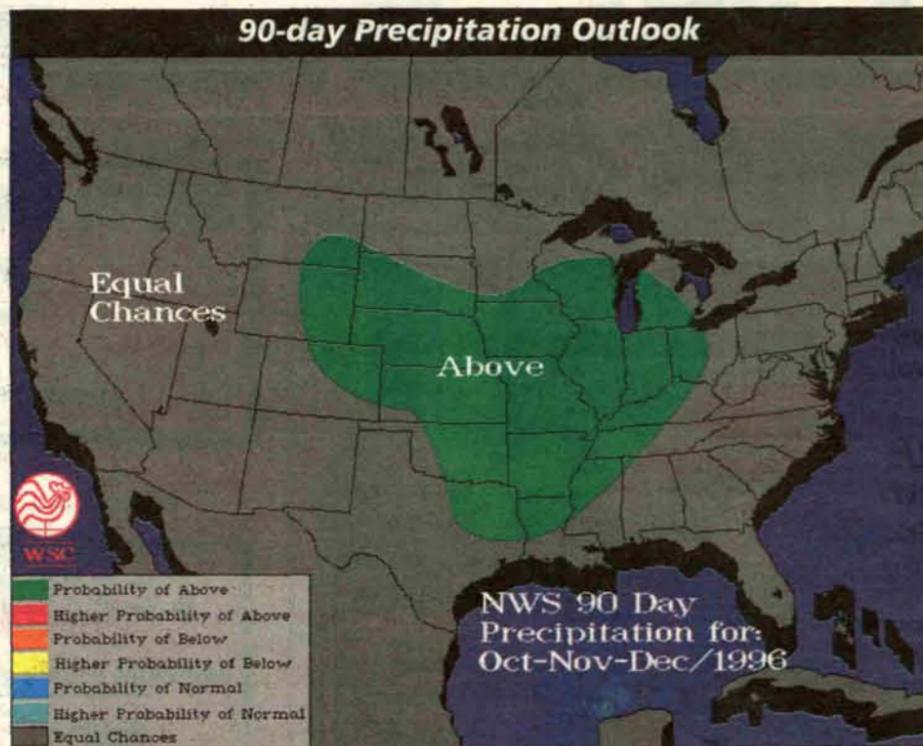
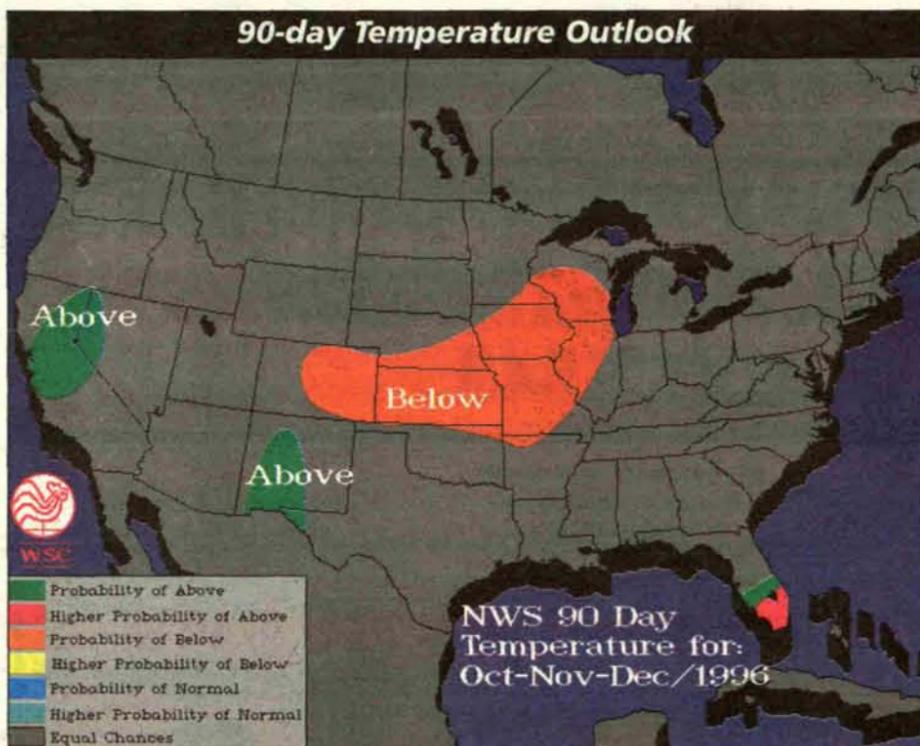
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21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36

Circulation over 46,000 in State of Michigan.



Weather Outlook

by Dr. Jeff Andresen, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, Michigan State University



cally across central and southern Lower Michigan, the first killing freeze ranged from near to 1-2 weeks earlier than normal (especially in the southwestern and southeastern Lower Peninsula). Average temperatures during the past 30 days fell back to below normal levels across much of the state, with departures generally ranging from 1-3 degrees F below normal. More importantly, a drier than normal pattern set up across the Midwest in early October, favoring grain drydown and harvest activities.

Long lead outlooks for the upcoming month still call favor cooler and possibly wetter than normal conditions. Most recent medium-range forecast guidance suggests an upper air troughing feature will develop over the western states into the Great Plains region during the upcoming 1-2 weeks. This pattern would lead to an active storm track across the Great Lakes region, with above normal precipitation and temperatures ranging from much above to much below normal. Interestingly, it is a similar pattern to that which established itself last October. In general, this pattern would be unfavorable for fall fieldwork activities, with only brief windows of opportunity expected into early November.

Widespread frost and freezing temperatures covered much of the state on the mornings of Oct. 4, 11 and 12, bringing an end to the growing season. Climatologi-

Michigan Weather Summary

9/16/96-10/15/96	Temp.		Growing Degree Days		Precip.	
	Obs. mean	Dev. from normal	Actual	Normal	Actual (inch)	Normal (inch)
Houghton	49.1	-1.4	1615	1910	0.61	2.94
Marquette	48.1	-0.5	1699	1910	1.12	2.94
Escanaba	50.1	-2.3	1616	1668	0.14	3.07
Sault Ste. Marie	49.2	-1.1	1514	1668	5.10	3.07
Lake City	52.7	0.0	1985	2190	3.40	3.38
Pellston	51.3	0.3	1967	2190	3.80	3.38
Traverse City	54.2	-1.5	2330	2190	3.05	3.38
Alpena	51.2	-1.3	1944	2111	1.80	3.12
Houghton Lake	51.2	-2.0	1990	2111	1.41	3.12
Muskegon	53.6	-2.7	2279	2429	2.02	3.21
Vestaburg	51.7	-4.5	2284	2506	3.60	3.11
Bad Axe	52.6	-3.8	2186	2557	4.78	2.77
Saginaw	54.8	-1.8	2598	2557	2.56	2.77
Grand Rapids	55.0	-0.9	2622	2843	2.18	3.44
South Bend	56.8	-1.5	2758	2843	2.15	3.44
Coldwater	54.7	-3.7	2565	2764	2.26	2.95
Lansing	53.9	-2.2	2484	2764	1.98	2.95
Detroit	56.9	-0.9	2922	2788	1.60	2.55
Flint	54.6	-1.4	2578	2788	1.80	2.55
Toledo	57.5	-0.6	3004	2788	2.19	2.55

Observed totals accumulated from April 1. Normals are based on district averages.

Low-cost/no-cost energy management practices on farms

Continued from page 13
For motor applications

- Select energy-efficient motors when purchasing new motors.
- Add rodent guards to open motors and keep motors clean for efficient use and longer life. Use automatic controls to maximize efficiency.
- Use special controls for large motors (i.e., for irrigation) to avoid use during power supplier peak periods. This can significantly reduce cost (check with power supplier for incentive rates).
- Modify farmstead operations so electrical equipment functions during off-peak periods (i.e., use automatic feed processing systems with small motors operating over long periods of time to replace larger, batch-type operations).
- Use low-capacity, small horsepower conveyors to move feed over long periods of time (as opposed to large hp conveyors used for short periods).

Source: Consumer's Power Company and the National Food and Energy Council

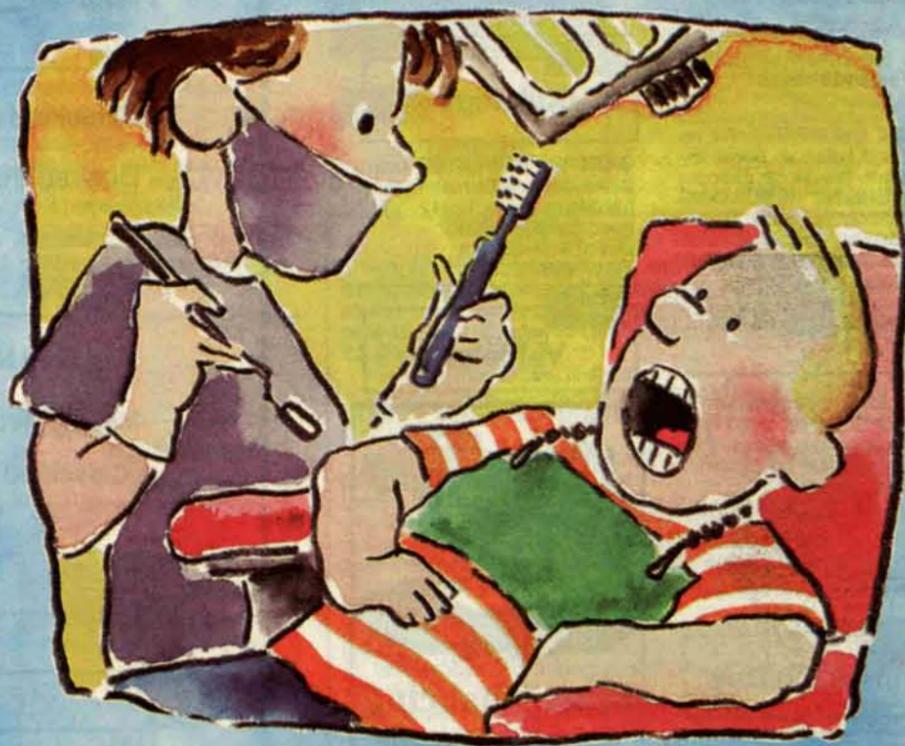
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