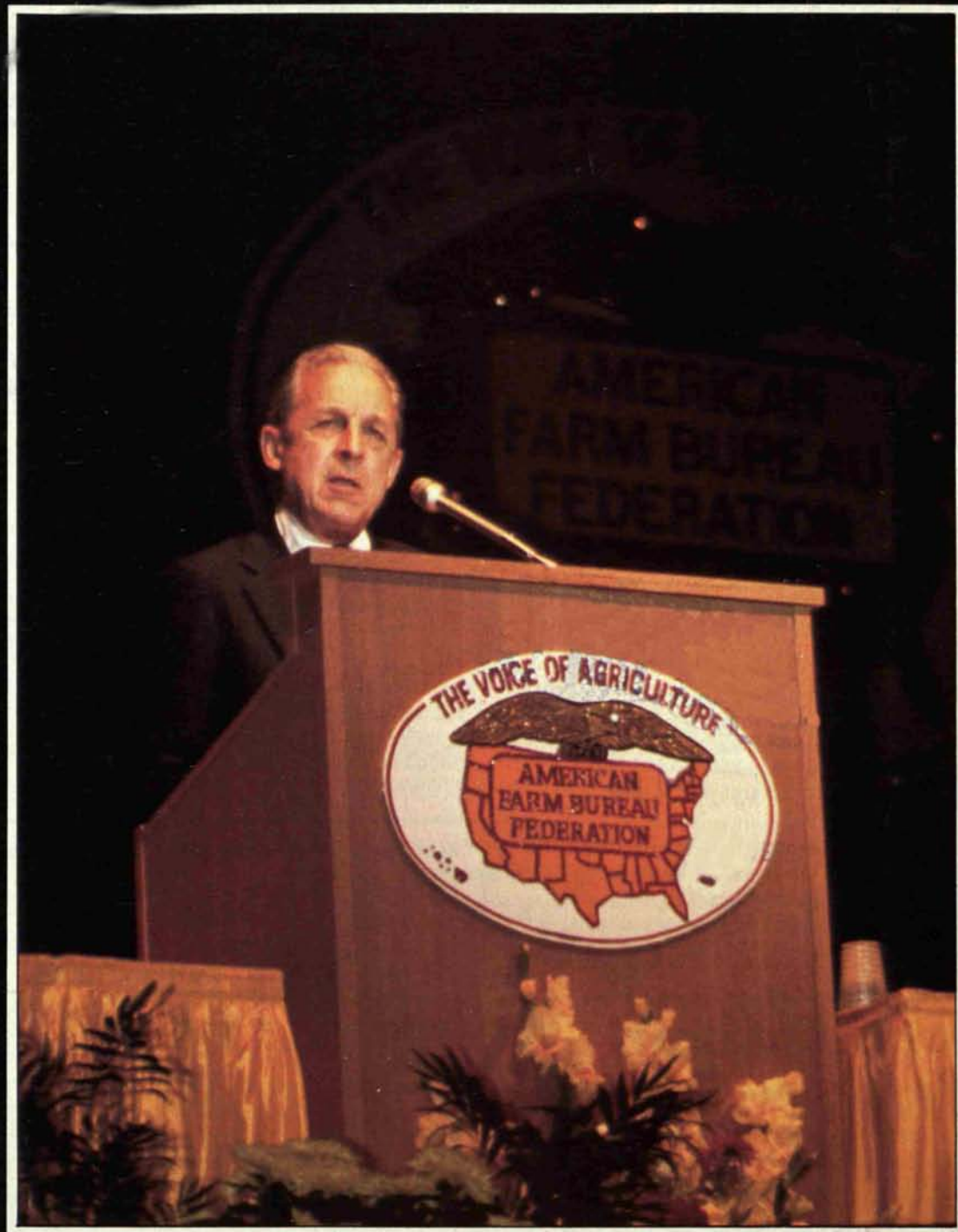


RURAL LIVING



**Pioneering Research
for Agriculture's Future**

Michigan Farm Bureau Buyer's Service Program Now It's Guaranteed!

What is the Buyer's Service?

The Michigan Farm Bureau Buyer's Service is a program designed to help save you hundreds of dollars on major purchases that you may make in the coming years. Farm Bureau has contracted with The Family Saver Co. to provide this service.

The Family Saver can be your purchasing agency by eliminating much of the middleman's high mark-up and pass these savings on to you. No pressure to buy, only our help in saving you money.

How can we do this?

Very simple. We order merchandise direct from the factory or distributor and ship it directly to you or to a warehouse near where you live. We do not have the high cost of inventory, or large warehouse and showrooms, sales commissions, etc. As your purchasing agent to help you save money, we also have some retailers who are interested in increasing their volume and thus giving them larger buying discounts by brokering their product through our great purchasing power.

What does it cost?

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Use the Family Saver for one full year. If at the end of the year you find you could not save at least \$25.00 in quick quotes, we will refund your \$25.00 fee!



Most major brands available at discounts up to 60%!

Appliances

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All merchandise is brand new and carries full factory warranties with nationwide local service.

Michigan Farm Bureau Buyer's Service Enrollment Form

Please complete and mail along with your check or money order in the amount of \$25.00 to:

Michigan Farm Bureau
Member Service Department
P.O. Box 30960
Lansing, MI 48909

Date _____

Membership Number _____

Farm Bureau Membership Name
(as shown on membership card)

Address _____

City _____

State and Zip _____

Telephone No. (_____) _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ (check or money order)

RURAL LIVING

FARM NEWS

A publication
of the
Michigan
Farm Bureau

Michigan Farm News
RURAL LIVING



Pioneering Research
for Agriculture's Future

A Publication of the Michigan Farm Bureau • February, 1984

FEBRUARY 1984
VOL. 63 NO. 2

THE COVER

After receiving the Distinguished Service to Agriculture award, Dr. Sylvan Wittwer addressed the general session at the AFBF annual meeting.

Photo by Connie Turbin

In this issue:

FB Campaign '84 to Increase Political Involvement

"FB Campaign '84," a program to make FB members among the nation's most effective political forces in the 1984 elections, was announced at the AFBF annual meeting, Jan. 8-12. Other speeches and events are also highlighted.

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Pioneering Research for Agriculture's Future

Dr. Sylvan Wittwer recently added AFBF's Distinguished Service to Agriculture award to his list of accomplishments and honors. Although retired as director of the MSU Ag Experiment Station, he continues his research into agriculture in the year 2000.

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Building Leaders for Agriculture

Farm wife, mother, career woman, spokesperson for agriculture — Faye Adam blends these roles together with organizational skills and family support.

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Michigan Farm News RURAL LIVING (ISSN 0026-2161): Michigan Farm News Rural Living is published monthly, on the first day, by the Michigan Farm Bureau Information and Public Relations Division. Publication and editorial offices at 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Mich. 48909, Post Office Box 30960; telephone, Lansing 517-323-7000, Extension 508. **SUBSCRIPTION PRICE:** \$1.50 per year to members, included in annual dues. \$3.00 per year non-members in Michigan, \$5.00 per year non-members out of state. Publication No. 345040. Established Jan. 13, 1925 as Michigan Farm News, name changed to Michigan Farm News Rural Living Dec. 1, 1981. Third-class postage paid at Lansing, Michigan and at additional mailing offices. **EDITORIAL:** Connie Turbin, Editor; Marcia Diltch, Associate Editor and Business Manager; Donna Wilber, Contributing Editor; Cathy J. Kirvan, Associate Editor. **OFFICERS:** Michigan Farm Bureau: President, Elton R. Smith, Caledonia; Vice President, Jack Laurie, Cass City; Administrative Director, Robert Braden, Lansing; Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, Max D. Dean; Secretary, William S. Wilkinson. **DIRECTORS:** District 1, Arthur Bailey, Schoolcraft; District 2, Lowell Eisenmann, Blissfield; District 3, James Sayre, Belleville; District 4, Elton R. Smith, Caledonia; District 5, Albert Cook, Mason; District 6, Jack Laurie, Cass City; District 7, Robert Rider, Hart; District 8, Lyle LeCronier, Freeland; District 9, Donald Nugent, Frankfort; District 10, Margaret Kartes, West Branch; District 11, Bernard Doll, Dalters. **DIRECTORS AT LARGE:** Dave Conklin, Corunna; Michael Pridgeon, Montgomery; Wayne Wood, Marlette. **FARM BUREAU WOMEN:** Faye Adam, Snover. **FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMERS:** Mark Smuts, Charlotte. **POSTMASTER:** In using form 3579, mail to: Michigan Farm News Rural Living, P.O. Box 30960, 7373 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Mich. 48909.

Involvement — And More



Elton Smith receives a congratulatory jacket for achieving membership goal from AFBF President Delano.

"Involvement and more in '84" was the theme of the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting this year. We all know what the "involvement" means — for nearly 65 years, it has been the involvement of farmers, using Farm Bureau as a problem-solving tool, that has made it the strongest farm organization in the world.

The "and more," I think, means a rededication by members to the basic principles of our organization. We have a statement of purpose that hasn't changed since it was drafted by Farm Bureau's pioneer builders:

"Farm Bureau is a free, independent, non-government, voluntary organization of farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve education improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement and, thereby, to promote the national well-being. . . ."

Perhaps because that statement of purpose has been around so long, we've developed the same kind of casualness we're guilty of when we sing the national anthem or recite the Lord's Prayer, repeating the words time and again without giving much thought to their true meaning. Just as we need to really think about how it must have felt to see our flag there after a perilous night and try to relate

to those to whom "give us this day our daily bread" is a fervent plea, we should consider more often the words, "farm families united for the purpose of analyzing problems and formulating action."

We are currently involved in our annual membership campaign to gain the lifeblood that Farm Bureau must have to remain strong and effective. In their contacts with prospects, volunteer membership workers and affiliate company personnel use FB's economic services as a major selling point and this is understandable. People do want some economic advantages by belonging to an organization.

Certainly, our economic services are an important reason for joining Farm Bureau. I'm proud of the responsiveness of our organization and its affiliates in developing services to meet the needs of members and I salute those affiliate company personnel, as well as our volunteers, whose efforts have helped MFB reach its all-time membership high.

We must be on guard, however, against siphoning off the emphasis on, or losing touch with, the purpose of our general farm organization. That key reason for belonging to Farm Bureau must never become secondary!

Those of you who receive the AFBF Farm Bureau News recently read about a Wisconsin FB member who, in the past five years, has added over 500 new families to the FB membership rolls, 111 of those this past

year. He is a farmer — not a professional salesman — and his target market each membership campaign are farmers; out of those 111 families he enrolled in 1983, only three were non-farmers. That's the "involvement and more" that FB needs! Does he have a special strategy? Yes — but a relatively simple one. First, he contacts every farmer who is not a Farm Bureau member. Then, "I tell them why I am a member and what Farm Bureau has done."

You can be sure that this successful volunteer membership worker tells his prospects that Farm Bureau is committed to represent farmers, speaking for them with strength and influence in the legislative, social, educational and economic arenas. I'm sure he tells them that through Farm Bureau, they have the opportunity for active, meaningful involvement in developing and executing the policies of their county, state and national organizations.

The economic benefits of belonging may be part of his "sales pitch," but put into proper perspective to the real reason for Farm Bureau's existence.

Have you told a farmer lately what Farm Bureau really is? Try it! As that Wisconsin farmer has proven — it works!

Elton R. Smith

President
Michigan Farm Bureau

Agriculture 1984-2000 A.D.

The Future is Upon Us

By Connie Turbin

Trellised vine crops grow above a second crop of soybeans, wild hyacinth and gopher grass are cultivated for possible use as biofuel, and planters suspended from conveyers move through nutrient spray chambers where exposed roots are nourished. . . all in a controlled atmosphere greenhouse environment of the Lands Exhibit at the EPCOT Center in Orlando, Florida.

These and other wonders of a future world agriculture have been viewed by over 11 million people from our nation and around the world.

"This experimental environment," the tour guide tells visitors, "could be commonplace in the agriculture of the year 2000. Food crops may be grown in the previously unarable lands of our earth through the applied use of these technologies."

The guide reminds us too that the now bountiful Great Plains of the Midwest were once considered too harsh for fruitful farming, beset by driving wind storms, bitter winters and crop destroying insects. Over a century of research and progress in the hands of hardworking, committed farm families has transformed this land into the most abundant and provident on the earth. As we pass out of the exhibit, the guide urges each of us to "listen to the land," the land that feeds the peoples of the world.

In the words of Sylvan Wittwer, agricultural researcher, educator and recipient of the AFBF Distinguished Service to Agriculture award, the exhibit is

"a wonderful opportunity for the story, the voice, of agriculture to be heard. No longer are these the technologies of science fiction: the future is upon us."

In the vision of men and women like Dr. Wittwer, hunger in the world can be eliminated. That vision is taking root in the minds of those who have glimpsed a possible future for agriculture as demonstrated in the controlled atmosphere environment of the exhibit. But it is as delicate and vulnerable as the exposed root system removed from the controlled environment of such an exhibit or the research laboratory.

The vision must be supported by people and governments to take research technologies from these embryonic beginnings and put it in the hands of men and women engaged in production agriculture.

It will take the committed involvement of farm people to press for the monies to fund the research and extension programs at our land grant universities.

Involvement and more — farm people can wield their

power as a united minority to influence those who establish food and agricultural policy. That was the challenge to Farm Bureau members made by AFBF President Robert Delano and echoed by Wittwer.

"When I was a young boy growing up on a farm in Utah," said Wittwer, "I held two illusions, rather delusions. The first was all that was worthwhile had already been discovered. The second was that there was no way to influence peoples, nations or governments." Through his career as educator and researcher, said Wittwer, he had witnessed and experienced the excitement of discovery. World travels and exposure to those who direct policy have convinced him that it is necessary to reach leaders in government and society with information about agriculture's needs and concerns.

Agricultural programs . . . research . . . public policy: the challenge of 1984. It is the challenge to be fully involved in the debate of the new omnibus farm bill and to knowledgeably exercise the power of the united minority at the ballot box.



WASHINGTON

Ag Leaders Visit Reagan —

Leaders of 18 farm organizations, including AFBF President Robert Delano, met with President Reagan and USDA Secretary John Block in early January to discuss long range policy planning for agriculture, focusing on the 1985 farm bill.

Delano reported that the major interest of the farm leaders was ag exports and access to world markets, with special concerns regarding Japan, the European Community and Third World countries. While no specific solutions to export problems were presented, Block indicated blended credit was available to counter some problems, such as subsidies by other countries.

EDB Ban Threatened —

AFBF has urged EPA Director William Ruckelshaus to use great caution on any decision to ban the agricultural use of the pesticide ethylene dibromide (EDB). AFBF President Delano reminded EPA that the use of EDB as a fumigant for crops has long been accepted and in some cases required by government as a safeguard for storage and export for farm commodities.

He said that precipitous action against the use of EDB in grain and citrus fumigation would cost farmers and consumers many millions of dollars in lost crops and higher food prices. If such action is forthcoming, the federal government should be prepared to indemnify all parties suffering economic losses it is certain to cause, he said.

LANSING

Reapportionment —

The 1983 session closed with passage of a compromise reapportionment plan which will change the House and Senate district boundary lines and cause confusion once again at the polls. The old plan kept counties intact for the most part. The new plan puts many counties into two or more districts.

The effect is that the House will continue to be controlled by the Democrats about the same as the present 63-47 split. It is expected there will be about 12 "swing seats," four Republican and eight Democrat.

In the Senate, the split should be about even, 18-18 with two

Ag Conference Salutes Legislators

The annual Michigan Agricultural Conference legislative dinner was held Jan. 11 at MSU to welcome legislators on their first day of the 1984 session, pay them tribute for their past recognition of the industry's needs, and remind them of needs yet to be addressed.

An all-Michigan dinner, "ag bags" filled with state produced commodities, and a line-up of



President J. W. Irwin (right) presented Rep. Don Koivisto with the 1984 Ag Conference recognition award.

speakers were used to focus the guests' attention on the fact that "Agriculture is Michigan's Basic Industry." The nearly 1,000 farmers, agribusiness representatives, legislators, state agency and university personnel were greeted by Gov. James Blanchard, who told the crowd that agriculture would be blended together with all other industries in cooperative efforts to improve the state's economy.

In his welcome to the crowd, MSU vice president for administration and public affairs Jack Breslin announced that the ground-breaking for the new Plant and Soil Science Building would be scheduled for Jan. 31. He also expressed appreciation to Sen. Mitch Irwin, Rep. Lewis Dodak and former MDA Director Dean Pridgeon for their efforts in regaining budget for the MSU animal health diagnostic lab.



Former MDA Director Dean Pridgeon (left) received an award for his contributions to agriculture from the Farm Credit Service. Presenting it was George House of the Kalamazoo PCA.

Rep. Don Koivisto of the 110th District received the Ag Conference 1984 recognition award for "excellence in leadership as chairman of the House Agriculture and Forestry Committee." Dean Pridgeon was honored with the Farm Credit Service's commemorative award for his contributions to agriculture.

swing districts. The new plan has an 8% population deviation compared to the present 16%. The new plan will be used for the 1984 House elections and will apply to the Senate in the 1986 election.

Single Business Tax —

Passage of this bill (H.B. 5160) grants additional relief (about 90%) to some 40,000 small and low profit businesses. Many would be agriculture related businesses.

Welfare-Workfare — S.B. 448, which contains a combination of welfare and "workfare," was passed in December before the Legislature adjourned for the year. Able-bodied welfare recipients will be required to work or lose benefits for up to three months. The new law also includes the Michigan Opportunity and Skills Training (MOST) program; an Operation Self-Reliance program; a private employer incentive plan; AFDC heating shut-off protection and funds for paying electric bills for heating purposes; a home weatherization program; and funding to begin a conservation corp program.

Livestock Dealer Licensing

— Legislation will be introduced to update this act and include some provisions which are presently in the rules. The law applies to livestock dealers, brokers or agents, truckers, auction markets, auctioneers, buying stations, collection points and weightmasters. It is expected that fees and bonding requirements will be increased.

Certain flagrant and willful violations will become felonies, such as embezzlement of funds from the Producer Proceeds Account; manipulation of weights;

(continued on page 28)

Governor Signs Truck License Law



Legislation changing farm truck plate requirements (H.B. 4581) was recently signed into law by Gov. Blanchard as P.A. 186 of 1983. The bill signing ceremony in the governor's office was attended by Rep. Sid Ouwinga, MFB Senior Legislative Counsel Robert E. Smith, Rep. Carl Gnodtke, Rep. Dick Allen (primary sponsor), Rep. Robert Bender, MFB Legislative Counsel Ron Nelson, Rep. Lou Dodak and Rep. Keith Muxlow. House members in attendance were co-sponsors of the bill which provides for more liberalized use of the special farm truck plate.

P.A. 186 of 1983, as signed by Gov. Blanchard, provides for expanded use of the special \$15 farm license plate. The law states that "the owner of a truck, truck tractor, or road tractor, which is used exclusively for the purpose of gratuitously transporting farm crops between the field where produced and place of storage, or used to transport fertilizer, seed, or spray material from the farm location to the field may obtain a special registration. The fee for each special registration shall be \$15. The vehicle shall be insured in the manner specified for motor vehicles."

The \$15 plate was previously available but issued only to vehicles "designed and used specifically for ag purposes." The use of the word "designed" was very restrictive.

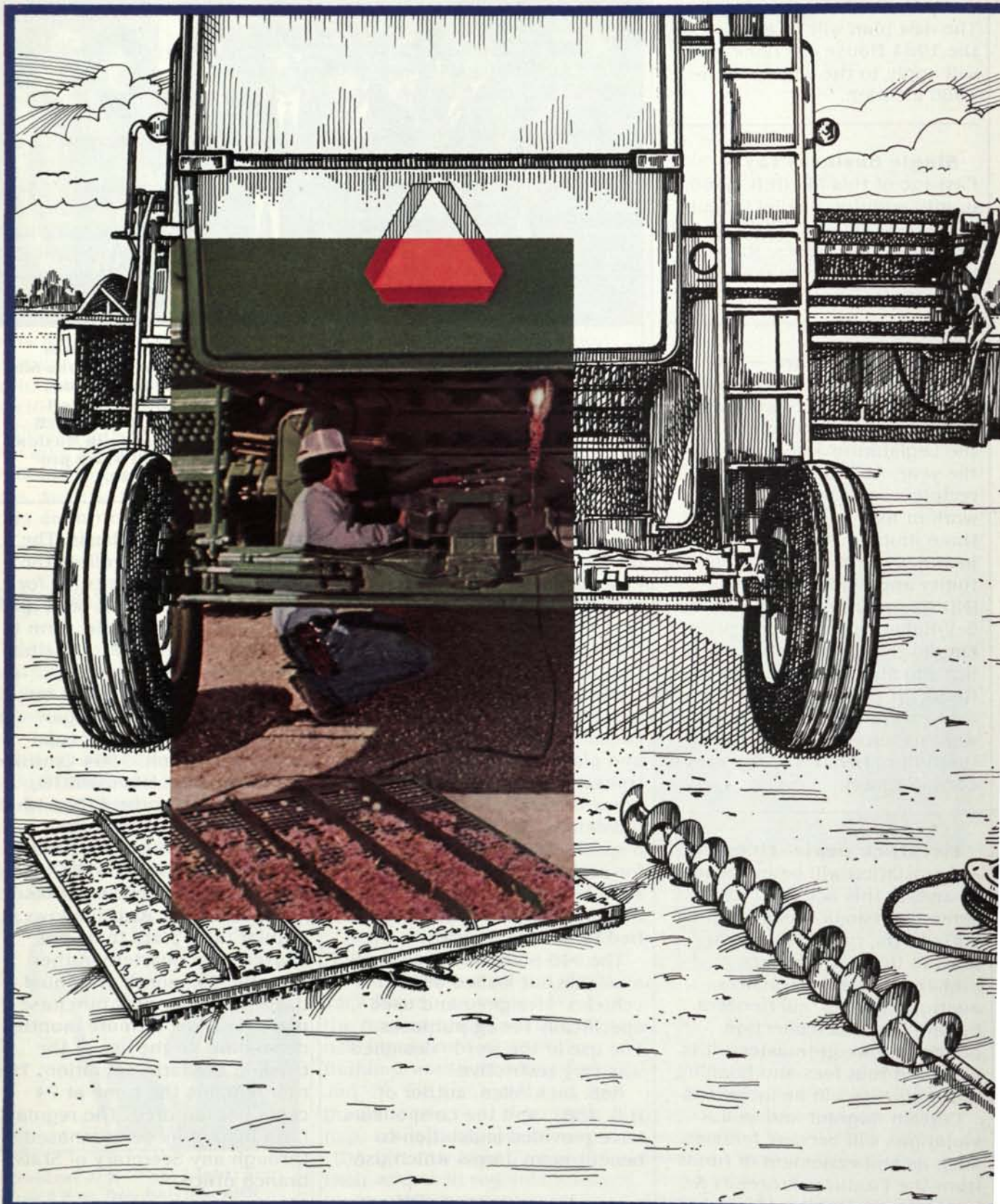
Rep. Dick Allen, author of H.B. 4581, and the co-sponsors have provided legislation to benefit many farms which use

trucks on a limited basis. The legislation also liberalizes the use of the plate on a truck for transporting fertilizer, seed and spray material from the farm to the field. Prior to P.A. 186, this use was not permitted.

The special \$15 plate is only available from the Michigan Department of State, Special Registration Unit, 7064 Crowner Drive, Lansing, Mich. 48918. Applications for the \$15 permit may be obtained from the above address or from the MFB Public Affairs Division, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909.

In addition, P.A. 186 allows a regular farm plate to be purchased on a quarterly rather than the six month or annual basis. A farmer may purchase a plate for three or more months depending on the use of the truck in the farm operation. The rate remains the same at 74 cents per hundred. The regular farm plate may be purchased through any Secretary of State branch office.

BLACK NIGHTSHADE: WHAT YOU



NEED TO KNOW TO CONTROL IT.

If you grow beans, you know about the black nightshade problem. There's no question this tough annual broadleaf can be serious. But there is an effective program using Dual® that will control it. We'd like to tell you about it. First, let's look at the threat.

Black nightshade is feared because the berries, stems and leaves from only a few plants can plug combine rotors, screens and augers with a sticky, glue-like mess. The berry juice not only stains the beans but also causes trash and weeds to stick to them.

To make matters worse, the plant is difficult to control. The seeds germinate all summer long, so one herbicide application at planting may not suppress plants later in the season. And because black nightshade can even survive under the canopy, you can't depend on shading to stop it. Any break in the canopy can result in full-grown plants emerging.

That's the problem. To control it, we'd advise a total program using Dual.

First, Prevention. To stop black nightshade before it gets started you'll need the longest possible control.

Start with a surface application of Dual. This will do two things. It concentrates the chemical so it will last longer than if you incorporate. And it puts the Dual where it can intercept the susceptible shoot. (Black nightshade seeds germinate in the top ½" or so of the soil.)

Next, use the highest label rate for your soil. Again, this puts down more Dual so it will last longer. Finally, be sure to apply as close to planting as possible. This timing will extend

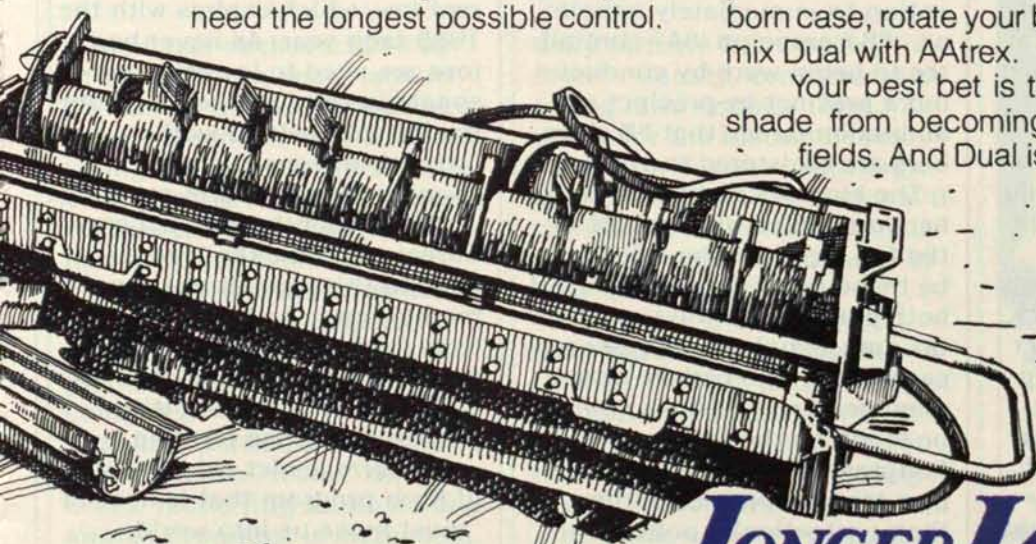
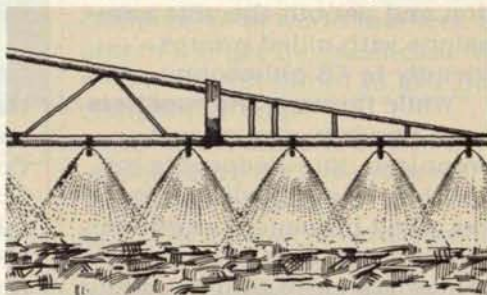
the control period to catch later germinating seeds.

Second, Infested Areas. Seriously infested areas require stronger treatment. A tank mix of Dual with Amiben* is good for heavy soils. For light soils, use Dual and Lorox.** In either mix, use the highest rates and surface apply.

Third, Extreme Cases. For the heaviest infestations, you may have to cultivate and finish up the program with a postemergent herbicide labeled for black nightshade.

Fourth, Rotate to Corn. Black nightshade is easier to control in corn because you can use AAtrex.® So to clean up a stubborn case, rotate your beans to corn and tank mix Dual with AAtrex.

Your best bet is to prevent black nightshade from becoming established in your fields. And Dual is the best way to do it.



LONGER LASTING
Dual®

FB Campaign '84 to Increase Political Involvement

Four organizational goals, which will require "intensive member involvement" during 1984, were announced by President Robert B. Delano during his address to members at the AFBF annual meeting in Orlando, Florida, Jan. 9:

- FB will become agriculture's most effective voice for foreign trade expansion.

- FB will lay the groundwork for passage of a sound, long-term 1985 farm program law.

- FB members, joined by fiscal conservatives everywhere, will do more than any other group to get Congress back on the track to sound economic recovery through fiscal and regulatory reform.

- FB members will be among the nation's most effective political forces in the coming fall elections.

Delano said a major key to achievement of the first three goals will be "FB Campaign '84" — a new national project in member political involvement.

"I am talking about political power generated by Farm Bureau and carefully directed at specific goals that include responsible legislatures and a responsible Congress, a strong country and a profitable agriculture within it," he said.

"FB Campaign '84' will begin soon with a registration check of every Farm Bureau member eligible to vote. It is our intention that the project end in November with the election of candidates measured against yardsticks of FB policy."

Delano said the election year goals include increasing the number of registered FB members by 840,000 and making sure that 84% of all eligible FB members vote. A secondary

goal will involve members contacting and working on registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns with allied groups friendly to FB philosophy.

"While farmers and ranchers are a minority group, well-organized, knowledgeable minorities, working with allies, can wield influence far out of keeping with size," Delano said. "There are close to nine million votes within Farm Bureau's di-

"I am talking about political power generated by Farm Bureau and carefully directed at specific goals."

rect membership and at least another nine million votes available to us among friends of agriculture."

The AFBF president called for all county FBs throughout the nation to immediately appoint an "FB Campaign '84" committee to begin work by conducting a precinct-by-precinct examination to see that FB members are registered to vote.

The kind of candidates members and allies will support in the fall elections, he said, will be those fiscal conservatives of both parties who will work for tax cuts — not tax increases, candidates who believe farm management decisions should be made on the farm — not in Congress, and those who support trade expansion rather than protectionist policies.

Election of these kinds of candidates will be important to FB's efforts to assure that Congress writes a sound, long-term

farm program, and to assure a continuing economic recovery, Delano said.

"Spending is the issue. This fall's elections hold the key to the future spending attitudes of state legislatures and of the Congress," he said.

"Spending has also become a farm program issue. It has been increasingly obvious that current farm programs are completely out of step with a sound economic recovery and that they reduce our effectiveness in seeking cuts in other federal spending.

"Without exception, rigid, high-level price support programs have lowered potential net farm income by causing us to produce more and to sell less — when we need to do just the opposite — to produce less and sell more," he said.

"This is a year of decision for farmers and ranchers. We face a need for unity in shaping a new farm program to replace current law, which expires with the 1985 crop year. As never before, we need to lay aside personal bias and self-serving commodity interests to work together in constructing a sound, long-term farm program.

"In the months ahead, Farm Bureau will take the lead in helping the agricultural community agree on basic objectives for farm legislation and decide the proper role of government in dealing with private enterprise farming."

The farm leader said the kind of farm program that is needed "must move us into world markets rather than price us out of them." High U.S. support
(continued on page 29)



USDA SECRETARY JOHN BLOCK

Calling "a healthy, prosperous agriculture our best line of defense in the world," USDA Secretary John Block vowed that he will not give up in his determination to expand U.S. agricultural exports.

Addressing farmers at the AFBF annual meeting, Block said he will continue to knock on the door to open markets with Japan and other countries.

Other needs cited included assessment of food and food policy needs around the world, establishment of dialogues with interested parties outside

Block Vows to Increase Ag Exports

agriculture and preparation of a list of food and agriculture policy options.

Concerning future farm programs, Block said public demand will force reduced costs of government programs. Guiding factors will be that we must be competitive in world markets, or others will get the business. "We simply cannot afford to lose our competitive edge.

"We must erase the term of dependence on government' from our vocabulary," Block said. The role of government is not to establish prices, but to maintain a climate for their establishment. An important consideration for the 1985 farm program is that "producer benefits should not disrupt resource allocation or distort market signals," he said.

"Thriving agriculture means jobs for our people and agricultural industry serving the world means power for America."

Block asked if government induced acreage reduction is in the best interest of agriculture.

He urged FB delegates to use their power as they had never used it before to answer that question. He cited differences between price and production restrictions in peanuts and soybeans to exemplify the detrimental effects of production controls on market conditions.

Price support loan rates need flexibility so they will not destroy markets, Block said, adding that if permanent policies to reduce agricultural production in this country were advanced, it would be detrimental to our future.

"Exports are our life blood," Block said, noting that commodities from one-third of our producing acreage depend on exports for a market.

Block, a former president of the Knox County, Illinois, Farm Bureau, was introduced by AFBF President Robert Delano, who called him "not only a friend of Farm Bureau on the president's cabinet, but one of our own."

1984 to be 'Young Farmer Year'

AFBF has declared 1984 as "Young Farmer Year," and in his annual address President Robert Delano invited all 6,400 young farmers who serve on county, state and national committees to "share their knowledge and enthusiasm."

Young farmers are becoming more interested in legislative issues and political action programs, he encouraged them to continue.

He said participation in discussion meets, leader conferences, marketing seminars and awards programs is increasing.

Michigan Farm Bureau was well represented in national Young Farmer contests.

Glenn & Suzanne Preston,

dairy farmers from Quincy in Branch County, competed with young farm couples from 37 states for the Distinguished Young Farmer title. Although they did not win the national title, they're still proud of their state title and feel honored to have been selected.

Paul Jefts, a dairy farmer from Big Rapids in Mecosta County, made it to the finals of the national Discussion Meet. As a runner-up in the contest, he feels he has tremendously benefited from the experience.

He made several good points during the semi-finals while discussing the farm credit situation, and during the finals, where the topic was "Subsidies — Ammunition for Trade War?"



Michigan's Paul Jefts (right) was a finalist in the national Discussion Meet. He's shown making a point during the quarter-finals.

Young farmers between the ages of 17 and 31 can learn more about personal growth and leadership opportunities in the MFB Young Farmer program at the upcoming leader conference in Lansing, Feb. 29-Mar. 2.

No Easy Answer for Ag Problems

U.S. agriculture's overriding concern is the rising budget deficits that have strengthened the dollar and made U.S. commodities "extraordinarily expensive" for foreign customers, according to House Majority Whip Thomas Foley.

Speaking at the AFBF annual meeting, Foley said, "That is the first order of business for American agriculture, because no segment of our economy is more adversely affected by high interest rates and the overvalued dollar than agriculture."

For other problems plaguing agriculture there are similarly no easy answers, Foley said. Future farm programs will be judged on whether they are "cost-effective, working for the American farmer and for the American people and taxpayers," he said.

Trade Barriers Hurt U.S. Farmers

American farmers are losing more than \$2.5 billion a year because of trade barriers created by Japan and the European Community, according to Kenneth Dam, deputy secretary of state, who spoke at the AFBF annual meeting.

Japan is the largest single export market for U.S. farm products, purchasing nearly \$7 billion last year. However, eliminating quota restrictions on beef and citrus alone would increase annual sales of those commodities from their current

\$350 million to nearly \$1 billion over the next few years, Dam said. The EC's Common Agricultural Policy, with its export subsidies, "has become the source of the most serious distortion of agricultural trade in the world," he said.

While reluctant to force a confrontation, the U.S. has options available to protect agricultural trade interests, such as the recent subsidized export credit arrangements to compete directly with EC subsidized farm exports, he said.

Michigan Comes Home a Winner!

MFB President Elton R. Smith not only assisted in passing out stars to state FBs during the annual AFBF awards program — he also brought several home.

By earning eight gold and four silver stars, Michigan ranked third in the nation for program achievement.

MFB received gold stars for FB Women, membership, Young Farmers, marketing, national affairs, policy development, information and agriculture in the classrooms, and silver stars for commodity activities, local affairs, political education and rural health.

Delegates Adopt Compromise Farm Bill Policy

Delegates to the AFBF annual meeting who supported moving U.S. agriculture to a free market system and those who sought greater supply management by government finally adopted a compromise policy on farm programs. Spirited discussion between the two factions preceded the nearly unanimous vote on policy which AFBF President Delano says he expects all segments in FB will support.

While the adopted policy does call for future farm programs to rely on less government so American farmers can better compete in world markets, the previous position to eliminate target prices for wheat, feed grains, cotton and rice was changed to endorsement of the target price concept that is presently part of the federal farm program.

"The primary objectives of a market-oriented farm policy should be to: allow farmers to take maximum advantage of market opportunities at home and abroad without government interference, encourage needed adjustments in resource use and reduce the need for future government intervention."

The chief concern expressed in the organization's 1984 policy is U.S. agriculture's world competitiveness. The voting delegates said that government loan levels for major export commodities should "facilitate orderly marketing and price competitiveness."

To achieve that, they said loan levels should be linked to the three to five year average domestic price, with annual adjustments of no more than 10% either way. Loan levels "should not provide incentives for pro-

duction" that exceed demand. Instead prices should be in accord with "market-clearing levels," they said.

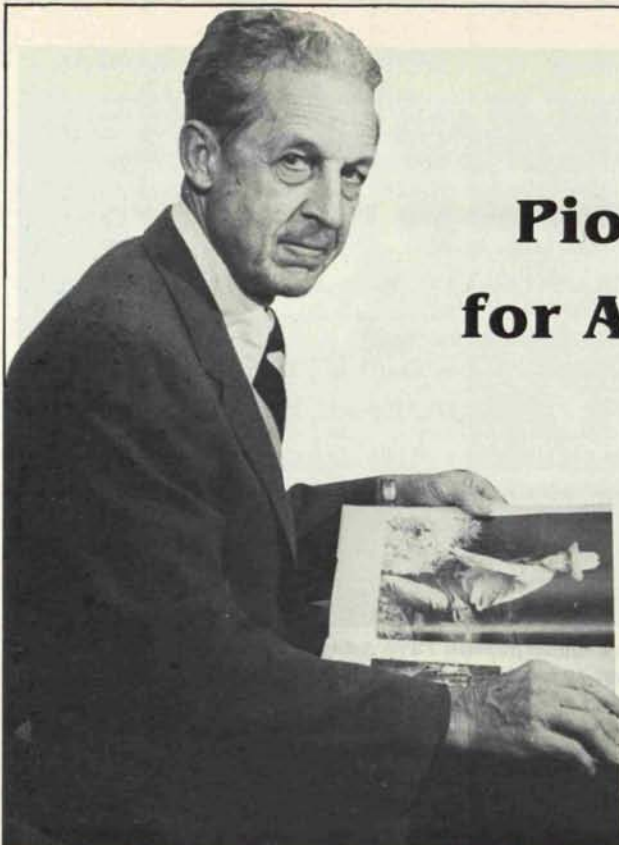
Currently, loan levels are set by Congress for several years into the future, without regard to prevailing market conditions. As a result, many in agriculture believe that U.S. loan levels act as a floor price that allows foreign competitors to undercut prices for U.S. commodities.

In adopting another provision aimed at cutting surpluses, the delegate body favored ending the government's farmer-owned grain reserve program, replacing it with price support loans to wheat and feed grain producers, to be made available without interest for a nine-month period.

In line with the delegates' *(continued on page 29)*

DR. SYLVAN WITTWER

Pioneering Research for Agriculture's Future



By Donna Wilber

During the past 30 years, Dr. Sylvan Wittwer has earned so many honors — from the "Golden Pickle" to distinguished faculty with numerous recognition awards in between — that it takes a full, single-spaced sheet just to list them all. So, what's one more award, even if it does come from the nation's largest farm organization?

Dr. Wittwer collected that "one more award" in Orlando, Florida, on Jan. 10. It was the American Farm Bureau Federation's highest honor, the Distinguished Service to Agriculture award, presented at the organization's annual meeting by President Robert Delano.

Among the thousands of farmers who witnessed the presentation was an enthusiastic delegation of FB members from Michigan, who could claim they knew this dignitary — many of them on a first-name basis.

The 1984 recipient of AFBF's award for "distinguished and meritorious" service to agricul-

ture is a familiar figure to FB members throughout the state. During his years of service as director of MSU's Agricultural Experiment Station, he was a favorite speaker at many FB events. When his reputation as a

dynamic knowledgeable spokesperson for agriculture spread to national and international circles, MFB members felt a sort of "local boy makes good" pride in Dr. Wittwer.

So, when Dr. Wittwer accepted his award in that huge convention civic center in Orlando, it was hard to tell who was the proudest — his Michigan fans, his wife of 45 years, Maurine, or himself. It was evident that it was not just another award to Dr. Wittwer.

"It is a very important honor and I'm extremely grateful to the Michigan Farm Bureau for nominating me," he said.

"I've tried during the 40 years of my professional career to do the very best I could in terms of teaching and research. There's nothing, however, I feel that would warrant this recognition."

Dr. Wittwer gives his wife much of the credit for his many accomplishments, "none of which would have been possible without her strong support and understanding."

In his letter of nomination to AFBF, MFB President Elton R. Smith called Dr. Wittwer a "rare

individual, a brilliant researcher and, at the same time, one of the best communicators I have ever known.

"At MSU, Dr. Wittwer has trained many agricultural researchers from foreign countries. He has spent short and extended periods in foreign lands helping develop agriculture research systems. Truly, his knowledge, his belief in agricultural research, and his ability to communicate the wisdom of that research has had a positive effect on the food supply of this world."

Wittwer was cited by AFBF for pioneering the use of radioisotopes in the study of plant growth, and improved growing, storage and shipment methods of agricultural production.

In 1976, Dr. Wittwer was the recipient of MFB's Distinguished Service to Agriculture award for "leadership in science to aid American agriculture and the people of the world."

Wittwer began his career at MSU in 1946 as an assistant professor of horticulture. He was named director of the Ag Experiment Station in 1965, serving in that position until his so-called "retirement" in 1983 to become director emeritus.

When Dr. Wittwer retired as director of the Ag Experiment Station in June of 1983, it was by no means a termination of his professional activities. Currently he is involved in many activities regarding resources

(continued on page 30)

Building Leaders for Agriculture

By Marcia Ditchie

The full power that we, as farm women in unity, can exercise in the public opinion and legislative arenas, in the market place and in our own organization, is just waiting to be tapped.

This powerful statement would, to the casual observer, likely be attributed to a born-and-raised-on-a-farm female, newly-awakened to the opportunities and challenges afforded to the liberated woman of the 1980s.

Not so! The words are articulated by a former Detroitier who is leading a transition in Farm Bureau history just as smoothly as she made the transition from "city girl" to a key spokesperson for Michigan agriculture and Farm Bureau.

They're the words of Faye Adam, recently re-elected chairperson of the MFB Women's Committee, who juggles the demands of being a full-time wife, farm partner and mother, part-time dental assistant, community and Farm Bureau leader — all with unruffled efficiency and enthusiasm. And the transition she is leading is the integration of FB Women into the total organization.

From City Girl to Farm Wife

Faye and her husband, Wayne, operate a 320-acre farm near Snover in Sanilac County, specializing in livestock, corn,



MFB Women's Committee Chairperson Faye Adam and AFBF President Robert Delano agree that the role of women in agriculture continues to change. Delano has called on Farm Bureau Women to support the "FB Campaign '84" political involvement program (see page 10).

wheat and alfalfa. Wayne is the third generation to operate the family farm in Lamotte Township. They have three children, Dawn, a dental hygienist; Alan, an MSU freshman majoring in animal science; and Linda, a junior in high school.

Her transition from city girl to farm wife created some special challenges, but it's the humorous experiences she remembers.

"I can well remember the first time my husband sent me to the elevator. This was before I became very involved in the farm operation and at that particular time, we were getting feed ground at the elevator for our livestock," Faye said. "He gave me explicit instructions on what to do and what to get, but he failed to tell me about the pick-up going up in the air. All of a sudden I found myself up in the air and didn't know what to do."

Faye also recalls her first field work assignment on the tractor.

"On my second round in the field, I got too close to a barbed wire fence and wound it around the disc. One point in my favor, however, was that Wayne was

going to tear it out, but he still didn't let me forget it.

"It was a big change for me from the lifestyle I was used to, but I wouldn't trade it for the world now. I really like the role I'm playing," Faye said.

Support System Vital

Juggling the demands of being a wife, mother, farmer, spokesperson for agriculture and having another career besides, takes a special type of person and also requires support and understanding from family members.

"Number one, you need the support of your husband and family and without this, I wouldn't be able to begin to do all of the things that are important to me," Faye said.

"I find myself having to be very organized and I have to set some priorities and goals for myself in life. The more involved I've become in Farm Bureau, I've had to drop some other things that were of lesser importance to me. My husband and I both feel that you get out of an organization what you put into it."

The Challenges of Change

For the past few years, the state Women's Committee has emphasized that FB Women are an integral part of the organization. Their statement, according to Faye, plus her own strong personal feelings, reflect the changing role of women in agriculture since the women's program was initiated in 1950.

"We have seen fuller partnerships emerge from this change — in marriages, in farm businesses, in our organization and in our community activities. As her role has expanded in all these facets of her life, the farm woman of today is accepting responsibilities of leadership roles in Farm Bureau on both the county and state levels," she said.

"The structure of our organization is unique in that it is tailor-made for the involvement of women. It gives them a vehicle through which they can grow and be involved in meaningful activities without sacrificing their commitment to their personal lives."

FB Women Accept Challenge

She has witnessed many changes that indicate women have accepted the challenge of becoming an integral part of the total FB organization.

Since 1973, teams of FB Women have been making presentations to civic groups and others through the Speakers' Bureau. An "Ag in the Classroom" program launched a few years ago takes the story of agriculture directly to school children. That program won a gold star at the recent AFBF annual meeting.

"You will also find more women telling agriculture's story in their everyday lives through their involvement in Farm Bureau, the non-farm organizations and civic groups they belong to," she said.

She believes women are also becoming more interested in holding leadership positions.

"The number of women who serve as voting delegates at the state annual meeting has increased in recent years, there are more women serving on county boards of directors and as county presidents. Also, there are more women interested in serving on commodity committees and there are women who do an excellent job on the state policy development and AgriPac committees."

One person alone, though, cannot accomplish this extremely important objective, and Faye views it as a responsibility of all FB Women.

"If this objective is going to be accomplished, women are going to have to prove themselves and work together; it's a process of education. County boards of directors have to accept the responsibility to provide opportunities for women to be a part of the total organiza-

tion. They need to be encouraged to appoint women to various county committees within Farm Bureau other than just the Women's Committee. As county boards of directors set objectives for their committees, I would like to see them give the Women's Committees some challenges," she said.

"Women will have to be more assertive than they have been in the past in letting their county boards know what they would like to be involved in. It's a two-way street and I feel very strongly that if women are truly going to be an integral part of the total Farm Bureau organization, it has to start at the grassroots level.

"We cannot afford to sit back and let people with little or no knowledge of agriculture make decisions which will affect our industry," she said.



Faye Adam (right) and Diane Wood were one of the original Speakers' Bureau teams. Last fall AFBF filmed their "Bread and Milk" presentation at a Marlette elementary school. The film crew also visited Adam's farm (above) where they interviewed Faye and her husband, Wayne. The footage is included in a new 23-minute film, "The Dimensions of Farm Bureau."

Agra Land's board of directors, at its first meeting on Jan. 6-7, elected Joe O'Henley as chairman of the board. O'Henley is manager of Lapeer County Cooperatives. Harry Stanton, manager, Eaton Farm Bureau Co-op, was elected vice chairman, and Kenneth Wadsworth, Sanilac County farmer and member of the Ruth Farmers Elevator board, was elected third member of the executive committee. Also elected were Newton Allen as president and chief executive officer, Matt Butzin, secretary-treasurer, with Greg Husby appointed as assistant secretary-treasurer. Allen, Butzin and Husby were employees of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. prior to its reorganization.

A marketing seminar for AgriCom option 1 and 2 subscribers and other interested persons is planned for Feb. 15 & 16 at the Battle Creek Stouffer's Inn. The conference will include sessions on hedging, market strategy, market analysis, commodity options, market outlook and MSU's new agricultural software index. A computer trade show will also be held. The conference is included in the annual subscription package for AgriCom options 1 and 2, but participants must pay for lodging and meals. Registration for other FB members is \$100 and the fee for non-members is \$150, plus lodging and meals. Send your reservations by Feb. 8 to Michigan Farm Bureau, Commodity Activities and Research Department, 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy., P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909. All participants needing hotel accommodations should contact Stouffer's at 616-963-7050.

Merchandising and effective selling of products will be the major topics of discussion at the annual meetings of Michigan Certified Farm Markets and Farm Markets Cooperative, Feb. 15-16 at the Sheraton Inn, Lansing. The meeting will be called to order at 10 a.m. on the 15th and adjourn at 3:30 p.m. on the 16th. Early reservations are advised. Those interested in attending may call 800-452-2855 for further details.

Twenty-one new county FB presidents attended a two-day conference in Lansing, designed to help make them effective administrators and leaders for their county units. Sessions were held on FB structure, goal-setting, how to surface and work with county leaders and administrative responsibilities. The new presidents also met with MFB division directors and department managers, and affiliate company managers.

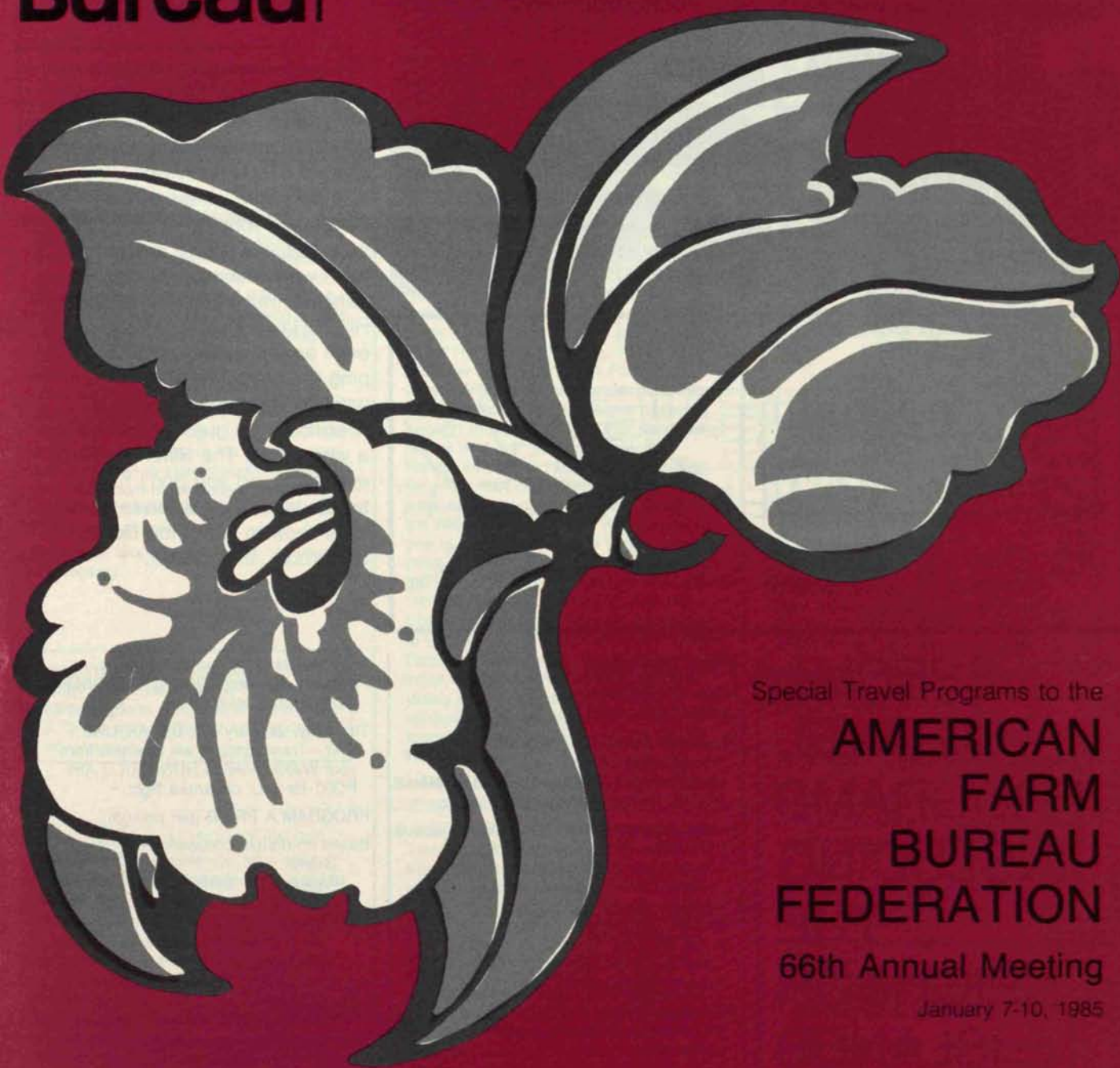
Gov. Blanchard has reappointed Dr. S. Leon Whitney of Detroit and Robert Chaffin of Ithaca to the Michigan Commission of Agriculture, for terms expiring Dec. 31, 1986. Chaffin has been elected chairperson. In other gubernatorial appointments, Thomas P. Heffron, a Belding fruit grower, and Loren B. Young, a Ludington fruit and vegetable grower, will succeed Shirley Pitsch, Rockford, and Daryl Peterson, Ludington, on the Michigan Apple Committee. Their appointments, for terms expiring April 1, 1986, are subject to Senate confirmation. Named to succeed former MFB regional representative Hugo Kivi on the Upper Peninsula State Fair Board of Managers was Cyril W. LaTendresse, retired farmer from Chassell, for a term expiring Sept. 30, 1988. His appointment must also be confirmed by the Senate.

The Michigan Society of Planning Officials' training programs for planning/zoning commissioners are being offered again in 1984. Two basic training programs will be offered concurrently. One program is designed especially for planning commissioners and zoning board members. The other program is exclusively for members of zoning boards of appeals. Each training program covers basic duties and responsibilities, statutory requirements, practical techniques and effective processes for making decisions on plans, zoning changes, special permits, variances and other activities. These programs will be held: Feb. 27 — Kalamazoo Hilton; Feb. 28 — Ferris State College, Big Rapids; Feb. 29 — Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth; March 1 — Mercy College Conference Center, Detroit; March 5 — Park Place Hotel, Traverse City; March 6 — Holiday Inn, Alpena; and March 7 — Northern Michigan University, Marquette.

The registration fee for each program is \$20, which includes educational materials and a meal. (There is a discount for early registrations and groups.) For further information or a registration form contact: MSPO, P.O. Box 18187, Lansing, Mich. 48901; phone 517-484-3333.

Farm
Bureau

MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU



Special Travel Programs to the
**AMERICAN
FARM
BUREAU
FEDERATION**

66th Annual Meeting

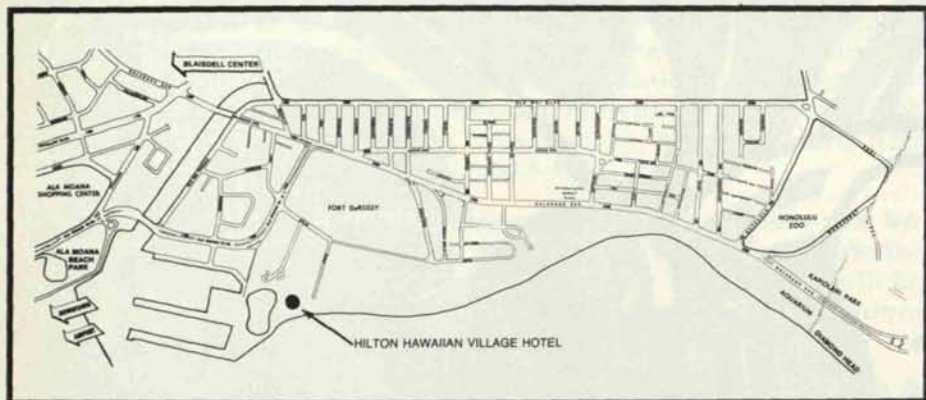
January 7-10, 1985

HAWAII



Honolulu Hotel Accommodations

The Hilton Hawaiian Village is truly unique amid the bustle of Waikiki. A complete resort nestled among 20 lush acres on the largest palm-shaded beach on Waikiki. The sparkling blue waters of the Pacific are yours to enjoy, as well as a peaceful 4-acre lagoon and 3 fresh water swimming pools. Every personal touch is cared for at the Hilton Hawaiian Village—there is even an ice cream parlor, shopping arcades, as well as special hotel rooms carefully designed specifically for guests confined to a wheelchair. The Hilton thinks of everything, so you don't have to—So lean back, listen to Don Ho's show in the Hilton Dome Showroom, and Enjoy!



SPECIAL TRAVEL PROGRAMS INCLUDING THE NEIGHBOR ISLANDS

PROGRAM A Maui and Honolulu January 3-10, 1985

Thursday, January 3—ARRIVE MAUI—
Transportation will take you from the Kahului Airport to the **ROYAL LAHAINA HOTEL** for the night.

**Friday, January 4—IAO VALLEY/
LAHAINA—**This morning visit the beautiful Iao Valley for a view of the "needle," a fern covered volcanic spire. Continue along Maui's rugged coastline and see the islands of Molokai and Lanai in the distance. Proceed to historic Lahaina, former capital of the islands and famous whaling center of old.

Saturday, January 5 and Sunday, January 6—Days free for leisure or optional sightseeing.

An optional morning Agricultural Tour on January 5 will be available for all interested persons. The cost of this tour is \$15.75 per person (based on a minimum of 40 persons).

Monday, January 7—DEPART MAUI—
Transportation will take you from your hotel to the Kahului Airport for your flight to HONOLULU.

ARRIVE HONOLULU—Transportation will take you from the Interisland Terminal to your Waikiki hotel. Overnight at the **HILTON HAWAIIAN VILLAGE HOTEL**.

Tuesday, January and Wednesday, January 9—1985 ANNUAL MEETING—
HONOLULU, HAWAII.

Thursday, January 10—DEPARTURE DAY—Transportation will take you from your Waikiki hotel to HONOLULU AIRPORT for your departure flight.

PROGRAM A PRICE (per person)

Based on double occupancy

Grand Rapids	Detroit	Tri-City
\$1,050.19	\$1,050.19	\$1,050.19

PROGRAM B Honolulu, Kauai and Maui January 7-15, 1985

Monday, January 7—ARRIVE HONOLULU—
Transportation will take you from HONOLULU AIRPORT to your Waikiki hotel. Overnight at the **HILTON HAWAIIAN VILLAGE HOTEL**.

Tuesday, January 8 and Wednesday, January 9—1985 ANNUAL MEETING—
HONOLULU, HAWAII.

Thursday, January 10—IN HONOLULU.

Friday, January 11—DEPART HONOLULU—Transportation will take you from your Waikiki hotel to the Interisland Terminal for your flight to KAUAI.

ARRIVE KAUAI—Upon arrival at Lihue Airport, transportation will take you to your hotel—the **KAUAI BEACHBOY HOTEL**.

Balance of day free for leisure or optional sightseeing.

An optional afternoon Agricultural Tour on January 12 will be available for all interested persons. The cost of this tour is \$15.75 per person (based on a minimum of 40 persons).

Saturday, January 12—MORNING WAILUA RIVER TOUR—This morning finds you being transported by motor-coach to Kauai's "Wailua River region," the religious seat of ancient Kauai chieftains. At the Wailua Marina, board a boat for a leisurely cruise up river, viewing beautiful subtropical vegetation and legendary sites enroute. After docking, a short walk leads you to the hauntingly beautiful Fern Grotto, where the Hawaiian Wedding Song is sung in this natural amphitheater. Returning to the marina, your tour continues to Holo-Holo-Ku (temple) and from there experience a panoramic view of dramatic Opeakea Falls before arriving back at your hotel.

Balance of day free for leisure or optional sightseeing.

An optional morning Agricultural Tour on January 14 will be available for all interested persons. The cost of this tour is \$15.75 per person (based on a minimum of 40 persons).

Sunday, January 13—DEPART KAUAI—Transportation will take you from your hotel to the Lihue Airport for your flight to MAUI.

ARRIVE MAUI—IAO VALLEY/LAHAINA TOUR—Upon arrival at the Kahului Airport, proceed to the beautiful Iao Valley for a view of the "needle," a fern covered volcanic spire. Continue along Maui's rugged coastline and see the islands of Molokai and Lanai in the distance. Visit Lahaina, former capital of the islands and historic old whaling center, now bustling with charming shops and restaurants. Overnight at the **KAANAPALI BEACH HOTEL**.

Monday, January 14—Day free for leisure or optional sightseeing.

Tuesday, January 15—DEPARTURE DAY—Transportation will take you from your hotel to the Kahului Airport for your departure flight.

PROGRAM B PRICE (per person)

Based on double occupancy

Grand Rapids	Detroit	Tri-City
\$1,093.48	\$1,193.48	\$1,093.48

PROGRAM C

Honolulu, Hawaii, Maui and Kauai
January 7-17, 1985

Monday, January 7—ARRIVE HONOLULU—Transportation will take you from HONOLULU AIRPORT to your Waikiki hotel. Overnight at the **HILTON HAWAIIAN VILLAGE HOTEL**.

Tuesday, January 8 and Wednesday, January 9—1985 ANNUAL MEETING—HONOLULU, HAWAII.

Thursday, January 10—IN HONOLULU.

Friday, January 11—DEPART HONOLULU—Transportation will take you from your Waikiki hotel to the Interisland terminal for your flight to HILO, HAWAII.

ARRIVE HILO—HILO/AGRICULTURAL VISITS/VOLCANO/ KONA TOUR—Surrounded by fields of orchids and anthuriums, HILO is one of the world's great floral centers. Visit all points of interest in this beautiful area, including Rainbow Falls, Liliuokalani Park and a selection of orchid/ anthurium nurseries. Continue from Hilo, via scenic highway through tropical forests, sugar cane plantations and anthurium gardens into Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, to visit fiery Kilauea Crater. Picnic luncheon enroute. Proceed via the Ka'u Desert and the Black Sand Beach at Punaluu into one of the islands several sugar cane producing areas, stopping to visit one of the farms. Your tour continues through "the Lava Flows" to the beautiful Kona Coast. Here you will have an opportunity to see Macadamia Nut Farms and Coffee Farms. A farm guide, from the island, will travel with you from Hilo to Kona, providing pertinent agriculture insight on the various properties viewed or visited enroute. Overnight at the **KONA SURF HOTEL**.

Saturday, January 12—Day free for leisure or optional sightseeing.

Sunday, January 13—DEPART KONA—Transportation will take you from the Kona Surf Hotel to the Ke-Ahole Airport for your flight to MAUI.

ARRIVE MAUI—IAO VALLEY/LAHAINA TOUR—Upon arrival at the Kahului Airport, proceed to the beautiful Iao Valley for a view of the "needle," a fern covered volcanic spire. Continue along Maui's rugged coastline and see the islands of Molokai and Lanai in the distance. Next visit Lahaina, former capital of the islands and historic old whaling center, now bustling with charming shops and restaurants. Overnight at the **MAUI SURF HOTEL**.

Monday, January 14—Day free for leisure or optional sightseeing.

An optional morning Agricultural Tour on January 14 will be available for all interested persons. The cost of this tour is \$15.75 per person (based on a minimum of 40 persons).

Tuesday, January 15—DEPART MAUI—Transportation will take you from the Maui Surf Hotel to Kahului Airport for your flight to KAUAI.

ARRIVE KAUAI—WAILUA RIVER TOUR—Upon your arrival at Lihue Airport, your motorcoach transports you to Kauai's "Wailua River region," the religious seat of ancient Kauai chieftains. At the Wailua Marina, board a boat for a cruise up river, viewing beautiful subtropical vegetation and legendary sites enroute. After docking, a short walk leads you to the hauntingly beautiful Fern Grotto, where the Hawaiian Wedding Song is sung in this natural amphitheater. Returning to the Marina, your tour continues to Holo-Holo-Ku (temple) and from there experience a panoramic view of dramatic Opeakea Falls before arriving at your hotel. Overnight at the **KAUAI SURF HOTEL**.

Wednesday, January 16—Day free for leisure or optional sightseeing.

An optional morning Agricultural Tour on January 16 will be available for all interested persons. The cost of this tour is \$15.75 per person (based on a minimum of 40 persons).

Thursday, January 17—DEPARTURE DAY—Transportation will take you from the **KAUAI SURF HOTEL** to the **LIHUE AIRPORT** for your departure flight.

PROGRAM C PRICE (per person)

Based on double occupancy

Grand Rapids	Detroit	Tri-City
\$1,301.66	\$1,301.66	\$1,301.66

INCLUDED IN PROGRAM PRICES

- Roundtrip airfare from the cities shown to Hawaii based on fares effective November 1, 1983. (Since airfares are subject to change at any time by the airlines, any increase or decrease will be reflected on your Confirmation/ Invoice from GTU.)
- Neighbor Island airfare as applicable to the itinerary
- Hotel accommodations as specified in each itinerary.
- Fresh flower lei greeting upon arrival in Hawaii.
- Roundtrip transfer service between all hotels and airports including baggage handling.
- Gratuities to all airport porters and hotel bellmen upon arrival and departure.
- Cruise on the **RELLA MAE** to Pearl Harbor during your stay in Honolulu.
- Sightseeing on the Neighbor Islands as specified in the itinerary including all admission fees.
- 4% Hawaii State Tax on all of the above items.
- Services of a GTU Escort throughout your stay in Hawaii.

Not included: Meals other than those specified in the itinerary, gratuities to sightseeing guides/drivers and tour escorts, any expenses of a personal nature such as valet charges, telephone calls, etc., and any items not specified herein.

A warm welcome and invitation to join us in Hawaii for the **66th Annual Meeting** of the **AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION**. Hawaii has become, rightfully so, a very "special" resort for all Americans, and one of the world's most popular "meeting places". Those members who will be joining us in January of 1985 will experience quickly the incredible qualities of our 50th State, and understand why the word ALOHA has taken on such meaning for each traveler to the Islands.

Low cost, yet high quality, was the goal we set up in designing these special packages uniquely designed for our members. Complete details are presented in this brochure. All programs have been developed and will be administered by **GTU, INC.**, the nation's leading convention coordinator and the officially appointed housing and travel coordinator for the **66th Annual Meeting** in Hawaii.

Opportunity to combine an all important industry meeting with a vacation in America's most magnificent resort comes all too infrequently. For this reason, we encourage you to seriously consider participation in one of these special programs we have designed for you. We do want to assure you that a team of travel specialists has been assigned to your program, and will not only coordinate the arrangements for these special State Programs, but will also be prepared to assist you with any special requirements you might have, as well as independent travel arrangements you may need over and above the group programs outlined in this brochure.

Hawaii is made **easy** for you! Simply review the special programs we have designed for you and complete the Official Registration/Reservation Form included as a part of this brochure and return it to **GTU, INC.** with the appropriate deposit at the earliest possible date.

A word to the wise: Because of the incredible popularity of Hawaii, and the anticipated attendance at the Meeting, a limited amount of quality airline seats and hotel rooms are available. All arrangements will be confirmed by **GTU, INC.** on a "first come - first served" basis. Because of the anticipated demand, we cannot emphasize strongly enough our recommendation that you make your reservations **now!**

Hawaii is truly a "special place" for "special people". You owe it to yourself to be "special" in 1985.

See you in Hawaii!

Preliminary Program

Monday, January 7, 1985
Early Evening Vesper Service

Tuesday, January 8, 1985
9:00 a.m. General Session at Blaisdell Center
1:30 p.m. Conferences at various hotels
8:00 p.m. Recognition and Awards Program at Blaisdell Center

Wednesday, January 9, 1985
9:00 a.m. General Session at Blaisdell Center
1:30 p.m. Business Session at Sheraton Waikiki Hotel
Evening YF&R Awards Program

Thursday, January 10, 1985
8:30 a.m. Business Session at Sheraton Waikiki Hotel

Please send me complete details on Special Travel Programs to the American Farm Bureau Federation 66th Annual Meeting in Hawaii.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Complete this form and mail to:

Michigan
Farm
Bureau
P.O. Box 30960
Lansing, Michigan 48909

FARMETTE

By Andrea Hofmeister
Tuscola County



Valentine's Day. . . it's not just for people anymore.

Lapeer's Booby Prize Worth Avoiding

A cute little guinea pig to feed and love — and clean up after — just what every self-respecting membership campaign worker in Lapeer County doesn't want! Yet, one of them will take the lovable little creature home unless they earn enough points to avoid it.

Membership workers, under a point system, will strive to avoid winning the guinea pig booby prize. They earn five points for writing a new member, four for a transfer-in and two for the renewals they bring

in. A minimum of 10 points is required in order to be exempt from a drawing for the guinea pig at the end of the contest.

Guinea, as the membership booby prize has been named because of its uncertain gender, is currently on display at the Lapeer County FB office, lovingly cared for by county secretary Judy Snover and her assistant Pat Woodward. Both admit they had a part in the development of the unique idea and both also admit they're getting attached to Guinea, even though they know it will soon go to a permanent home.

"We first thought about rabbits as a booby prize, but rabbits multiply and the loser would probably just fatten them up and eat them," said Judy. "Then someone came up with the idea of a tarantula, but we vetoed that!"

Lapeer's contest is devised so there's something to work for as well as something to work against. Workers who earn 35 points or more are eligible to win the first prize of a \$100 gift certificate for a weekend at a Holiday Inn; those who earn 25 points are eligible for the second prize, a \$50 gift certificate.

"We've got a great committee this year and these ideas have really worked," said Judy. "We're way ahead of last year and just 270 from goal."

Dance the Night Away . . .

FB members in Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola counties are making plans for the third annual Three Hearts Dance to be held at the Colony House in Cass City on Feb. 25. This "just for fun" event is the perfect place to take that special valentine.

Dinner is from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., followed by dancing to the sounds of John Lipinski's Variety Band from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. There will also be plenty of card playing, prize drawings and a cash bar.

Tickets are \$10 per person. For more information contact: Cathy Tinsey, Huron County FB secretary, phone 517-269-9911.

Rural Rascals



Although Idaho young farmer Paul Ogden did not continue on to the Discussion Meet finals at the AFBF annual meeting, he is obviously a winner in the eyes of his two "rural rascals," Shelbe, 7, and Breck, 4.

FARMERS OF THE WEEK

The Farmer of the Week program, co-sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance Group and the Michigan Farm Radio Network, honors Michigan farmers for their contributions to the community and the agricultural industry. Four farmers were honored in December 1983:

Dec. 5 — Dan Berg, 31, operates an 840-acre grain and hog farm near Charlevoix. He serves on the Charlevoix County FB board, was county FB president for two years, is active in the Young Farmers program, and works with local 4-H groups.

Dec. 12 — Herman Rader, 66, a dairy and cash farmer from Howard City, farms 500 acres and has a herd of 104 registered Guernsey cows. He was president of the Montcalm County FB for six years, served 15 years on the township board of trustees and serves on the district and state Guernsey boards. He is an MPPA board member, a church board member, a past school board member, and he spent 40 years as secretary of the DHIA board.

Dec. 19 — Dennis Anderson, 48, a cash crop and veal farmer from Homer. He feeds 3,000 veal calves and farms

610 acres with the help of his family. He is an elder in the Presbyterian Church, serves on the Calhoun County FB board, served on the Soil Conservation District board, and earned the State Farmer Degree from FFA.

Dec. 26 — Leo Hellebuyck, 60, is a U-pick raspberry, tomato and strawberry grower. He farms 80 acres devoted to U-pick crops for drive-in customers. He is an active member of St. Isidore Parish in Mt. Clemens, a past member of the St. Isidore church board and served on the church school board, and a member of the Macomb County FB.

FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

FARM EQUIPMENT

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The Discussion Topic is used by Community Action Groups for monthly policy discussions.

Health Care Cost Deductions

For years, Michigan Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation have worked with Congress in an effort to find solutions to the complex problems associated with health care costs and health insurance. Particular attention has been given to a specific health insurance matter — the inequity that exists in the use of income tax deductions to subsidize health insurance.

For instance, many employers furnish health insurance coverage for their employees. The full cost of the coverage is deductible to the employer as a business expense and is tax-free to the employee. The federal government is subsidizing health care for these taxpayers at the expense of two other groups of taxpayers who cannot take advantage of these tax code provisions: self-employed taxpayers and employees who do not receive employer financed health insurance coverage.

At the 1983 AFBF annual meeting in Dallas, delegates adopted a policy to support a health insurance premium deduction for the self-employed under IRS rules. This policy originated among Michigan Farm Bureau members in the policy development process.

After three years of work between MFB, AFBF and Congress, a bill to this effect has been introduced by Rep. Del Latta (R-Ohio). The bill, H.R. 3487, appears to have strong backing. Since its introduction in July, 37 congressmen have co-sponsored the bill.

H.R. 3487 would allow self-employed persons to claim one-half of the amount they pay for health insurance premiums as a

tax deduction on their federal income tax return.

Under current law, beginning Jan. 1, 1983, self-employed persons can deduct from their federal income tax only the combined amount of medical expenses and health insurance premium that exceeds 5% of their adjusted gross income. Prior to 1983, self-employed persons could automatically deduct the first \$150 of health insurance costs as well as the remaining amount of combined health insurance costs, and all other medical expenses that exceeded 3% of adjusted gross income.

Farmers constitute 14% of self-employed individuals. The most recent figures from the Internal Revenue Service indicate that in 1978 there were 1.1 million farmers out of a total of approximately 7.6 million self-employed people.

A business deduction is not available to self-employed farmers for the cost of their health insurance. The denial of a business deduction is apparently because the insurance is considered a personal expense, rather than a business expense. However, FB believes the deduction is a justifiable business expense because the self-employed farmer has a hybrid business situation, conducting activities as both an employer and an employee.

A precedent for this type of deduction for the self-employed was set in the Social Security amendments of 1982. Despite the recent Social Security tax increase, the new law took a step to help offset the burden of higher Social Security taxes.

The new law provides that self-employed individuals will be able to take a tax credit for 1984 through 1989 against the self-employment tax that they must pay. After 1990, a new system of income tax deductions will be available to self-employed taxpayers. The deduction will be equal to one-half of the amount of self-employment taxes paid for the taxable year. The concept of a deduction from the cost of health insurance premiums could be patterned after the deductions enacted in the Social Security legislation.

Rising health care costs is another factor that points out the need for H.R. 3487. Congress is addressing the issue of health care insurance for the unemployed, but the employed, as well as the unemployed, are hurt by rising health care costs. A deduction could reduce the burden, not only of higher health costs, but of the increasing tax burden on a middle income taxpayer.

From the standpoint of self-employed farmers, there is a question of the equity of differential tax treatment for similarly situated farmers. For example, a self-employed farmer (sole proprietor) cannot deduct the cost of health insurance premiums as a business expense. If the farming operation were incorporated, however, the farmer would be classified as an employee of the farming corporation. The corporation, as the employer, could then deduct the cost of the health insurance as a corporate business expense; and the farmer, as the employee,

(continued on page 30)

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Farm Credit Services is the Federal Land Bank Association, Production Credit Association and the Bank for Cooperatives.

Challenges, Opportunities Predicted

Several conferences were held during the AFBF annual meeting, Jan. 8-12 in Orlando, Florida. Following are highlights of the information presented at many of those conferences.

Livestock Conference

"Keep flexible and keep tuned to the markets," farmers were told at the livestock conference by Dr. Wayne D. Purcell of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

"As a long run strategy, livestock producers must diversify to protect against the problems associated with being a 'price taker' and getting a residual price after all margins are covered," he said.

Purcell urged cow-calf producers, who have suitable forages, to consider diversifying into the stocker business, and "feeder pig producers probably should consider expanding to a finishing program."

Producers must monitor and protect against cyclical price moves in both cattle and hogs, Purcell said. "Keep informed where we are on the cycles and learn to 'counter the crowd' as an individual marketer."

Purcell is a booster of forward pricing at profitable levels. "If you can't set prices — learn when to price."

Michael V. Durando of AFBF's national affairs division reviewed the effect of farm programs on the livestock industry.

Although many livestock producers claim they "don't have a farm program, never had, never will," farm programs do have an impact on livestock producers, Durando emphasized. "Loans, targets and farmer-held reserves contribute to high priced grain and to price instability."

Dairy Conference

An institution that many dairy farmers have taken for granted is under attack, Hollis Hatfield of AFBF's dairy department told farmers during the dairy conference.

"Consumers claim that marketing orders raise prices, some handlers question the regulatory aspects of orders, and some producers wonder why orders exist," he said.

Hatfield outlined the major criticisms of the marketing orders — that they eliminate price competition, encourage inefficient competition and cause the Class I price to be set too high. The industry must recognize that some of the criticism is justified and that "some order changes are essential if federal orders are to operate effectively in tomorrow's market," he said.

Soybean Conference

Soybean demand is either gloomy or bright, depending on whether you want to wait until the year 2000, was the essence of remarks made by Daniel E. Markey, a hedging specialist with ContiCommodities. He laid out a theory of peaks and valleys in the ag economy, with peaks coming every 50 to 60 years.

Pointing to the "golden age" of agriculture in 1910 to 1914, followed by the 1972-76 period of "unprecedented prosperity in agriculture," he said the next economic peak won't come until early in the 21st century. The peak will hit in 2000 to 2005 — before the 50-to-60-year period has run its course, he said.

The shortening agent will be genetic engineering, Markey said, which is used to create new drugs to lengthen human

life, especially in underdeveloped and developing nations.

But the immediate future for soybean demand is gloomy. Markey said even in Japan, the United States' best soybean customer, oilseed consumption is declining even though the U.S. share has increased.

Forestry Conference

Vast opportunities await landowners who are willing to apply good management techniques to their forest operations, according to Dr. Benton Box of the College of Forestry at Clemson University.

"A large majority of landowners surveyed considered forest improvements a good investment, but few of them were willing to invest income generated by timber sales on tree planting and forest improvements," Box said.

Many reasons for a reluctance to invest in improvements were cited by another conference speaker, John Bethea of the Florida Department of Agriculture. "We're geared to 'right now.' If we can't see an immediate benefit, we're not interested."

Bethea added that most landowners have good intentions, but lack economic information and available capital to invest in reforestation and other improvements. "In most instances," Bethea said, "the payback on timber is significantly better than on row crop farming on marginal land."

He said that good management practices will help change the perception of forestry. "Once the public and agriculture as a whole embrace forestry as a vibrant part of the agricultural community, all will be better off."

Sugar Conference

Predictions for the 1984-85 world sugar situation and outlook are pointing toward continuation of the current depressed market condition, according to USDA agricultural economist Peter Buzzanell.

Since the spring of 1981, sugar prices have ebbed at low levels. This is due to a combination of factors, he said. A fundamental supply-demand imbalance and record crops in 1981-82 and 1982-83 led to a buildup of world stocks.

Although economists predict world sugar production and consumption will balance in 1983-84, Buzzanell said the big surpluses over the past two seasons still hang over the market and preclude a sharp increase in prices.

"World markets need a minimum stock level of 25% of annual consumption to remain relatively stable. If stocks drop close to that level, world prices historically have become highly volatile and have been known to rise sharply."

Statistics show 1982-83 stocks totaling 49% of consumption, or 45.4 million tons. Considering the 1983-84 outlook, stocks should total 46 million tons this August.

The current USDA world sugar production estimate of 94.7 million metric tons is below the 1982-83 output of 101 million.

Even though cane and beet sugar production output dipped, 1983-84 world consumption is predicted to expand 2%, to 93.9 million tons.

Poultry Conference

"The poultry industry will never be the same again," said William A. Haffert Jr., editorial director for Watt Publishing Co., as he reviewed recent changes in the industry and predicted the broiler segment would continue to consolidate into larger

companies. Currently 20 companies are producing 70% of the nation's broilers.

Haffert also suggested that integrators will be investing more in marketing and product development. He predicted that the poultry industry will provide some excellent opportunities for young people to get a start on the farm.

Dr. John W. Siebert of the University of California-Davis described a two-year study in Southern California on the relationship of retail prices, weekly volume and advertising to the egg market.

When he compared advertising from year to year, the results indicated a definite increase in sales when advertising increased.

Wheat & Feed Grains Conference

Wheat and feed grain programs for the coming year — with the exception of the wheat payment-in-kind program — offer opportunities to be seriously considered by producers, according to Dr. John F. Marten, a staff economist for *Farm Journal* magazine.

In defining his concept of what is a good price, Marten pointed to three criteria: a price that meets cash flow requirements, exceeds expected annual average prices and is above production cost.

Concerning enrollment in the federal farm programs, he said that the acreage reduction program for wheat was "not the greatest, but isn't bad." His advice on the 1984 wheat PIK program: "Tell them to take PIK and keep it."

He said the federal program for corn is a good insurance policy which producers should consider, especially since it is poorer land that the government seeks to draw into the program for conservation reasons.

Marten called on producers to improve their marketing strategy by paying more attention to the realistic, "big picture" instead of following their neighbors' counsel.

Vegetable & Ag Nursery Conference

Marketing a farm commodity successfully is as important as growing it, according to growers speaking at the vegetable and ag nursery conference.

Growers of tomatoes, nursery plants and green onions discussed their marketing techniques. Each stressed the need for farmers to recognize the responsibility of growing, handling and selling their commodities. They urged growers to secure a market for their crops, even before they put a seed in the ground.

A representative from USDA discussed the Caribbean Basin Initiative, a measure that provides preferential import treatment for Central American and Caribbean nations.

To prevent unfair competition with U.S. growers, the USDA has implemented a "fast-track" response procedure for domestic growers of perishable commodities. Under this procedure, USDA officials and the president must respond to a grower's complaint within 21 days to determine if a duty needs to be reinstated.

Fruit Conference

Adulteration of juice and unfair competition from imported juices and wine were topics of discussion at the citrus and deciduous fruit conference.

Randall Evans, ABC Research Corporation senior chemist, estimated that adulterated juice costs apple growers \$9 million a year and juice processors \$30 million a year.

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Lansing Review

(continued from page 7)

failure to maintain or deposit sufficient funds in the Producer Proceeds Account; selling sick, diseased or contaminated animals; buying and moving quarantined animals without a written permit; altering or removing an animal's identification. There are certain exclusions in the law.

Forest Resources — Gov. Blanchard recently announced his forestry program. This results from the "Governor's Conference on Forest Resources" held March 22-23, 1983 at MSU. FB was one of the co-sponsors through the Forestry Advisory Committee.

Michigan forests account for 51% of all land area (18.4 million acres). 95% is commercial; 53% of the commercial forests are owned by non-industrial private owners, 14% federal, 22% state and county and 11% by the forest products industry. There are 276 sawmills, 14 veneer mills, eight pulp and paper mills, and 17 other wood using plants. There are also 617 logging contractors.

The goal is to have 50,000 new jobs to add to the present 60,000 in the forest industry.

MSU reports show that \$4.6 billion was added to the economy in 1980.

Michigan is also an important producer of maple syrup, about 85,000 gallons a year. Over four million Christmas trees are harvested a year. Forests are also a major reason that tourists flock to Michigan each year.

Solid Waste — H.B. 4365, which would amend the 1978 law, will continue to be an issue in 1984. In the meantime, a moratorium by DNR on new licenses and permits took effect on Jan. 6 in up to 65 counties, because they are without a state approved solid waste management plan. Only 18 counties have state approved plans. Another 21 county plans are under review for state approval. Lack of a plan could help prevent industrial and other development and prevent proper disposal of non-toxic solid wastes.

In another related action, the Court of Appeals has ruled that the DNR may issue a permit to construct a solid waste disposal facility (landfill) even though the local government lacks a waste management plan. The court ruled that DNR could operate under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act. However, a dump operation permit could not be issued until tests show the adequacy of a clay sealer and the operation complies with the Solid Waste Management Act.

Labor — H.B. 5155 (Perry Bullard et al), a new bill to be known as the "Michigan Unjust Discharge Act," would apply to an employer with 10 or more employees who are not under a collective bargaining agreement, civil service or tenure. It would "prohibit" unjust discharge and provide for mediation and binding arbitration in a long drawn-out procedure. It

would add more bureaucracy and duplication. Presently, anyone can file an unfair labor practice, a civil rights appeal, or a case in civil court. There are also numerous court cases in favor of employees.

Budget — The state closed its books for 1983 with a modest surplus of \$24.5 million. The accumulated debt has been decreased by \$243 million leaving a deficit of \$553 million. \$19.4 million was set aside to pay the constitutional required state share of local expenditures; \$19 million to catch up on state employee annual leave and sick leave; and \$36.8 million was put into a capital outlay account for projects under way.

Single Business Tax — S.B. 598 (Sen. Nick Smith et al) would define "agricultural processor" and provide certain exemptions including qualified research expenses.

Workers' Compensation — S.B. 599 (Sen. Nick Smith et al) would include agricultural processing industry employers under the present "Silcosis, Dust Disease and Logging Industry Compensation Fund."

Unemployment Compensation — S.B. 600 (Sen. Nick Smith et al) would provide for agricultural processing employers' rates of contributions to the fund and waiting time for benefits.

Family Farms — H.B. 5215 (Dodak, Koivisto, Ally et al) would amend the Michigan Family Farm Development Act to remove the requirement that the Municipal Finance Commission approve bonds or notes issued by the authority. It also clarifies other areas of the act.

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AFBF Policy

(continued from page 12)

primary concern over the loss of export markets, they said. "Our government should insist on strict implementation of international trading rules to prevent unfair trade practices by competing nations, and to assure unrestricted access to domestic and world markets."

In other significant action, the delegates reiterated their commitment to a "freeze and fix" program for federal spending, one that would freeze nondefense spending for three years and provide for fundamental changes in the entitlement programs responsible for the bulk of the federal deficit. In a new policy statement, they said such a spending limitation takes priority over all other federal spending policies adopted by FB. Another new aspect of the organization's position supports giving the executive branch line-item veto power over congressional appropriations bills.

FB Campaign '84

(continued from page 10)

levels have encouraged competing countries to produce for markets they feel U.S. farmers have abandoned, he said.

FB's trade actions this year will include continued opposition to trade protectionism, opposition to the EEC's proposed "consumption" tax on vegetable oils and quantitative restric-

tions and variable levy on the import of U.S. feed ingredients, and new emphasis on market expansion in developing countries including the nations in Latin America and the Pacific Rim.

"It has become apparent that we cannot wait for others to do these things for us," Delano said. "Farmers and ranchers must become 'self-advocates' and make these contacts and move into these markets."

Delano assured the FB members that "improved net farm income is what Farm Bureau is all about. I assure you that improved net farm income remains the number-one focus in our plans for 1984."

Delano, a Virginia grain farmer who has served as AFBF president since 1980, was re-elected. Elton R. Smith, a Michigan dairy farmer and AFBF vice president since 1982, was also re-elected.

Agrinomic Update

(continued from page 27)

"The cheapest authentic apple juice costs \$2 a gallon to produce and sell at retail. This compares to about 50 cents a gallon to produce an artificial product from scratch," Evans said. It is this unfair economic disadvantage that has caused apple producers and processors to pursue chemical analyses to determine juice purity.

During a panel discussion by a Florida orange grower, a

California grape grower and Jerry Sietsema, an apple grower from Grand Rapids, the three expressed the sentiment of most American farmers, declaring they could compete against farmers anywhere in the world to produce quality foodstuffs at fair prices, but they cannot compete against foreign governments.

National Affairs Conference

A market-based farm program will serve agriculture and America best in the long term, USDA Assistant Secretary William G. Leshner said at the national affairs conference.

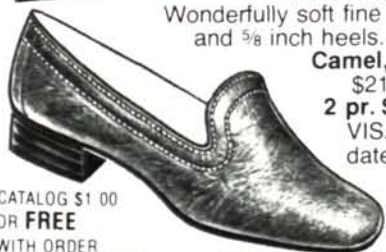
Consideration of farm policy should occupy some middle ground between advocates of eliminating government involvement and a program of supply-management by government fiat, Leshner said.

Acreage or volume control schemes should be avoided because they encourage foreign production, enhance foreign farmers' prices and hobble domestic producers, Leshner said. Eventually demand would shrink to the level of domestic use, now three acres out of five of total production.

"Whose two acres will be eliminated? Will government tell you?" he asked.

However, he said, some government participation is necessary in the present economic framework to protect farmers from extreme peaks and valleys associated with marketing.

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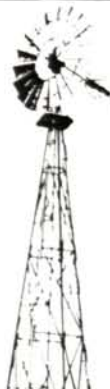
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Discussion Topic

(continued from page 30)

could receive the health insurance tax free.

The type of farm business organization — sole proprietorship, partnership, or corporation — determines the type of tax treatment of the farming operation. The effect of differential tax treatment could cause a farmer to consider a corporation when other business and personal factors might dictate otherwise.

Farming has become an increasingly expensive business. Farmers have been hit recently with higher Social Security taxes, gasoline taxes and excise taxes. The prospect of additional taxes in the next few years will take an increasing amount of money out of farmers' pockets. H.R. 3487 could help ease the cash flow problems that have been compounded by the higher taxes.

A deduction for the cost of a self-employed taxpayer's health insurance is a top legislative priority for FB members. Achieving this goal will eliminate the inequity that currently exists in the tax treatment of health insurance premiums. H.R. 3487 provides a means to accomplish this goal.

Members are urged to write or call their congressman to make them aware of the inequity that exists, and to ask them to co-sponsor H.R. 3487.

Discussion Questions

- How important is this legislation to your group's members?
- If passed, what impact would it have?
- Individual member support is vital to the success of H.R. 3487. How many members of your group have written to your congressman to support H.R. 3487?

Pioneering Research

(continued from page 23)

for the future, including a NASA science advisory group.

"I've also been involved in trying to do something, at the federal level, to get some of our agencies to look at what needs to be done with respect to future programs in agricultural research. We've got some real challenges in agriculture in terms of ag research and where we're heading in the 21st century.

"We talk about the year 2000. The year 2000 is almost upon us. It's not just a world of science fiction any longer. It's only 16 years away."

Projecting what agriculture will be in the 21st century is just one of the many activities Dr. Wittwer is involved in — and just one of the many reasons the MFB board nominated him for a national Distinguished Service to Agriculture award.

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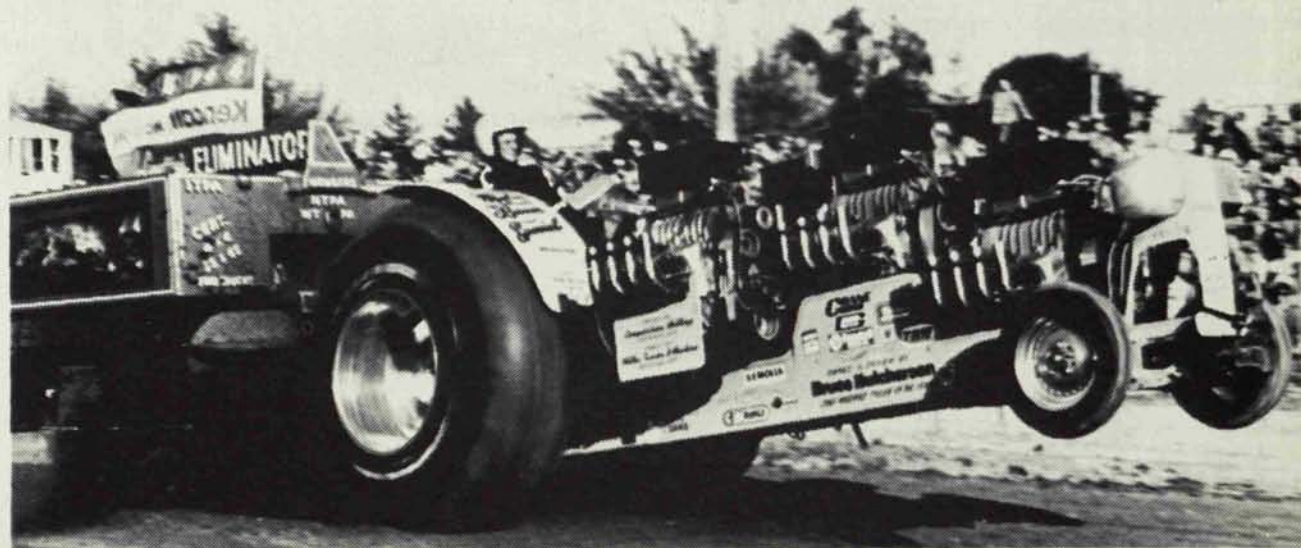
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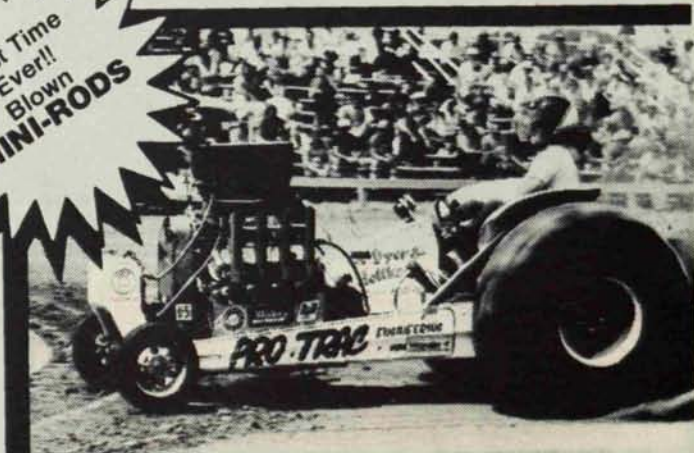


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