

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE **ACTION** PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

Vol. 49, No. 5

Focused On The Future

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*Springtime
in
Michigan*

**MICHIGAN WEEK
MAY-16-23**



THE FARM

My farm to me, is not just land, where bare, unpainted buildings stand. To me my farm is nothing less than all created loveliness. My farm is not where I must soil my hands in endless, dreary toil, but where through seed and swelling pod, I've learned to walk and talk with God.

My farm to me is not a place outmoded by a modern race. I like to think I just see less of evil, greed and selfishness.

My farm's not lonely, for all day I hear my children shout at play, and here, when age comes, free from fears, I'll live again, long joyous years.

My farm's a heaven — here dwells rest, security and happiness. What'er befalls the world outside, here faith and hope and love abide. And so my farm is not just land where bare, unpainted buildings stand. To me, my farm is nothing less than all God's hoarded loveliness.

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EDITORIAL . . .

America and Crime . . .

Should the American public have to live in fear? The soaring crime rate in our nation has provoked fear and distrust in all Americans at or near the top of today's public concern. Fear has become a part of the lives of millions of citizens.

Why is there so much crime in our country today? Year after year the problem keeps mounting. Violence is spreading each day. Fear is beginning to strike the suburbs as well as the cities. Fear stalks many metropolitan streets and is reported to be seeping into offices and homes. It knows no distinction between the rich and the poor. People are beginning to flee the streets at dark and more and more of them even in the daylight. The situation in many cities is now considered a grave menace.

The American public is asking why? What is behind this increase in crime? Who are the criminals? What motivates them to perform such acts? Who is to blame? Is it our courts, police, parents, schools or the general public?

The latest figures from the Federal Bureau of Investigation showed an 11% increase in major crime last year compared to 1968. The over-all rate of rise for violent crimes was 12%. Street robbery was up 18% and residential robbery 22%.

Some authorities relate the increase of crime to the problem of drugs. An addict needs a steady supply of whatever drug he has become addicted to. To secure a supply of that drug requires money and in many cases provokes crime in order to get the money. Law enforcement alone cannot do the job that is needed in dealing with this drug problem. A complete change of values and attitudes of many of our nation's young people, who think it is the "in thing" to try drugs, is required. Drug addiction knows no age or social standard barriers, so it can affect all parts of this nation's population. The drug problem must be solved. The citizens of this country must accept the challenge to solve the problem.

The cry that our court and police systems are a failure is heard from many parts of the land. A great deal of discussion can be heard about what is happening in the courts. Some say judges are too soft, that stiffer sentences should be applied and bail bonds should be denied to some suspects. Other people say courts should do more than just hand down punishment. They can be a very powerful arm in providing and promoting rehabilitation. The basic concept of our penal system has been one of punishment. We have assumed that by placing a person in jail or fining him or both we will keep him from becoming a criminal again. Unfortunately, many of our present day offenders have already served one or more terms of imprisonment. We should spend more money on education and rehabilitation of criminals. This is especially true for young people and for first offenders. We also need to take a look at how our courts are operating. Perhaps they need to be streamlined in their administration, so the backlog of cases will not be so long. Some of the recent rulings of the supreme court make it more difficult for law officers to obtain statements and confessions from persons accused of crimes. We have more people and more laws today than in the past. Both increase the burden of the policeman's job of maintaining law and order.

The basic function of law in governing crime is to protect persons and property. Criminal law has been extended beyond its primary purpose into purely personal or social areas. The result is that the efforts of police, prosecutors and the judiciary have been diluted and priorities have been confused. No longer is the policeman looked up to and respected as a friend, helper or public defender. The human cry of need for better police is sometimes amplified. Policemen must be carefully selected, adequately training and accepted by society in order to do an effective job. The law-abiding citizens of this country must return the role of a policeman to its true and real status. We must begin to teach our children that policemen are our friends.

Carl P. Kentner

**MICHIGAN WEEK—MAY 11-23**

Stand anywhere in Michigan and look around you.

Stop anywhere in Michigan and listen to the people.

Travel anywhere in the United States and someone will sing Michigan's praises.

All of this activity is due in part to the more than 15,000 volunteers throughout the state who work on and head the committees that are the back-bone of Michigan Week.

Many of these volunteers are polishing programs for a Community Pride Day festivity; others are building programs around Heritage or Livelihood themes; some have arranged an 8 day schedule, marking each day of Michigan Week in some particular way. All are emphasizing HOSPITALITY — because the Michigan Week theme is "Michigan — Land of Hospitality."

During this 17th Annual Michigan Week, Saturday is designated Community Pride Day; Sunday, Spiritual Foundations Day; Monday, (Mayor Exchange) Government Day; Tuesday, Heritage Day; Wednesday, Livelihood Day; Thursday, Education Day; Friday, Hospitality Day and Saturday, Youth Day.

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Tax Action Overdue

The state legislature met last fall to iron out educational reform and now it's spring, and after a cold winter of haggling, still nothing has been done to relieve the property tax burden which finances the major bulk of education. How much longer must the man on the land endure more than his share of supporting social services?

Farmers pay three to four times more property tax than non-farmers.

In 1965, a study by the Michigan Citizens' Research Council revealed urban area property taxes ranged from a 2.9 percent to 4.1 percent of total income. A like study was taken again in 1969, revealing property taxes as a percent of income leveling off to 3.3 to 4 percent for non-farmers.

In comparison, USDA data for agricultural property taxes in Michigan show that in 1965 taxes as a percent of net income was 14.5 percent and by 1968 rose to 17.9 percent. Taking the 1965 Research Council's low average statistic of 2.9 percent and the average 1969 farm statistic of 17.9 percent, the tax inequity is magnified even more.

How many more eggs in a dozen must go for taxes? How many more gallons of milk from the herd must go for rising operating costs? How many more acres of crops are harvested for the government just for the privilege of staying in business? Agriculture cannot continue to stay in business if the legislature persists to maintain the grossly unfair property tax.

It's no secret at the ballot box as to what the general public believes about property taxes. It is a tax revolt, as we can witness, as community after community from the Upper Peninsula southward to the bottom edge of the state vote "NO" to increasing millage.

Tax reform will mean more taxes for the state. It can be done by shifting the emphasis from property taxes to income tax. With an income tax all citizens will have the opportunity to pay their fair share in giving our children equal education and our government additional financing.

We believe the people understand the problem. It is time for action!

Farm Bureau members, by voting delegate action at the annual meeting, overwhelmingly supported the use of income tax as a major source of tax funds. We support the necessary increase in the state income tax to halt the horse race of runaway property taxes.

On behalf of our more than 56,500 member families, I have written to each member of the House of Representatives to enlist their support for reform. The letter reads:

"The recent House action substituting the concept of the Spencer school aid proposal for Chapter I of S. 1082 was most commendable. It is an important step toward educational finance reform in Michigan. It is now possible to shift much of the burden of school costs from the property tax to state and local income taxes. However, adequate state funding is now necessary.

"The voting delegates at the Michigan Farm Bureau state convention last November overwhelmingly supported the 'use of the income tax as a major source of funds to finance schools.'

"S. 1084 is now on the House calendar as a vehicle for action. We support the necessary increase in the state income tax. We do, however, believe that the property tax credits should be retained, as this provision of the 1967 tax reform package does give some measure of property tax relief.

"We urge your further support of finance reform in education. This is the number one educational issue. Other school legislation such as mandatory K-12 reorganization, should be delayed — at least until such time as an equitable tax structure is fully operable and assessment and evaluation tests provide factual information as the quality of present educational programs.

"Thank you for your consideration."

Elton R. Smith

Thar Asparagus Sled Wins State Award



THE 1970 MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE YEAR . . . award was presented to James Thar, Decatur (center) during the 1970 Farmers' Week program. The award was presented by Richard Arnold, executive secretary of the Michigan Agricultural Conference and chairman of the Michigan Week Product and Agricultural Awards Committee. Mrs. Thar (left) attended the special event.

Michigan Farm Bureau member and former director James Thar, Decatur, won Michigan's 1970 Agricultural Development of the Year award for providing a practical, low-cost asparagus harvester which may revolutionize the industry in Michigan.

The Thar sled was announced as the winning entry after a panel of judges had examined scrapbooks submitted by regional winners in the annual Michigan Week agricultural contest. Mr. Thar, a Van Buren County farmer, accepted the award at the Agricultural Engineering Banquet in Kellogg Center.

"This entry is making a substantial contribution to Michigan agriculture and can easily be adapted by asparagus producers throughout Michigan," the judges announced. "Previously, sophisticated mechanical harvesters have been both costly and unsatisfactory, so that labor and harvesting costs have been formidable problems for asparagus producers to overcome."

Described as a new concept in asparagus harvesting, the Thar sled slides over the row of asparagus, harvesting all the asparagus at the fixed level of the cutting blade. The sled costs from \$10 to \$20 for the farmer to build from his own materials Mr. Thar estimates, and cuts his cost to about 1¢ per pound compared to the 6-10¢ per pound cost of hand labor.

Mr. Thar's asparagus sled entry was originally submitted by the Van Buren County Farm Bureau. The state entry represented Michigan Week Region 9—Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties in the state contests.

Allegan-Oceana Growers First In Multi-Fruit Division

Pear growers in Allegan County and Peach growers in Oceana County are the initial members in MACMA's new Multi-Fruit Division. The first growers joining the new marketing program were those who most quickly recognized the need for grower unity. Also, the first members were mostly growers who attended membership sign-up meetings.

Norman Veliquette, acting manager of the Multi-Fruit Division, believes many more peach, pear and plum growers will readily join the division when they become aware that the services of MACMA are available to them.

Peaches, Pears, and Plums for Processing

The Multi-Fruit membership agreement was drafted by a committee of fruit growers and approved by the MACMA Board of Directors. Under the agreement, growers of processing peaches, pears and plums will be served. The fruit crops to be served were "designated" by the MACMA Board of Directors as provided in the agreement. As the needs of growers change, other fruit crops and perhaps even fresh market crops can be "designated" and served through the Multi-Fruit Division.

Information Needed

"The ups and downs experienced by the peach, pear and plum industry in Michigan have discouraged growers, processors, distributors, and consumers alike. Sound information, market analysis and leadership can restore confidence in the industry. Decisive action can be taken at all levels of growing and marketing," Veliquette said.

Growers ask, "What is the future of our markets for processing peaches, pears and plums in Michigan?" Very few growers, if any, have the resources to track down a sound answer to this question. An even smaller number have the opportunity to make a positive influence on the answer.

Can a grower association answer the question? MACMA leaders and members believe it can. Not only can it answer the question, a grower association can positively influence the answer through legislative, processing and food industry contacts.

Al Almy Joins Public Affairs Staff



Albert A. Almy

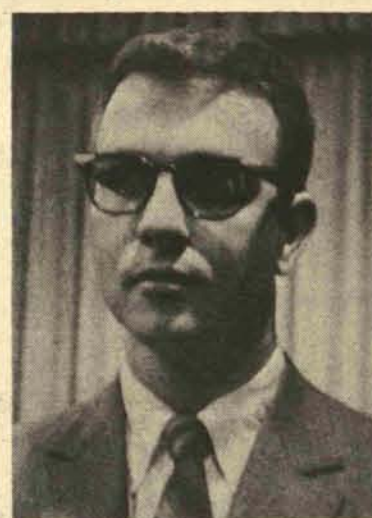
Albert (Al) A. Almy, former Michigan Farm Bureau regional representative and since September 1967, Marketing Specialist in the Market Development Division, has been appointed Assistant Legislative Counsel. Mr. Almy's appointment was effective April 20.

Al is a 1963 Western Michigan University graduate with a B.S. degree in agriculture. His duties in Market Development carried responsibilities for dairy, poultry and farm records.

Mr. Almy served in the U. S. Army, Quartermaster Corp. for two years, and was discharged as a First Lieutenant.

Al replaces Dale Sherwin who left Michigan Farm Bureau earlier this year to join the Washington, D. C. Legislative staff of American Farm Bureau Federation.

New Regional Representative



Ronald E. Nelson

Ronald E. Nelson, a graduate of Western Michigan University with a B.S. in Agriculture, has joined the Michigan Farm Bureau Staff as a Regional Representative in the West Region (Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon and Ottawa counties.)

Mr. Nelson graduated from Grant High School and was active in the FFA. He attended Muskegon County Community College, Ferris State College and Western Michigan University. He worked in the Research Department of Gerber Products when he returned from the service, and is now in the National Guard.

Mr. Nelson assumes the position vacated by Bob Driscoll who joined the Information Staff as Director of Broadcast Services.

Mr. Nelson lives in Kalamazoo with his wife and son.

Notes From All Over

A gayly colored, easy-to-read book "Food from Farm to Home" will soon be available to all youth with an interest in agriculture (and is geared to awaken an interest in agriculture). The book has been written and illustrated by Walter Buehr, well-known author of children's text books. The book examines modern farming techniques as well as recalling the pioneer farm and explains the important role played by agriculture in everyday living.

The American Farm Bureau served as a consultant for the publication. Plans are to have copies of "Food from Farm to Home" in most schools, libraries and other areas throughout the state. Further information regarding the book may be obtained from County Farm Bureaus or the Michigan Farm Bureau.

John Calkins, Deputy Director of the State Department of Agriculture, was honored at the State Association of Soil Conservation Districts meeting held recently. Mr. Calkins accepted an award for his service in the advancement of forestry by the Michigan Forest Industries.

F. D. Bloss, Genesee county farmer, voiced his opinion in an out-state paper, regarding an article written by State Rep. Dale Kildee (D-81st Dist.) and his statements about migrant workers. The letter from Mr. Bloss follows:

State Rep. Dale Kildee was quoted in *The Flint Journal* as saying in regard to the increase in minimum wage to \$1.45 per hour for about 30,000 migrant workers and about 170,000 other workers: "I am thinking of the poorest of the poor . . . who do not raise their own food as the farmer does."

Because of the trend today to specialize, very few farmers could be considered as producing their own food. Dairy farmers today buy butter, cheese, ice cream and milk.

I know of no farmer who makes his own corn flakes or oatmeal, or who grinds his wheat into flour for bread. Very few farmers have a potato patch or even a garden, and even if they did it would not be free.

A farmer does not pick dollars from a tree. The fruit that is produced is dependent on Mother Nature and the work and skills of the farmer. The resulting quantity and quality determine the dollars with which the farmer is rewarded for his efforts.

In the March 26 Journal, Prof. Arthur Mauch, an MSU agricultural economist, said that one-third of the people in farming in Michigan, 900,000 are considered to be in the poverty classification.

My question is this: Should we concern ourselves only with the 30,000 migrant workers and 170,000 other workers and ignore the plight of 900,000 other poor people just because they happened to have chosen farming as their career several years ago and gotten lost in the shuffle when mechanization and specialization began to spread to the farm?

F. D. Bloss

Plans are being completed for the Michigan Farm Bureau Young People's Citizenship Seminar to be held July 20-24 at Central Michigan University. The committee, under the guidance of Chairman Dave Cook, is in the process of appointing junior counselors and additional staff. Mr. Cook states: "The basic purpose of the Seminar is to contribute to the strength and continuity of the freedom philosophy on which the American way of life is founded. Last year, about 170 junior and senior high school students took advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Almost half of these students asked to return as counselors this year. That in itself speaks well for the Seminar."

Representative Samuel S. Stratton (D-New York) is the 66th member of the 91st Congress to introduce the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1969. His bill is H.R. 12345. Rep. Stratton's bill provides for the type of government farm programs for wheat, feed grains and cotton recommended by Farm Bureau.

The 1970 Upper Peninsula Citizenship Seminar is scheduled for June 9-10 at Marco's Restaurant in Escanaba, according to Hugo Kivi, U. P. Regional Representative and co-ordinator of the program.

Students, sponsored by U. P. County Farm Bureaus, will see two films, "Dust or Destiny" and "The People Enact," the story of the Michigan State Legislature. Also on the program will be Kenneth Cheatham, AFBF Program Development Division, the Economics topic speaker and also the Tuesday night banquet speaker.

Larry Ewing, MFB Community Programs Department Director, will present the county and township governments series and Dave Cook, Citizenship Seminar Chairman, the Structure of the American Way of Life.

Mr. Kivi states that a greater number of students are expected to attend this year's Seminar, due to the enthusiastic reports given by students who attended in previous years.

MICHIGAN WEEK
MAY 16-23



MRS. CARL ABEL, 1970 MICH. MOTHER OF THE YEAR



THE 1970 MICHIGAN MOTHER OF THE YEAR . . . Mrs. Carl L. (Alice M.) Abel, (fourth from left) was joined by other Farm Bureau Women in receiving honors at the luncheon held in their honor April 13. Others were Merit Mothers Mrs. E. Everett (Emily) Potrude, Cadillac; Mrs. Urban J. (Cecilia) Bussey, Lake Leelanau; 1969 Michigan Mother of the Year, Mrs. H. (Myrtle) Oxender, Constantine; Merit Mothers Mrs. James A. (Lucille) MacArthur, Petoskey and Mrs. Eugene (Louise) DeMatio, West Branch.

Michigan Farm Bureau women have again come to the front — repeating last years' performance — by having one of their members, Mrs. Carl F. Abel of Cedar Springs, named the 1970 Michigan Mother of the Year. Mrs. Abel succeeds Mrs. H. Oxender, Constantine — also an active Farm Bureau member.

Mrs. Abel is a former home economics teacher, the mother of six children and has helped her husband manage their 350 acre farm and hatchery business.

She is an active member of her church, a member of the Grange, and a member of both the Cedar Springs and Sand Lake Women's Clubs. The Abels are participating Life members of Michigan Farm Bureau and have hosted three Farm Bureau Exchange boys in their home.

Considered one of Mrs. Abel's outstanding community accomplishments is the organization of home economics departments in two high schools, completing the

departments to meet the Smith-Hughes requirements for federal aid.

Mrs. Jan S. VanderHeide, State Michigan Mother of the Year Chairman, said "We have had such wonderful cooperation from Farm Bureau Women. Last years winner, Mrs. Oxender, was a wonderful representative of all Mothers. This year, of the nine Merit Mothers chosen, five of them are Farm Bureau members. You should all be very proud of this outstanding representation."

Mrs. Abel received a proclamation from Governor William Milliken, read by luncheon speaker Mrs. Thomas Schweigert, wife of Lieutenant Governor Thomas Schweigert; an American Mothers pin from Mrs. Oxender and a check from the Northland Center Merchants Association.

Mrs. Abel will represent Michigan in New York City May 4 where the National Mothers Committee will chose the top Mother of the Country.

SMU EMBLEMS ARE IMPORTANT

Michigan Farm Bureau Women undertook the SMV (Slow-Moving Vehicle) project a few years ago and were instrumental in getting it accepted as a safety regulation by the state police.

The now-familiar 14 x 16 fluorescent orange-yellow triangle was designed to be used on vehicles that travel 25 miles an hour or less on public highways. The red outside border around the edge "bounces" the light at night. The emblem is mounted on the rear of the slow-moving vehicles and serves as a warning to rear-approaching traffic.

However, there are many instances where the SMV emblem is not being used properly. The emblem has been seen as mailbox markers; attached to the side of buildings; nailed to fish shanties, on the back of pickup trucks and campers and even as reflectors in a garden.

The misuse of the emblem destroys the purpose of it. However, the proper use of the emblem may save a life — maybe yours.

Encourage proper use of the SMV emblem.

Project MRS Underway

Project MRS. (Market Research Survey) is now underway by Farm Bureau Women in 65 counties. PTW's (Price Tag Watchers) in the counties are accumulating retail price information for the Michigan Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau, where it will be analyzed on computers and given to marketing specialists for more complete information on total food prices. District Women's Chairmen have taken the responsibility of working with the PTW's in their counties on the project.

Pot-pour-ri

Greening grass, croaking frogs, humming tractors. Mother Nature is waking up and will soon present us with beauty we humans could never match. Warm weather also puts an extra amount of ambition in our youth. Be especially careful when you drive and be always on guard when you are near young people walking or playing.

A safety project we might well do would be to pick up the debris that careless drivers and riders have thrown out of car windows. Some places have organized and have enlisted the help of their young people in picking up the things people have thrown along their road-sides. Whole townships and counties have gone out at the same time and worked three or four hours, reporting many pounds of pickup. It is a most rewarding project.

This may be a project in our state we can do and help make Michigan highways beautiful. Michigan Week is coming up soon. Let's show our out-of-state visitors as well as our own people that we *do* care how Michigan's roadsides look.

Our Washington Seminar this year was very worthwhile. We had a wonderful group of people, both in our Legislative group and the Heritage group. If your county had people who were on this trip you should ask them to tell you about it, they can do a good job for you. I do hope you people will write your congressmen and your state legislators. They like to know what their constituents think. Remember, keep it brief.

Are you working in your political party this year? This year is an important political year. People will vote for and elect 35 members to the United States Senate, 435 members to the United States House of Representatives, 35 governors, and over 6,000 members of the State Legislatures. Will you get involved and work for those candidates that are the best qualified? *Your party needs you.* It is said that "No man is rich enough to do without a good neighbor."

As we go about our sometimes routine tasks, hope goes with us.

Hope may be a sometime thing,

And yet it has a sturdy ring,

Strength to lean on, faith to borrow,

HOPE . . . the sunrise of tomorrow.

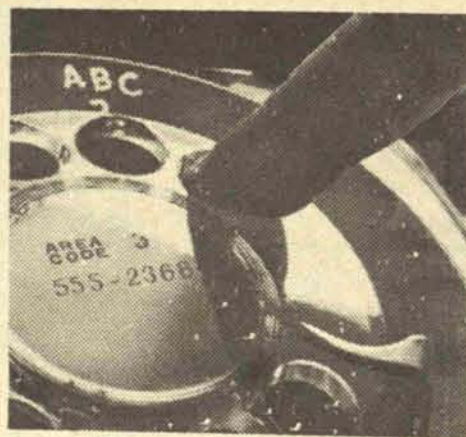
Mrs. Jerold (Maxine) Topliff

attend legislative seminar

Ninety-one Farm Bureau members from Michigan traveled to Washington, D. C. in mid-March as participants in the annual Washington Seminar. Forty-five of these Michigan Farm Bureau people were designated by their County Farm Bureau or the Michigan Farm Bureau to be "Legislative Leaders". Special arrangements were made for them to meet with their Michigan Congressmen and discuss key legislative issues of interest to them. Officials of the American Farm Bureau met with them also to review Farm Bureau policies and current legislation before Congress.

An added attraction this year was a visit to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, where Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin and Thomas Cowden, Under Secretary of Agriculture, met and talked with the Farm Bureau people.

The Farm Bureau women are proud to sponsor this project in Michigan and to help members understand how Congress operates, to be well informed on key legislative issues and to provide an opportunity for our folks to discuss these issues personally with their Congressman. We feel that the Legislative Leaders who were part of this year's Seminar very effectively represented Michigan farmers in this most important legislative activity.



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CAPITOL REPORT

MANY ISSUES BEFORE MICHIGAN LEGISLATORS

by Robert E. Smith

The number one overall issue in the Legislature continues to be the school aid bill, S. 1082, now before the Senate, and the tax bill, S. 1084, increasing the state income tax for school purposes, presently before the House. Farm Bureau has sent letters to both the House and Senate members on these subjects.

School Aid Proposal

The letter to the House of Representatives, signed by Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton Smith, commended the lawmakers on substituting the Spencer school aid proposal for Chapter I of S. 1082 and said that the action was an important step toward educational finance reform in Michigan. It said further that the program would make it possible to shift some of the burden of school cost from the property tax to state and local income taxes.

President Smith's letter also pointed out that Farm Bureau's policy adopted by the voting delegates calls for the "use of the income tax as a major source of funds to finance schools." Because of this policy, he urged that any necessary increase in the state income tax be included in S. 1084. At the same time, he cautioned against removal of any of the property tax credits and said that they should be retained, as this provision of the 1967 tax reform package gives some measure of property tax relief.

The letter further pointed out that mandatory K-12 school reorganization should be delayed at least until an "equitable tax structure is fully operable and assessment and evaluation tests provide factional information as to the quality of present educational programs."

President Smith also appeared on several television news programs throughout the state in which he pointed out that the Legislature has been considering school tax reform since last September. It is now April, nearly six months later, and little has been accomplished.

The letter from Farm Bureau to the Senate was similar to the communication to House members previous to their approval of S. 1082, which contains the Spencer school finance proposal. This is part of Chapter I of the bill.

Unfortunately, Chapter I of the bill contains the highly controversial parochial provisions. Farm Bureau has no policy on the parochial issue; however, there is no question that this issue will be settled in the courts regardless of what might happen to it in the Legislature. It is also very likely that the issue will be on the ballot in November, 1970, as a result of a strong petition drive by 35 or more education organizations of various types.

Speaker of the House Ryan, along with Rep. Spencer, has held a series of meetings around the state with local school administrators and board members to explain in detail how the proposals would work and the effect on individual school districts. It is reported that the meetings were well attended and the proposals generally supported.

Farm Labor Problems

Some progress has been made on farm labor problems. This results from a variety of activities—not only of Farm Bureau, but including a growers' committee in southwest Michigan. These efforts include a petition circulated primarily on the west side of the state and numerous meetings with state and federal agencies, members of Congress and members of the State Legislature.

One of the major issues was the inspection procedures of federal authorities. An intergovernmental agreement has been signed regarding inspection of housing for migrant laborers. The State Department of Public Health will perform all inspections under state and federal guidelines, which are nearly identical. The long complicated form used by federal authorities will be eliminated and the shorter, more reasonable state form will be used. Further work is under way to formalize the terms of the agreement.

Federal inspection standards in Michigan were totally unrealistic and have, in many cases, amounted to harassment. The standards will remain the same, but with inspection by state authorities it is expected that a "rule of reason" will prevail and some duplication will be eliminated.

Minimum Wage Bill

The minimum wage bill passed by the House is still in the Senate. Farm Bureau has recommended amendments to the bill to the Senate Labor Committee. The effort will be to amend the bill so that the minimum wage for agriculture will not be set any higher than the federal minimum wage for agriculture. The reason for this is that agriculture, unlike most businesses, is highly affected by interstate competition.

Other labor legislation that might affect agriculture, such

as workmen's compensation, unemployment insurance, housing law changes, etc., is still in committee.

Potato Promotion Programs

S. B. 1168 will make a major change in potato promotion programs in Michigan. It changes the present Michigan Potato Industry Council to a commission. The Council was originally organized in the 1950's as a voluntary group of potato growers and financed by a small annual fee. The Council then became a state statutory agency by legislative action in 1961, with an assessment of \$1.50 per acre.

The original legislation contained an "escape clause" to permit each grower to determine whether he wished to participate. The legislation expired after five years and was renewed in 1966 by the Michigan Legislature for another five years. While the legislation provided for an "escape clause" there were a few growers who totally ignored the law and declined to file the necessary reports or to pay the assessment. The legal power of the state was then used to collect from those who had not bothered to use the escape clause.

The State of Michigan filed suit against two growers in Kalkaska County. In this case, the judge ruled (November 1969) in favor of the growers and ruled that the \$1.50 per acre assessment was, in effect, an "invalid" property tax. The judge also indicated that in his opinion the statute required the state to collect fees from potato growers for the support of an organization and this is not the proper role of government. The court decision made it practically impossible for the Potato Council to continue under present statutes.

The new proposal, S. 1168, introduced to replace the Council, makes several major changes. It creates a 15-member commission, with a greater representation of shippers and processors. It changes the type of assessment from a per acre basis to a one-cent per hundredweight basis. It shifts the responsibility for collection to the buyers of potatoes. Unlike the previous legislation, it has no expiration date nor escape clause giving the grower an opportunity to participate or not to participate, as he sees fit. The bill is patterned somewhat after the present Bean Commission, with the exception of the lack of an escape clause and lack of expiration dates.

Farm Bureau has pointed out that it would have been possible to use the enabling legislation passed in 1965 to permit the producers to write whatever type of marketing program that is desired, provided it was adopted by the producers through a vote.

Farm Bureau's Potato Advisory Committee

Farm Bureau's Potato Advisory Committee has studied the legislation (S. 1168) and has recommended that amendments be offered to provide an escape clause mechanism in the bill and also to provide for a vote of the potato producers to determine whether they wish the assessment check-off fee to be made mandatory upon all potato growers. Such amendments will carry out present Farm Bureau policies and will permit potato producers to determine through a vote whether the check-off will be mandatory on all potato growers.

All other statutory agencies promoting commodities in Michigan have these protections for the grower. One commodity, apples, has successfully used the enabling act of 1965, by grower vote, to make changes such as a mandatory check-off.

Farm Bureau policy has always strongly supported commodity promotional programs. However, Michigan Farm Bureau policies, determined through the policy development (P.D.) process and finalized by voting delegate action, insist that producers themselves determine by a vote whether the financing of such promotional programs will be mandatory on all producers of the commodity.

Farmland Assessment Procedures

It is expected that the Senate Taxation Committee will seriously consider farmland assessment procedures. Some legislators are questioning whether assessors and the Tax Commission are assessing farmland according to the intent of the legislation passed last year. It will be recalled that the legislation requires that the additional factors of "zoning, existing use and present economic income of structures" shall be taken into consideration.

The Senate Committee will also consider H. B. 2533, which passed last year in the House. This legislation was strongly supported by Farm Bureau and provides for a 50% reduction of tax assessments on agricultural land, not including buildings, provided the land is zoned specifically for agricultural use. It further provides for a three-year "roll-back" tax to be paid at the time of sale or when the zoning and use is changed.

Migrant Housing Inspection

The change in migrant housing inspection procedures to a single inspection instead of two inspections is the result of the Committee for the Survival of the Michigan Fruit and Vegetable Industry and industry leaders working together. Petitions were circulated through the industry asking for improvement of inspection procedures.

The Committee met with labor officials in Washington, D. C. and with state labor officials to propose the changes to the Michigan Employment Security Commission and the Michigan Department of Public Health. They reached agreement, whereby the Health Department will perform housing inspections under the state and federal standards, and will report the results to the Employment Security Commission. This agreement will result in more expedient handling of the inspection procedures. The inspection procedure should be performed within one week, instead of the two to six weeks it would have taken before the change.

Growers who plan to use agricultural workers this season are urged to submit labor camp license applications to the Michigan Department of Public Health immediately. Growers who intend to recruit inter-state workers through the Michigan Employment Security Commission should place their orders with the local recruiters at once. The Health Department inspection is required before approval of the applications for inter-state recruitment is granted.

Officials of the Committee for the Survival of the Michigan Fruit & Vegetable Industry urge anyone who has signed petitions to return them to the Committee as soon as possible. These petitions will aid in adding impetus to the drive to find a long-term solution to this problem.

FINAL WHEAT PAYMENTS

Farm Bureau Wheat Marketing Program participants have received their final 1969 crop payment of 25½¢ for each bushel consigned to the Program. This payment was in addition to the advance payment received at harvest time, which averaged \$1.02½ for the state and varied according to the freight rate zone of the participating cooperative elevator that handled the wheat.

The Wheat Marketing Program provides for the orderly marketing of a large volume of wheat. It is designed to give the participating grower cash at harvest time and still allow him to take advantage of the normal rise in market prices which occurs most years after harvesting is complete. The Program has been marketing wheat since 1967 and is similar to a program operated by the Ohio Farm Bureau.

The marketing of Program Wheat is done by the Michigan Elevator Exchange Division of Farm Bureau Services, Inc. Local cooperative elevators throughout the wheat producing areas of Michigan receive the wheat from participating producers. The Michigan Farm Bureau Wheat Advisory Committee, comprised of 12 wheat growers, advises on the operation of the Program and the marketing of Program Wheat.

Plans for the 1970 Crop Wheat Marketing Program are being developed. Announcement of the signup procedure and advance payment rates will be made prior to the start of wheat harvest.

ROKA

Food Trade Fair...

by Margaret McCall

Michigan Department of Agriculture



Philip DeVany, European agent for the Michigan Bean Shippers Association, welcomes visitors to his booth and offers a tasty variety of navy bean samples to enthusiastic buyers.

"Delicious, but what is it?" This question was repeated countless times as crowds walked past the Michigan exhibits at ROKA international food trade fair and stopped to stare in surprise at green asparagus, nibble at spiced crabapples and sample a cube of turkey. Most of them were tasting these food items for the first time in their lives.

The questioners were some of the 23,000 potential food buyers from Europe's Common Market countries and the United Kingdom, who attended the fair in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

The exhibit was the fifth in a series of foreign trade fairs in which Michigan food processors and the Michigan Department of Agriculture have participated. Funds for the program are provided through P.A. 23, adopted by the Michigan legislature in 1968, which established a world trade branch in the Marketing Division of the Michigan Department of Agriculture. The purpose is to promote markets abroad for our state's agricultural products, thus

helping to improve Michigan's agricultural economy.

Four Michigan firms, and the Michigan Bean Shippers Association, displayed their products at the Utrecht fair: Frigid Food Products of Detroit, fruits, fruit juices and concentrates; Bil-Mar Foods of Zeeland, turkey products; Burnette Farms of Hartford, red tart cherries, sweet cherries, and green asparagus; Walker and Sons Apiaries of Milford, honey products.

The ROKA food trade fair, held every two years, is the third or fourth largest such exhibition in Europe.

Looking at a map of the Netherlands, you see it's a small country, so why is this a good market for Michigan products? Brice Meeker, U. S. Agricultural attache to the Netherlands since 1967, explains: "About one-third of a billion dollars in U. S. products are shipped to the Netherlands each year for use there. This is in addition to the many billions of dollars of U. S. imports going through the port of Rotterdam for consignment to the continent."

Pointing to the density of population in western Europe, Meeker used this illustration: "Within a 500-mile radius of The Hague in the Netherlands, there are over 200 million consumers living in a highly industrialized and expanding economy. Within a 500-mile radius of New York City, there are about 70 million consumers."

Extraordinary for so small a country, the Netherlands is the fourth largest market for the United States in the world. There are 117 items imported from the States that rank over \$100,000 each annually, although major imports are corn, maize and soybeans used in Holland's important dairy industry.

Nearly 13 million people live in Holland, whose land area is about the size of Maryland and Delaware (two of our smallest states) combined. And of equal importance, the growing electronics and chemical industries, the burgeoning oil refineries, are boosting the nation's economy and making the use of processed and convenience foods increasingly desirable.

While effects of this overseas marketing promotion cannot be fully evaluated for several months, results have been gratifying for the participating Michigan companies. Markets have been established for honey and turkey products and great interest is evident in maraschino cherries and fruit concentrates. Sales of red tart cherries and other fruits and vegetables are at least partially dependent upon this season's harvests and prices. Buyers repeatedly emphasized that they were impressed with the fine quality of Michigan products, and want that quality for their trade.

C. H. Carlson, president of Burnette Farms, and Philip DeVany, European agent for the Michigan Bean Shippers Association attended along with three people from the Michigan Department of Agriculture, L. W. Van Kempen, international marketing specialist and a native of the Netherlands, Rodney Nelson, marketing division, and Margaret McCall, information and education division.

The department staff set up displays, distributed product samples and about 7,000 bilingual brochures. Since they are state-employed, they could not negotiate sales and take orders, but were able to answer inquiries and relay information to the Michigan firms.

Michigan products were sampled by thousands of potential buyers from European countries who visited the U. S. demonstration kitchen, where Mrs. Lily van Paararen-Bles, noted Dutch home economist, offers L. W. Van Kempen, Michigan Department of Agriculture marketing specialist, Michigan honey served with ice cream.



AGRICULTURE IN ACTION



AWARDS FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO AGRICULTURE . . . were presented to (left to right) Dean Pridgeon, Montgomery; Charles E. Donaldson, Jr., Daggett and Maurice A. Doan, Perinton; by Lawrence L. Boger, Dean of Michigan State University's College of Agriculture. The awards were presented at a special ceremony during MSU's recent Farmers' Week.

MICHIGAN'S NEW LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



Senator T. F. Schweigert
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE MICHIGAN SENATE . . . Senator T. Schweigert (R-Petoskey) assumed his new duties March 23. Sen. Schweigert officially gained the title of Senate President and acting Lieutenant Governor March 20 when legislation passed last year took effect. Michigan has been without a lieutenant governor since Gov. Milliken became governor.

All Regions Over Goal

All Michigan Farm Bureau Regions are 'over goal' in the 1970 Membership drive, bringing the 1970 membership up to 56,588 — 1,028 members over goal.
As of April 17, the Upper Peninsula Region leads the "pack in their shot at the moon." Following the U.P., (in this order) are the Central, Saginaw Valley, Thumb, West, Southwest and West Central Regions.
Sixty counties to date have made their goal — the latest four are Barry, Monroe, Hillsdale and Alcona. Eleven more to go and every effort is being made in these counties to put every County in Michigan over goal.
Percentage wise, Michigan is 101.85% of goal with 4,614 new members.

MFB STATE LIVESTOCK ADV. COMMITTEE

Members of the Michigan Farm Bureau State Livestock Committee are: Lawrence Rhoda, Schoolcraft, Dist. 1; Lyle Cunningham, Concord, Dist. 2; William McCalla, Ann Arbor, Dist. 3; John Koster, Jr., Grand Rapids, Dist. 4;

WASHINGTON SEMINAR



LOADS OF FUN . . . PILES OF LUGGAGE . . . and hours filled with companionship and government-orientated knowledge made weary Washington Seminar travelers eager and ready to return home. The huge pile of MFB luggage offered (left to right) Rudy Reinbold, Mrs. William Middleton, Mrs. James Magraw, Mrs. Leroy Klein and William Middleton, the 1970 Michigan Outstanding Young Farmer, a place to sit while they waited for their bus.

THE SEARCH IS ON . . .

It's a MISS or a MRS., just like you who enjoys new experiences, who likes to travel and meet new people. It's a gal with charm, poise, personality, and a spirit of adventure. It's FUN! It Could Be You!

Does the above verse sound like something you would like to be a part of? By YOU, the Young Farmer Committees (from both Michigan Farm Bureau and participating County Young Farmer Committees) mean young ladies between the ages of 17 and 31 who would like to be the 1971 Michigan Farm Bureau queen. Contestants must be Farm Bureau members (or if under 21, their parents must be.) Judging will be on the basis of beauty, poise, personality, speaking ability, activities and overall effectiveness.
The winner, to be selected from county contestants, will be selected at the state annual meeting in November. She will receive an all-expense paid trip to the AFBF annual meeting in Texas in December, plus the opportunity to travel and meet many wonderful people.
Official rules and complete details of the contest may be obtained from County Farm Bureaus or by contacting a member of your County Young Farmer Committee.
The Search is On!

Committee members at large are Russell Rowe, Mason; James File, Vandalia and Robert O'Connor, Jeddo. The Michigan Farm Bureau Board of Directors is represented on the Livestock Committee by Arthur Bailey, Schoolcraft; Walter Frahm, Frankenmuth and David Morris, Grand Ledge.
Robert Harns, Vermontville, Dist. 5; Orvel Roggenbuck, Snover, Dist. 6; James Allison, Custer, Dist. 7; DeVere Dennings, Gladwin, Dist. 8; Ray Hadaway, Onekema, Dist. 9; Ronald Clark, Gould City, Dist. 11.

Topics Chosen for Discussion Meets

Four different topics will be used in the 1970 Discussion Meet competition sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers and Ranchers advisory committee.
The national discussion meet will be held in conjunction with the AFBF annual meeting in Houston, Texas, in December.
At the national convention, one of the four topics will be drawn for use in the semi-finals and a different topic will be drawn for the finals events.
The four topics selected are (1)

What kind of member does Farm Bureau need? (2) Staffing Farm Bureau to meet the needs of a changing agriculture. (3) The role of economic services in a successful Farm Bureau and (4) Programs to improve the farmers' image — whose responsibility?
David Cook, Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmer Director, reports that the Michigan Young Farmer Committee has elected to use the selected topics throughout the year as recommended by the AFBF's Young Farmer and Rancher advisory committee.

Many U.S. Congressmen Support 1969 Agricultural Adjustment Act

Representative Daniel E. Burton (R-New York) is the 45th member of the House of Representatives to introduce the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1969. His bill is H.R. 16648.
The AAA of 1969 (S. 2524, H.R. 9009 and other bills) incorporate Farm Bureau's recommendations for government farm program legislation. The 1969 AAA is sponsored by 20 Senators and 45 Representatives — both Democrats and Republicans, including members of Congress from all regions of the nation.

Many farmers are still seeking clarification on some of Farm Bureau's recommendations for the new legislation to replace the Act of 1965. The existing Food and Agriculture Act of 1965 is scheduled to expire Dec. 31, 1970.
In hopes of answering questions of Michigan Farm Bureau members — following are some questions and brief answers relative to areas of the 1969 AAA still in need of clarification.

Q. Are all farm programs scheduled to expire this year?

A. No, the principle provisions of law that will expire are the cropland adjustment program, the class I base plan for milk, the wool program and the provisions of law authorize acreage diversion programs for feed grains and wheat.

Q. Why not extend the 1965 Act without amendments?

A. Farm Bureau opposes basic features of this Act because:
1. Government supply-management has not worked.
2. Government-owned stocks are bad for farmers.
3. The operation of government supply-management programs depend on political decisions.
4. The 1965 Act makes farmers dependent on government payments for a substantial part of their net income.
5. Government supply-management programs create pressures for international commodity agreements which restrict our ability to expand exports.

Q. Why are government-owned stocks bad for farmers?

A. In short — government-owned stocks are a barrier to increases in market prices.

Q. Why shouldn't farmers be willing to depend on government payments for their income?

A. The payment approach places farm income at the mercy of changing political winds in an increasingly urban country.

Q. What has Farm Bureau proposed for feed grains and wheat (and cotton)?

A. Farm Bureau has proposed

amendments to the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965 which would phase out government payments and government supply-management programs for these commodities over a five-year period. The Farm Bureau proposal has been introduced by 45 members of the House of Representatives and by the late Senator Dirksen and 20 other members of the Senate. It is known as the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1969.

Q. What are the major provisions of Farm Bureau's proposal?

A. (1) Beginning in 1971, payments would be phased out by reducing the total amount used for this purpose for 1969 crops 20 percent per year for five years with no limitation on payments to individuals during the phaseout.

(2) Effective with the 1971 crops, loan rates for wheat, cotton, feed grains, and soybeans would be set at not more than 85 percent of the previous three-year average market price. This loan authority would be permanent legislation.

(3) Also effective in 1971, the government would be prohibited from selling CCC stocks of these commodities at less than 150 percent of the current loan rate plus carrying charges, except when sales are offset by equivalent purchases in the open market.

(4) Effective with 1975 crops, all direct payments, acreage allotments, base acreages, and marketing quota programs would be discontinued for feed grains, wheat, and cotton.

(5) The cropland adjustment program would be modified to require emphasis on the retirement of whole farms and the use of competitive bids to determine the land that is to be retired. The Secretary of Agriculture would be directed to retire at least 10 million acres per year for five years (a total of 50 million acres) under this modified program.

(6) A special transitional program would be instituted for farmers with gross annual sales of farm products of not more than \$5,000, and average off-farm income of not more than \$2,000 (including income of both husband and wife).

Q. What is the objective of the Farm Bureau proposal?

A. To facilitate an orderly transition to a market-oriented program.

Q. Can this transition be made without hurting farm income?

A. Yes, it would be gradual and payments would be made during the transition period to help make the adjustment.



MARKETING AND COMMODITIES

Red Tart Cherry - USDA Meet **MACMA Marketing Committee Essential**

Robert Braden, Manager, MACMA



Red Tart Cherry Industry representatives met with Floyd Hedlund, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, in Washington, D. C. recently. The men presented a letter and petition to Mr. Hedlund, requesting the Department of Agriculture to conduct public hearings regarding the proposed storage Federal Marketing order.

Industry representatives have been meeting for several months drafting a marketing program for the orderly marketing of red tart cherries with expanded markets and improved income. Public hearings will be held on this matter during the first two weeks of June.

Those attending the meeting were seated (left to right) Robert Hutchinson, Michigan Fruit Cannery; Mr. Hedlund; Robert Frohling, National Red Cherry Institute. Standing, (left to right) Harry A. Foster, MACMA; J. Parnell Dwan, Musselman-Dwan; Winton Klotzbach, Duffy-Mott; Rodney Bull, MACMA, Red Tart Cherry Mkt'g. Comm.; John McCool, Morgan-McCool; Francis Kirby, National Red Cherry Institute and Jerry Stanek, Mich. Assoc. Cherry Producers.

One of the first jobs in the various MACMA commodity divisions, as they look forward to the coming year, is the election of marketing committeemen. These marketing committees are charged with the responsibility of planning and carrying out their particular commodity marketing program under MACMA. Committees are normally elected by the members of the particular commodity division to serve for a two-year term with one half of the committee positions being up for election each year. The newly elected committee then selects its committee officers for the new year.

Asparagus Committeemen

New asparagus committeemen elected in December were Ronald Baiers from Watervliet, Wayne Fleming from Shelby and Gary Lewis from New Era. Growers re-elected to the committee include Alton Wendzel from Watervliet, Paul Wicks from Dowagiac and John Brock from East Jordan. With 1970 asparagus harvest close at hand, negotiations are already under way to establish the 1970 price. Committee officers directing this operation are Chairman Alton Wendzel

from Watervliet and Vice Chairman Tom Greiner from Hart. Harry Foster is the Manager of this division and serves as committee Secretary.

Red Tart Cherry Division

The Red Tart Cherry Division elections were held in February. Newly elected to the committee was Lawrence Stover from Berrien Springs. Re-elected committeemen are Noel Baumberger from Northport, James Evans from Frankfort, Keith Moore from Grant, Vernon Sill from South Haven and John Minnema from Traverse City. Committee officers for the coming year are Chairman Rodney Bull from Bailey, First Vice Chairman Peter Morrison, Jr., from Williamsburg and Second Vice Chairman Arthur Dowd from Hartford. Mr. Foster also serves as Manager of the Red Tart Cherry Division and Secretary of this committee.

New To Feeder Pig Division

The Feeder Pig Division elections were held in March at a division-wide growers' meeting. New committeemen include Duane Stevens from Hillman, Robert Kartes from West Branch and Murray Turnipseed from Kalkaska. Committee officers for the coming year are Chairman Donald Hower from Lake City, and Vice Chairman Duane Hershberger from Kalkaska. Larry DeVuyt, Manager of the Division, acts as Secretary of the committee.

Vegetable Crops Committee

The Vegetable Crops Committee is chaired by Harold Schutte from Turner. This committee is an appointed committee in order to get representation on the committee for all of the various commodities included in the division. Most of the actual work in the Vegetable Crops Division is performed by the several commodity and or company negotiating committees.

New Multi-Fruit Committee

When a brand new MACMA division is formed, there is no established membership from whom to elect a committee. This is the current situation with the new Multi-Fruit Division. An appointed Farm Bureau Multi-Fruit Committee made up of members from all counties that produce significant quantities of peaches, pears and plums has been active in establishing this division. This committee will serve as an interim MACMA marketing committee until representative membership strength is obtained and elections can be held. Eugene Roberts, Michigan Farm Bureau board member from Lake City, is the Chairman of this interim committee.

In the case of two major commodity divisions of MACMA, apple and grape, marketing committee elections are not yet completed. Nominating Committees have selected slates of candidates for positions up for election.

MACMA Recommends Asparagus Price Rise

The Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association (MACMA) Asparagus Division Marketing Committee has recommended that the 1970 asparagus price be 21½¢ per pound to the producer, according to Harry A. Foster, Secretary-Manager. The Committee is also recommending a buyer service fee again this year.

This price recommendation was based upon several factors which were carefully analyzed by the MACMA Asparagus Marketing Committee. Asparagus acreage is estimated to be 14,600 acres in Michigan, which is 700 acres above 1969. However, there is a 5,000 acre decrease in acreage across the United States. The inventory of canned asparagus on March 1 was 5% below that of a year earlier; frozen asparagus stocks are at an all-time low for that date. All other major asparagus producing areas have settled raw product prices above their 1969 field prices. The cost of production index, including farm labor, indicates that production and harvest costs will be up approximately 5% in 1970 over a year ago.

The Committee also looked at the per capita consumption of asparagus and the canned and frozen asparagus wholesale prices.

The Committee agreed to offer MACMA members' asparagus for sale to processors, using a processor sales memorandum similar to that offered in 1969. The sales memo outlines sales arrangements and the grade to be used in the sale of MACMA members' asparagus.

Following the recommendation by the MACMA Asparagus Marketing Committee, Committee members and MACMA Staff will be calling upon each asparagus processor to discuss the recommended price and sales arrangements.

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* Denotes sheep shearer



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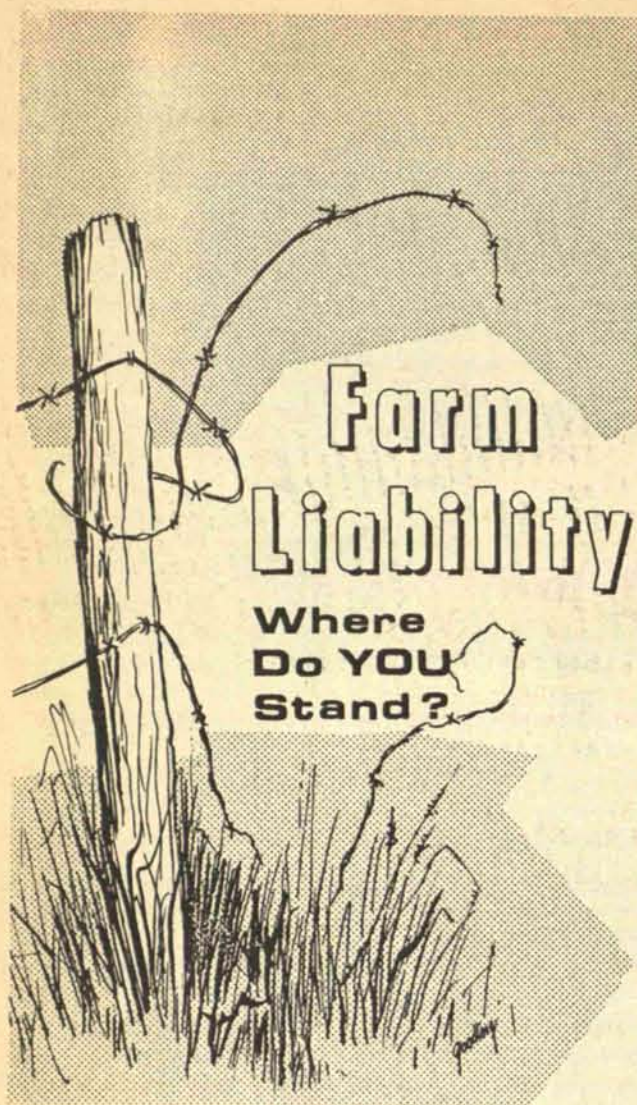
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FARMERS PETROLEUM

Branches and Dealers throughout Michigan—for Michigan farms



By Gary A. Kleinhenn
Director, Education and Research

If your dog bites off the seat of somebody's pants, do you know where you stand legally? What if a person injures himself on your property, will you have to pay damages, or what if a farm animal wanders into the road and causes a traffic accident, is it your fault? Just how liable are you?

What is meant by the term "liability?" One definition states it is an obligation bound in law by which a property owner has a duty to comply. For instance, if a person is injured on property because of an obligation a property owner failed to comply with, then that property owner could be found negligent and be required to pay damages to the injured party.

Probably one of the more disturbing issues in deciding negligence for liability stems from common law by which these civil suits are based. For direction, the court refers to court decisions given throughout the histories of this country, Canada and England. This decision making process, when combined with the human element of the court, underlines the need for professional counsel; especially in an instance where the facts are disputed and a jury must be called in to return a verdict to the court.

Basis of Liability

Negligence is the basis of liability, it's the essential element which must be proved before a property owner can legally be held liable for an unintentional injury to others. The general rule to prove liability in court is to compare and show what a *reasonable person* might do in a like situation. If it is decided that the defendant was unreasonable in taking care of his property, then he may be declared liable.

However, we shouldn't assume that all men are reasonable, that is the decision for the court, but generally, if an unintentional injury is the result of a danger which could have been foreseen by a reasonable man, and thus avoided, the property owner who failed to see the danger or failed to act may be held liable for damages because of negligence.

One problem which pops up is that a property owner can be negligent even though he has taken reasonable precautions.

For instance, take the case of a child injured on property judged potentially hazardous. You could be negligent even though warning was given. According to experts, children have not yet grown into the "age of reason" and are unable to assume the normal risk of an adult, therefore are not responsible for their actions.

There are four basic elements necessary to support a negligence suit. They are: (1) A legal duty to conform to a standard of behavior to protect others from *unreasonable* risks. (2) A breach of duty by failure to conform to the standard required under the circumstance causing injury. (3) A *sufficiently* close casual connection between the conduct of the individual and the resulting injury to another. In other words, it must be proved the injury was caused by lack of sufficient warning. And (4) actual injury or loss to the interests of another must be shown.

There are three types of instances which affect a property owner's degree of liability, which are: (1) if the person is a *trespasser* (one who enters the property of another without permission of the landowner); (2) *licensee* — one who enters the property of another with the owner's consent and (3) an *invitee*, which usually is a business visitor invited or permitted to enter the property of another for purposes which benefit the landowner.

Generally, in the case of *trespassers* the landowner is under no obligation to keep his premises in a safe condition or to warn an unknowing trespasser of unsafe conditions. However, court cases in Michigan have held that once a landowner is aware of the presence of trespassers, or if in the exercise of ordinary care he should know of their presence, he is required to exercise *reasonable care* to prevent injury to them, the same as he would do for a licensee.

Social guests are usually considered licensees, as are hunters or other recreationists using private property with permission. The duty of the property owner is to refrain from intentional injury, and to warn of any known dangers which the licensee could not *reasonably* be expected to know about or discover himself. But once a danger is known to the landowner, he is obligated to exercise reasonable care to warn the licensee of the danger. If the danger is obvious or has been made known to the licensee, he must assume the risk and the landowner has no further obligation.

Invitees or business visitors who return a definite benefit to the landowner are legally entitled to expect that the premises have been made reasonably safe for his reception. Although the landowner may be liable for injuries resulting from a breach of duty, he may not be held liable if he warns the invitee of known dangers. For instance, if the invitee is sufficiently warned of a roller skate on a stairway and he still persists to trip on it, then it is caused by his own lack of responsibility and the landowner will generally not be held liable.

Injuries to Persons From Farm Animals

There are two general situations where an owner of domestic animals may be held liable for personal injuries. They are, when he *negligently* allows or causes animals to commit the injury, and when he is aware that he owns a vicious animal, and when such an animal bites, strikes, kicks or gores someone who was not acting negligently.

A dog is entitled to one bite according to common law before his owner can be held liable. This is also true of the ferocious acts of other domestic animals — their owner must be knowledgeable of their nature before liability can be claimed.

In general, the common law holds that in keeping and training of watchdogs, liability can be avoided as long as the dog is taught to discriminate between friends, neighbors, or others making social or business calls, and trespassers or suspicious characters. (Obviously, you should have a pretty smart watchdog.) Also when a watchdog is kept within a yard or other restricted area and warning signs are posted at entrances to the yard or area, anyone not heeding the signs cannot *ordinarily* complain if he is bitten.

Other animals subject to owner liability are bulls, horses, boars and roosters — any animal capable of giving injury and of a known vicious nature.

Liability can be further avoided by securely confining such animals within an area where it *normally* would be negligent for a stranger to go. For example, if a stranger climbed into a bull pen and was injured, he *probably* is at fault if the owner was not present to give warning beforehand.

Trespass by Animals

Owners who do not use *reasonable* care in restraining their animals may be held liable in damages for injuries caused to the property of others. It is the owner's legal duty to keep them off the property of others. If the cows begin feeding in the neighbor's corn, the owner of the animals is liable. Furthermore, the owner may be responsible for all damages that can reasonably be attributed to such trespass. One example could be trespassing hogs which have cholera and pass it on to other hogs. In this case,

it is *likely* that recovery may be had for all cholera losses.

In another case, if cows are bred by a trespassing bull, damages may be recovered by the owner of the cows. The amount of damages in such cases would be based on the difference in value to the owner between the actual progeny and the progeny intended. Furthermore, damage may be substantial when the cows are purebred and the culprit is a scrub.

However, the amount of liability an owner of trespassing animals may be subjected to could be reduced somewhat by the promptness with which he goes out to bring the animals home.

Livestock colliding with passing cars on the road is another area of serious liability. *Generally*, the farmer is liable if (1) he is negligent in maintaining his fences, (2) he maintains his fences in good repair, but has animals which he knows are in the habit of breaking out and do, (3) adequate fences are maintained in good repair and animals are not in the habit of breaking out but do get out and onto a highway, while the owner knew the animals were out but made no *reasonable* effort to retrieve them, (4) if the owner were driving livestock alongside a road and the livestock were struck by a passing vehicle.

Fences and Trespass by Livestock

The condition of fences on an owner's land and also on the land subject to animal trespass has an important bearing on liability for damage done by trespassing animals.

When an owner of livestock maintains good legal fences and is not aware that his animals are in the habit of breaking out and does no negligent act to cause them to break out, and makes an immediate attempt to retake them when they do break out, he is *generally* not liable for damage caused by them.

However, the courts of some states have held that he is liable, even under these circumstances.

When animals break through an adjoining owner's part of a division fence (line fence), and the fence is not in good repair or is not legally sufficient, the owner of the animals will probably not be held liable for trespass.

But an owner of trespassing animals may be held liable when his animals are in the habit of breaking out regardless of the condition of the fence, or when his fences are defective or insufficient, and when negligence causes the trespass, like frightening animals until they break out, or leaving the gate open.

Getting Trespassing Animals Home

Landowners generally may do anything *reasonably* necessary to return wandering animals. He may use *necessary* force also, and if injury results to the animals the owner of the animals cannot claim damages. On the other hand, the law will not permit greater force than is necessary. For instance, beating and injuring animals is not necessary force and the owner may have the right to recover damages.

An additional right is permitting the confinement, watering, feeding and caring for trespassing animals until the owner comes and takes them, making good any damage suffered.

Generally, a landowner is not allowed to do this unless he himself is free from fault or negligence. The finder must notify the owner of the animals immediately and give him an opportunity to come after them. The cost of feed and care during confinement must be paid by the owner.

Injuries caused by Fences

The owner of a fence is not liable for injuries caused by his fence unless he is negligent in some way. If he constructs a barbed-wire fence across a path used by the public he might be held liable for injury to a person using the path on the theory that he would be negligent in placing the fence in such a place.

If he maintains a division fence in poor repair and if because of that fact the neighbor's cow becomes tangled in it and is severely injured, he can be held responsible.

Generally, a landowner has no duty to fence out trespassing persons or livestock and cannot be held liable for injuries suffered by them; furthermore he does not have a duty to fence dangerous premises (a gravel pit) to save trespassing animals or persons from injury.

A landowner may find it advisable to do so for the protection of his own animals and of persons or animals lawfully on his farm. And a property owner should keep in mind that if such hazards are considered *traps* for trespassers and the like by a court, then the landowner could be considered negligent in case of injury.

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SUMMARY ON MARCH TOPIC

How Can Farm Bureau Tie Marketing Associations Closer Together?

Thank you to all the discussion groups that have been most cooperative in returning their questionnaires. Reporting for this topic are 647 groups. Results to, Can Farm Bureau tie other marketing associations closer together in your group's opinion? received various responses; 240 were uncertain, 57 said no and 325 yes. Should marketing associations advertise their commodities to the general public? 564 yes and 38 groups, no. Recommended areas by groups for more marketing were: 141 for beef and feeder cattle, 130 for beans, 119 for feed and grain crops, 78 for wheat, 60 for potatoes, 50 for dairy, fruit (pears, peaches, plums, strawberries, etc.) 34, poultry and eggs 34, and soy beans 23.

COMPLEX "PROJECT MRS" MOVING AHEAD

A report on Project MRS (a marketing retail survey) being developed by the Michigan Farm Bureau Market Development Division, shows that the project is creating greater interest than at first expected.

According to Norman Veliquette, project coordinator, more than 350 Farm Bureau women are participating in the survey as Price Tag Watchers. "They each surveyed a different store and investigated 19 various food products in each store. Their total number of observations could reach 60 or 70 thousand as they recorded the price of each size of each brand of each food product," Veliquette told the Michigan Farm Bureau Regional Representatives at a recent meeting.

Indications are that the Farm Bureau women are anxious to receive the second form and repeat the survey. The delay in receiving the second form is due to the complexity and magnitude of the project, Veliquette added.

The Regional Representatives were told that the Price Tag Watchers were performing a valuable function in their part of the survey.

It is believed that the second forms will be sent out sometime in May. The PTW's will receive forms corresponding to the store previously surveyed.

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1970 Wool Situation . . .

The 1970 shearing season has gotten well under way and many sheepmen have asked about the outlook for 1970. According to U.S.D.A. reports and various wool marketing experts, the first part of 1970 will probably start off at about the same price level as in early 1969 with some tendency for the price to weaken slightly. Due to the high over-head costs, especially the high rate of interest, mills are operating on the basis of hand-to-mouth and are buying wool to fill new orders just as they need it. Inventories of carry-over wool are very low all over the country. Any reasonable degree of new orders coming to the mills should react favorably on the price. Most market outlooks indicate the latter half of 1970 should show a stronger market for wool than the first half. In this case, 1970 should definitely be a good year for consignments.

Ohio Wool Growers had a very good year in 1969 and ended the season with exceptionally good returns to its member growers. Along with the government payment, which will likely be made some time in April, many Ohio and Michigan sheepmen who consigned to the pool should net 70¢ per pound or more. Even though the total amount of wool available in Ohio has decreased, the Association has gradually increased its total volume therefore getting a greater percentage of the total potential wool.

The association is all geared up to handle the 1970 clip with the same general policies as in previous years. Besides Ohio, wool will be assembled also in Michigan and Kentucky. Various price incentives have been set up to encourage growers to produce and deliver high quality wool. A policy has also been in effect whereby growers of large clips get the advantage of lower handling costs due to more efficiency in handling volume clips.

The new season has started out with local buyers mostly paying in the neighborhood of 35¢ a pound for processed wool, which is about the same as a year ago. The Association is paying 30¢ a pound as the first advance on consigned wool. Final payment is made on this wool after it's graded and marketed. If a grower does not care to consign his wool, the Association is glad to purchase his clip on outright sale for full market price at that particular time. We encourage growers to contact one of our local representatives, or come to the warehouse direct.

The following letter was received from Arthur H. Cratty, State Conservationist, United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service:

Room 101, 1405 South Harrison Rd.
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Mr. Elton Smith, President April 10, 1970
Michigan Farm Bureau
4000 North Grand River
Lansing, Michigan 48904

Dear Mr. Smith:

I was most happy to see your April edition of Michigan Farm News salute soil conservation districts. These dedicated people have worked for years on the quality of environment. Now many other groups and organizations are participating and becoming interested. District directors are hopeful this involvement will not wane.

The feature on Hugh Bennett, the father of Soil Conservation, was most apropos at this time. Many of the things he said and did are truer today than ever before.

If we can provide any information or assistance in future publications, please call on us.

Sincerely yours,
Arthur H. Cratty
State Conservationist

FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

SPECIAL RATE TO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS: 25 words for \$2.00 each edition. Additional words, 10 cents each. Figures such as 12 or \$12.50 count as one word. **NON-MEMBER advertisers:** 15 cents per word one edition, two or more editions, 10 cents per word. Copy deadline: 20th of the month.

8 FARM EQUIPMENT

PIPE — NEW AND USED . . . One inch through 36 inch, valves, fittings and tanks. Suitable for irrigation, dams and sluice. Midway Supply Company, Box 731, Jackson, Michigan. Phone: 517 782-0383. (1-12t-28b) 8

FARROWING STALLS — Complete \$26.75. Dealerships available. Free literature. DOLLY ENTERPRISES, 219 Main, Colchester, Illinois 62326.

FOR SALE: One 14 x 37 feet, six inches cement stove silo and chute in excellent condition. Phone: 699-5713. George S. Renton, 15005 Martinsville Road, Belleville, Michigan 48111. (5-1t-25p) 8

20 LIVESTOCK

PONY SALE: June 28, 1970. Starting at 1:00 p.m. Half-Arabs, Welsh, Shetland, & grade Ponies. Write for sales list: NIXON'S PONYTOWN, 2820 Jennings Road, Whitmore Lake, Michigan 48189. Phone: 449-2728. (5-2t-31p) 14

HEREFORD BULLS — pure bred herd sires. Ready for service. Also, registered heifers and calves. Egypt Valley Hereford Farm, 6611 Knapp St., Ada, Michigan. Phone OR 6-1090. (Kent County) (11-tf-25b) 20

WANTED: HOLSTEIN BRED HEIFERS and young cows due in July, August and September. John M. Smith, Box 63, Williamston, Michigan 48895. Phone: 517-655-1104. (5-2t-25p) 20

REGISTERED DUROC'S. Top quality boars and gilts. Production data and carcass information available. Byrum & Sons, RFD #1, Onondaga, Michigan. Phone 517-528-3262. (2-tf-25b) 26

20 LIVESTOCK

CALF CREEP FEEDERS — 30 bushel capacity. \$92.50. Dealerships available. Free literature. DOLLY ENTERPRISES, 219 Main, Colchester, Illinois 62326.

26 POULTRY

KLAGER'S DEKALB PROFIT PULLETS — Order your started pullets that have been raised on a proven growing program. The growing birds are inspected weekly by trained staff, vaccinated, debeaked and delivered by us in clean crates. If you keep records, you will keep KLAGER DEKALBS. KLAGER HATCHERIES, Bridgewater, Michigan. Telephones: 313 429-7087 and 313 428-3034.

SHAVAR STARCROSS 288 — Started pullets available most every month. Get wise and try these top profit makers as your next flock. MacPherson Hatchery, Route #3, Ionia, Michigan. Phone 527-0860.

BABY CHICKS. Heavy breeds our specialty. Hatching White Rocks, Cornish Rocks, R I Reds, California Barred. Also Ghostly Pearl Leghorns & California Grey-cross. Send for price list. Brewer Poultry Farm, Dundee, Michigan 48131. Phone 313-529-3166. (2-6t-35b) 26

DAY OLD OR STARTED PULLETS — The DeKalb profit pullet. Accepted by the smart poultryman for high egg production, superior egg quality, greater feed efficiency. If you keep records, you'll keep DeKalbs. Write for prices and catalog. KLAGER HATCHERIES, Bridgewater, Michigan. Telephones: Saline HAZEL 9-7087, Manchester Garden 8-3034.

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KLAGER'S DEKALB PROFIT PULLETS — Order your started pullets that have been raised on a proven growing program. The growing birds are inspected weekly by trained staff, vaccinated, debeaked and delivered by us in clean crates. If you keep records, you will keep KLAGER DEKALBS. KLAGER HATCHERIES, Bridgewater, Michigan. Telephones: 313 429-7087 and 313 428-3034.

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36 MISCELLANEOUS

WANTED: BEES, supers, frames—Write: 2226 North Cedar, Holt, Michigan 48842. Phone: 517-694-9431. (4-2t-12b) 36

WE CUSTOM BUTCHER everyday and pick-up. If you are in the 313 area, our phone number is: 727-1450. Also smoked ham, bacon . . . make your sausage. Richmond Meat Packers, 68104 Main St., Richmond, Mich. 48082 (7-12t-30b) 36

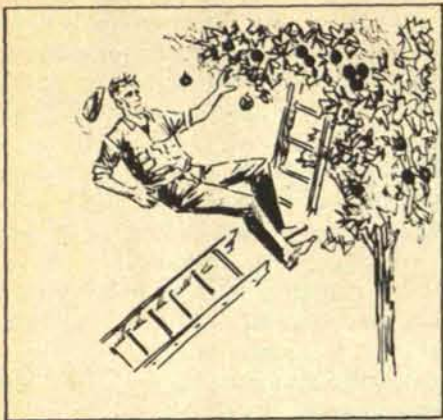
PICK-UP TRUCK STOCK RACKS — All steel construction. \$109.50. Dealerships available. Free literature. DOLLY ENTERPRISES, 219 Main, Colchester, Illinois 62326. (11-1t-19p) 8

TEACHER WANTED . . . One-room school. Gas heat, modern plumbing. Contact Jean Groner, Board President, Route #1, Kalkaska, Michigan. Phone: 616-258-4607. (5-2t-20b)

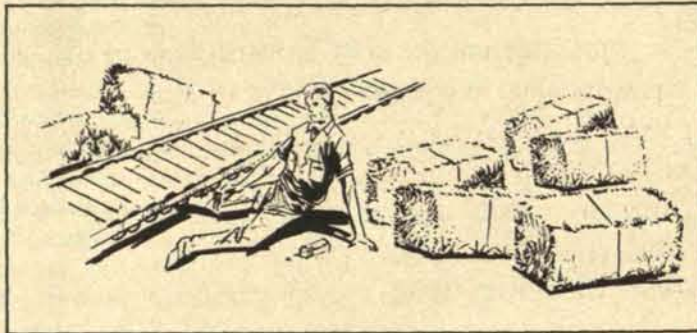
"1001 THINGS FREE" (64-page book) \$1 — MAILMART, Carrollton, 72, Kentucky 41008. (5-tf-10b, 36)

W E

W E



CASE 412—Employee picking apples fell when a ladder broke. The employee suffered a fractured ankle and was admitted to the hospital where he died five days later from causes questionably related to the accident. Claimant's widow and brother have retained separate attorneys and are making claims against the employer for medical bills exceeding \$2,000.00. Another claim alleges death was related to the accident, caused by the negligence of the employer.



CASE 413—Elevator fell on 18-year-old temporary employee. Employee paralyzed. Medical payments now total \$16,971.89. Weekly nursing care costs are \$42, continuing for nearly 18 months and indefinitely into the future.



CASE 415—An employee driving a tractor struck a tree limb, injuring his neck and shoulder. Weekly compensation amounted to \$50.82 for 14 weeks plus medical care.



CASE 419—Cow kicked an employee causing abscess on leg. Compensation was \$63.00 weekly—disabled three months.



CASE 422—Employee caught his hand in the loader on a tractor. Fractured his finger.



CASE 416—Employee fell from silo sustaining a broken leg and three fractured vertebrae. Compensation was paid a rate of \$103.00 weekly plus medical care including two surgeries.



CASE 417—An employee ruptured himself while stacking crates of apples. Weekly compensation was \$69.00, plus medical. He was disabled four months.



CASE 420—Employee bent over and strained his back while feeding cattle. Disabled six weeks.



CASE 423—Employee caught his fingers in the chain of a machine. Has been declared to have lost the industrial use of two fingers of his right hand.



CASE 418—An employee who sprained his back while digging trees, was disabled 49 weeks. Weekly compensation paid totaled \$2,146.89, plus medical expenses exceeding \$500.00.



CASE 421—Employee fell and fractured arm. Disabled 60 weeks.

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A lot of our policyholders have . . . just check our case files. And some of them, like most people, thought they really didn't need Workmen's Compensation Insurance. But today's modern farm . . . its machinery, its multiple hazards and unpredictable weather . . . is an open-end employee hazard. Full protection against the unexpected can cost as little as \$30 a year. Don't second-guess the future. Call your local Farm Bureau Insurance Group Representative. See how little it costs to be safe . . . Workmen's Compensation safe.

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