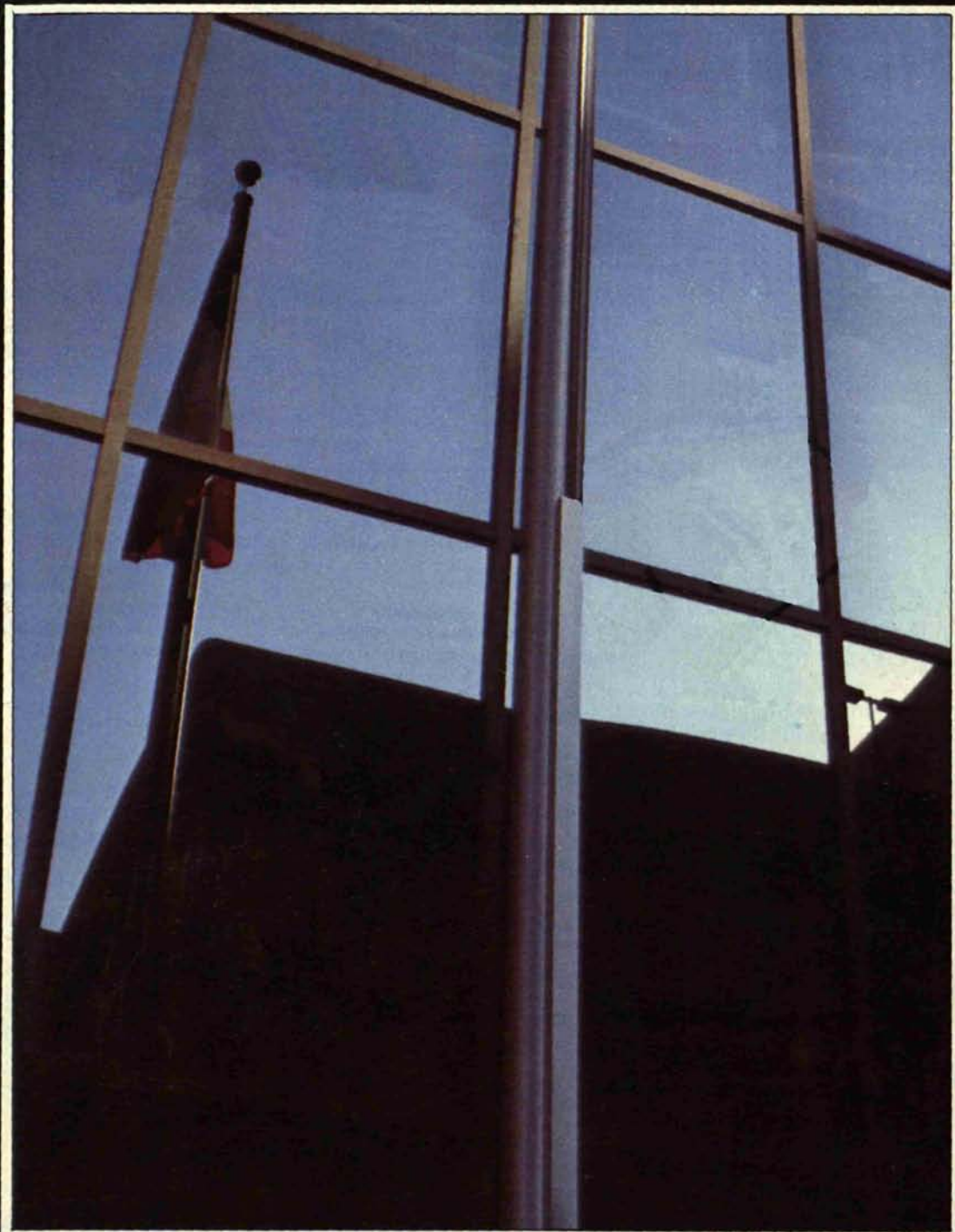


Michigan Farm News

RURAL LIVING



**Delegates Build MFB Policy
for 1983 at Grand Rapids**

Publication of the Michigan Farm Bureau • January 1983
County Newsletter Inside

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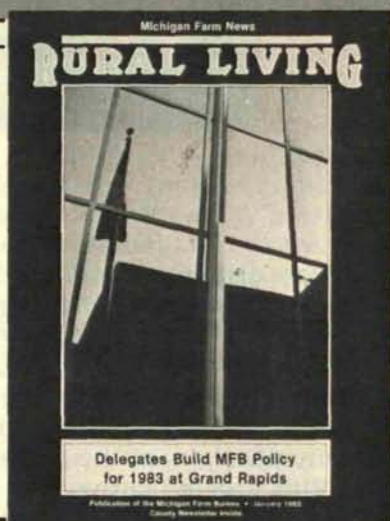
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RURAL LIVING

FARM NEWS

A publication
of the
Michigan
Farm Bureau



JANUARY 1983
VOL. 62 NO. 1

THE COVER
Modern structures of
Amway Grand Plaza reflect
new image for Rural Living
magazine.

Photo by Marcia Ditchie

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No Rubber Stamp Sessions at MFB Annual Meeting



Members in action impressive display for MFB President Smith.

Standing at the podium during our resolutions session at the recent annual meeting, I thought: wouldn't it be great if every Farm Bureau member could witness this action. In all my years as president, I have never seen such a fine display of using our organization as the problem-solving vehicle that it is!

With the farm economy in the condition it is today, some observers might have expected our delegates to be so weighed down with personal concerns that it would be difficult for them to operate positively and constructively. This was definitely not the case and it was another illustration (which I've seen so many times in the past) of "when the going gets tough - the tough get going."

It was, indeed, a "tough" delegate body that wrestled with the position statements addressing the challenges we face. They were not a "rubber stamp" group of delegates. It was evident they had done their homework. They were aggressive, articulate, questioning, well-disciplined, well-informed and obviously worthy of being selected by their counties for the important role of adopting policy for the state's largest, most influential farm organization.

The lively discussion and debate during the resolutions session was one of the most constructive it's ever been my pleasure to witness. There were more amendments than usual and many divisions of the House. This was indicative, I believe, that the delegates were thinking ahead to the execution of the policies they were adopting - and they wanted them to be "right" for them, their industry, their state and their nation.

The lively discussion and debate during the resolutions session was one of the most constructive it's ever been my pleasure to witness.

We had some difficult decisions to make during this session - on political action, the farm program and the dairy program. I was proud of the way they faced up and took positions on these issues with no hedging and very definite direction. This took courage and dedication and while we may have had many calls for division of the House, I am confident we did not go home a divided house.

To handle such a "tough" delegate body, we had an equal-

ly tough state Policy Development Committee. How fortunate this organization is to have such high-quality leaders that will contribute their time, efforts and creative thinking to solving problems!

The result of this problem-solving session is a solid policy base from which Farm Bureau will operate this year. I'm not only very comfortable with that policy base - I'm proud of it - and of the people who developed it.

We proved, through the policies we adopted at the annual meeting, that our organization lives, grows and changes, as does the industry it represents. It must do so. You, the members, live, grow and change and the organization must reflect you.

The next step is executing the policies we've developed and I'm very confident that YOU will make it happen.

Elton R. Smith

Elton R. Smith, President
Michigan Farm Bureau

Comfort Zones vs. Challenge

By Donna Wilber

We've known each other for a long time, dear readers - maybe not by name or face, but we've been a part of the same team. I started out checking your name on the membership rolls against the mailing list of the *Michigan Farm News* to make sure you were well-informed about your organization and I grew up to be the editor of your Farm Bureau publication.

In terms of growth, if not years, I was still a baby when I stepped up and introduced myself to Challenge and said, "I know I'm going to have to leave my comfort zone to wrestle with you, but Farm Bureau sent me into this arena and I mean to win." Farm Bureau has been pushing me out of my comfort zone ever since.

I can really relate to those county FB newsletter editors we had at our state annual meeting this year. We shoved them out of their comfortable zones on the delegate floor sidelines into the tense atmosphere of a news room charged with the pressure of beating deadlines and dragging words out of tired bodies and souls whether or not they were ready to be born.

We shoved them out of the comfortable zones of using canned releases into the backstage drama of news conferences where it took courage to compete with aggressive news reporters and camera people to ask questions and get a good photo shot.

Never again will these county newsletter editors be satisfied to stay home and use the "second-hand" news releases sent to them by the state office. And that's the way it should be. Once people stretch and grow, they can never be satisfied with what they had, what they were,

before it happened to them - before they made it happen.

I've been very comfortable here in this zone, sharing my backstage views, my personal and professional concerns and hopes, sharing some laughs and a few tears with you, and I'll still be around to do that occasionally. But comfort is a danger signal and it's time to step up to Challenge again and become uncomfortable.

It was you, by your example, who taught me to do that. And, wherever that pursuit of discomfort takes me, you'll be traveling on the same ship with the same course. At each landmark, we'll ask, "How we do that? Can we do it again?" And the answer will always be, "Yes, we can," - and we will.

How'd You Do That?

By Connie Turbin

I met an interesting man at the annual meeting this year. He didn't shake my hand. He doesn't even know my name, but we definitely met because he reached out to me during his presentation and renewed the sense of wonderment and excitement of going after a challenge.

Lewis Timberlake was just one of the tremendous speakers at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting, but I was most

impressed with his genuine interest and obvious delight in the "stuff" that winners are made of. "How'd you do that?" he asks the winners in sports, business, education and in organizations like Farm Bureau. He is in awe of the abilities of the individual and it shows.

That question got me started Tuesday night and when I looked around at all of the winners gathered in Grand Rapids for the MFB annual meeting, the question kept recurring. *How'd you do that?*

There were, of course, the winners who received plaques and plaudits for their accomplishments in FB programs, but there were also winners at every table in the delegate session. Every person at the MFB annual was a winner. They are winners because they aren't satisfied with the status quo - for themselves or for their organization.

In Farm Bureau, it's these challengers who "make it happen." Challenge yourself and you can make it happen. Whether it's membership goal for your county FB or a new role as county FB president or committee chairperson.

Let's be honest and admit that there's another question winners ask themselves: "Why'd I do that?"

Why did I say yes to this leadership position? Why did I add volunteer work in Farm Bureau to an already busy life? For these people the answer is because easy won't get it. They see a job to be done and they do it. They recognize a challenge and they step right up and in-

(continued on page 33)

LANSING

Tax Increases Passed for Road Maintenance

Transportation "User Tax"

- Even though the need for revenue to finance state and local road repairs has been a legislative issue for several months, it was given up as a dead issue during this session.

Suddenly, due to the leadership of a few legislators, it was revived, rewritten and passed by the Michigan House. It then ran into some obstacles in the Senate but was finally passed at the last moment. Briefly, the legislation would:

- Increase the fuel tax 2¢ per gallon based on a formula copied from the Ohio plan.
- Increase auto licenses 15% (this was cut from 30%).
- Change the license fee method on cars sold after October 1983. The fee would be 4/10% of the value for the first year and be reduced 10% per year for the next two years and remain at that figure thereafter.
- Increase commercial vehicle licenses 30% (cut from proposed 45%).
- Maintain the 90-10 allocation approved by the voters in 1978. (90% for road purposes, 10% for comprehensive transportation, which has been about 8.3%.)
- Require that 90% of the monies go for highway maintenance.
- Continue the diesel tax discount.
- Leave the fees on farm trucks and wagons the same as they were.

Extension of the sales tax to auto and appliance repairs and other services was removed from the bill. At one time it also included sales tax on farm machinery but Farm Bureau

was successful in getting this provision removed early in committee consideration.

Final passage of the legislation and signing by the governor was dependent on what happened to the federal highway legislation being considered in Congress. Part of Michigan's share of any new federal revenues will be needed to make the comprehensive transportation of the Michigan road revenue package work.

School Transportation -

Farm Bureau has had several inquiries on whether a school board is required to provide transportation. The Michigan Court of Appeals for the second time in recent months has ruled that a school board can discontinue transportation because of lack of funds.

One of the cases involved the Alpena schools where the voters had turned down a tax millage. The Circuit Court ruled that the state has a constitutional duty to provide transportation. In reversing the local court, the Court of Appeals pointed to language in the constitution that states: "The Legislature *may* provide for the transportation."

The court further said that the Legislature has the power but not the duty to provide for free transportation. The court also ruled that present law does not require schools to provide transportation services.

So far no one has decided to take any of the cases to the Michigan Supreme Court.

Unemployment Compensation - This has been a serious economic and political issue for months. The Legislature finally faced this controversial issue during the last days of the "lame duck" session. Michigan employers owe the federal government over \$2.2 billion. Without reforms this would be \$4 billion by 1986 at 10% interest.

The Senate passed S.B. 892 which was modified in the House. The House version was rejected by the Senate and as *Rural Living* goes to press, the bills are still in a conference committee. Briefly the major provisions are:

- Increase the present \$6,000 taxable wage base to \$8,000 in 1983, \$8,500 in 1984, \$9,000 in 1985 and \$9,500 in 1986.
- Double the present tax rate for the account reserve (ABC) from .25% to .5% and increase the maximum tax rate from 2% to 3%.
- Phase out the present limiter of .5% by raising it to 1% in 1983, 1½% in 1984, 2% in 1985 with total elimination in 1986.
- Charge extended benefit costs to the individual employers' experience account instead of the present general account.
- Disallow present federal (FUTA) offset tax credits. It would not apply to any employers with a "negative balance." A "negative balance" employer is one whose employees take out more than is put in. "Positive balance" employers put more in the fund than is taken out. Agricultural employers are about 50-50 between positive and negative.
- Create a new "solvency tax" against negative balance employers to be paid whenever interest must be paid to the federal government on borrowed funds. The new tax starts at .5% in 1983 and rises to 2% in 1985 and thereafter.

- Freeze unemployment benefits to present maximum (\$197) through 1986. New maximums would be determined in 1987.

- Cut weekly benefits from the present 70% of "after tax earnings" to 65%. In 1987 it would return to 70%.

- Increase the present 18 qualifying weeks to 20 weeks.

- Increase the present 20 times the minimum wage to qualify (\$65) to 30 times (\$100).

- Provide an alternative qualifier at 20 times the state average weekly wage regardless of the duration of employment.

Several other provisions were offered but were defeated, including the waiting week, "co-pay" which would require employees to contribute to the unemployment fund at .5% of their wage, "sunsetting" the legislation, etc.

While the debt must be paid employer costs will rise in Michigan.

Farmers are liable to the unemployment tax if their payroll is \$20,000 or more in cash wages in any calendar quarter of the current or preceding year or if they employ 10 or more people for some portion of a day in each of 20 different calendar weeks during the current or preceding year. The weeks need not be consecutive and the workers need not all be working at the same time.

WASHINGTON

Natural Gas Price Freeze -

Legislation has been introduced in both the House and Senate to deal with rapidly rising natural gas prices. Prices for the fuel are increasing despite excess supplies and shrinking demands.

In the Senate, two bills have been introduced to address this concern. S. 3069 proposes a

Farm Bureau Welcomes Cooperation With New Governor



A happy governor-elect, James Blanchard, posed with MFB Senior Legislative Counsel Robert E. Smith at a recent reception for Blanchard held at MSU's Kellogg Center.

Democrat James Blanchard will be inaugurated as Michigan's new governor on Jan. 1, 1983, and for the first time since 1936 the Democrats will have control of the state's three legislative branches - the House of Representatives, the Senate and the governor's office.

Blanchard will have an estimated 175 to 180 appointments to make, including most department heads, numerous boards, commissions and his personal staff.

He will also be faced with a

very serious state financial situation. In spite of major cuts for education, welfare and other state responsibilities, it is estimated that the 1983 budget is out of balance by at least \$500 million. Outgoing Budget Director Gerald Miller has told the new governor and legislative leaders that he believes tax increases will be necessary.

The new governor has said he will welcome Farm Bureau's input in his efforts to work with all segments of Michigan's economy to promote jobs.

freeze on gas prices for two years to give Congress time to work on a long-term solution. S. 3070 would void "take-or-pay" clauses negotiated in producer-pipeline contracts when supplies are short. Both bills are expected to be offered as

amendments to the Senate energy and water appropriations bill.

In the House, 30 co-sponsors in the Northeast-Midwest coalition have introduced H.R. 7373. The bill would require pipeline companies to provide the lowest priced gas available.

(continued on page 32)



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Delegates Build MFB Policy for 1983 at Grand Rapids



Farm Bureau's 1983 policy integrates the founding principles with the new and changing world in which farmers now conduct their businesses.





Discussion and debate by delegates exemplified dedication to policy building.

The annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau and affiliate companies draws over 1,000 farmers to Grand Rapids each year for the organization's major policy making event, elections, volunteer recognition and discussions. At the 63rd annual meeting, Nov. 30-Dec. 1, that number included over 500 voting delegates from county Farm Bureaus statewide.

Farm Bureau members have been meeting at Grand Rapids for 10 years, with a brief hiatus

in 1979 and 1980 while the former Pantlind Hotel and convention center underwent major changes. Reopened in 1981, the Farm Bureau convention returned to the new Amway Grand Plaza Hotel and adjoining convention center, which now offers larger, improved facilities.

True to the vision of its planners, the Grand Plaza is a world class hotel, but that vision was built on the existing foundation of the venerable, old buildings that served the Farm Bureau conventioners for many years. The renovated and expanded facilities restored the original beauty and dignity of the old, complemented by the new architecture, glass skylights, elevated walkways and spacious meeting rooms.

In this atmosphere of glass, steel and concrete, leaders of Michigan's largest general farm organization reflected upon the foundations of their own organization.

They recognized that the structure of Farm Bureau must integrate the founding principles of the past with the new and changing world in which farmers now conduct their business. In their role as leaders, they accepted the challenge to plan with vision for Michigan's agricultural industry.

Cooperatives Meet

The four-day session opened Tuesday, Nov. 30 with the annual meetings of Farm Bureau Services, Inc., and Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc.

In his address to the cooperatives' leaders and members, President Elton R. Smith said that there has never been a time when farm operators need to be as aware of changes tak-

ing place in the farm marketing structure as today.

"The cooperative is an organizational tool to deal with this changing structure," he said. "How well that tool works depends upon the user. Users of cooperatives have a challenge. They need to make their cooperative as competitive as possible."

Cooperatives are expected to be innovators with ideas to find new markets and new uses for Michigan grown products.

Strong leadership, management and farmer support for co-ops will be needed to meet that challenge, and Smith added, in good times or bad, cooperatives are expected to be leaders.

"They are expected to be innovators with ideas to find new markets and new uses for Michigan grown products and methods to lower marketing costs and increase yields," he said. "In practice, as well as in theory, cooperatives are an extension of the farm itself. They are an integral part of the total farming enterprise that allows farmers to extend themselves into the marketplace so that they can compete more effectively."

The theme of cooperative marketing was also emphasized during the annual meeting of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association, where members discussed challenges to the state's marketing and bargaining law (P.A. 344).

Smith told MACMA members that the Michigan Supreme Court is currently reviewing the constitutionality of the act and, in related processor action to

oppose P.A. 344, several amendments to the act have been proposed.

"We will need to protect the basic concept of the act as a means of price discovery for raw product," he said. "As a growers' association, we must work closely with the leadership of processing cooperatives to assure that P.A. 344 will benefit all growers."

Smith listed enactment of national farm bargaining legislation as another priority for MACMA members in the year ahead.

"I believe it is imperative that fruit and vegetable producer interests work to create recognition of the need for national bargaining legislation," he said. "We must convince the administration and congressional leaders that such legislation is important to the survival of specialty crop growers."

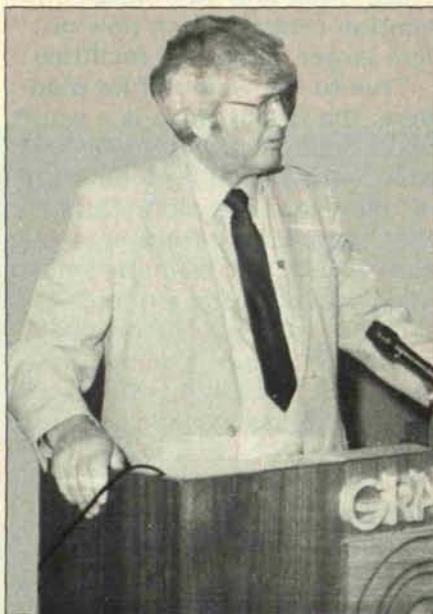
Commodity Sessions Address Marketing Orders, Bankruptcy

Farm policy and programs must be set by the USDA, taking into account the realities of the marketplace - not by Office of Management and Budget bureaucrats, Congressman Don Albosta told members attending the Wednesday morning commodity session.

Albosta specifically addressed the future use of marketing orders administered by the USDA. He said there was no move in Congress or in the House Agriculture Committee, of which he is a member, to approve new legislation relating to marketing orders.

Concern for the future of marketing orders became an issue this year when the OMB intervened to deny the request of the nation's cherry growers for a 20% crop set-aside. For Michigan growers, the OMB action meant the loss of millions of dollars.

Commenting on the U.S. farm economy, Albosta said, "the U.S. must make better use of export credit and find more creative solutions such as bartering surplus grain and milk for strategic materials, minerals and oil to enhance our national security."



DONALD ALBOSTA

"We have the opportunity through our farm groups, through our representatives in Congress and through the USDA to put together an effective farm program that will once again return prosperity to American agriculture," he said.

Carol A. Shamka, supervisor of the Michigan Department of Agriculture's Industry Audit Section, also addressed the commodity session. She reviewed amendments to the Michigan Grain Dealers Act which offers farmers a basic protection mechanism against bankruptcies. Requirements under law mandate minimum net assets for grain dealers at \$20,000, statement of ownership, insurance

or bonding of the business and approval of forms used by the dealer to assure conformity with the provisions of the act.

A significant addition to the act, Shamka said, is the requirement that financial statements for the grain dealer must be prepared by certified public accountants or accredited accountants. This requirement is considered to be instrumental in promoting uniformity and reliability and allows early detection of a financially troubled dealer.

She advised farmers to become aware of the requirements under the law relating to the user of scale tickets and price later agreements to obtain the fullest protections.

Delegates Seek Creative Solutions

Addressing Farm Bureau delegates at the 1982 MFB President's Luncheon Wednesday afternoon, Elton Smith challenged all members to work together to find creative solutions to the economic problems facing farm business people today.

"While we may be unhappy with prices and income... we have the opportunity to attempt to improve ourselves... I honestly believe that there is an answer to the problems which face agriculture, the economy of this nation and the world," he said.

Pointing to the legislative, information and public relations successes of the organization, Smith said that still more can be done and he emphasized that the work of Farm Bureau in the year ahead will revolve around broader involvement of members.

"To successfully achieve those policies which we adopt... we need the assistance of every member," he said.

Smith warned that unless farmers identify solutions to the critical economic problems facing agriculture, and make a

commitment to successful implementation of those farmer-adopted policies, the "cure could be worse than the illness." Farmers cannot afford to sit back and allow politicians and bureaucrats to "solve" agriculture's problems to the satisfaction of government, he told the delegates.

Smith closed his address by reminding members that the successes of Farm Bureau do not happen by themselves.

"The power to achieve these goals comes from you," he said. "You make it happen."



Young MFB Members Honored

Talented, dedicated Farm Bureau members arrived by the carload at the MFB annual meeting, but one young woman returned home this year with a 1983 Chevrolet S-10 pick-up truck and the title of the Michigan Farm Bureau's Young Farmer Discussion Meet winner.

Laurie Isley of Lenawee County, who will represent MFB in national Discussion Meet competition at Dallas this month, was just one of the many winners recognized at the annual meeting at Grand Rapids.

Also selected to represent the state at the AFBF convention in Dallas were Gary & Marta Carmichael of Osceola County. The young dairy couple will compete with young farmers from around the country for the title of AFBF's Distinguished Young Farm Couple.



Laurie Isley, Christine Wizner and Marta & Gary Carmichael were award winners at the state annual.

For Christine Wizner of Clinton County, her role as 1983 Outstanding Young Farm Woman will take her to Washington, D.C., in April where she will be among the spokespersons for agriculture during the MFB Washington Legislative Seminar.

Membership Achievements Honored During Annual

For their outstanding achievements in the 1982 membership drive, campaign managers from

13 counties were inducted into the prestigious "Fabulous Fifteen."

Those honored at the County Presidents' and Campaign Managers' Banquet were Jack Honkala, Iron Range; Arlie Schepperley and Don Davis, Clare; Vern Rasmussen, Emmet; Bob Kartes, Ogemaw; Keith Ramthun, Muskegon; Clarence Davis, Benzie; Terry Baker, St. Joseph; Jim Vantine, Oakland; Jan Stoner and Paul File, Cass; Berrien County; Alvin Gaertner, Monroe; Lester Langeland, Otawa; and David Dieck, Genesee.

Also honored were county presidents who earned a President's Golden Award Trophy. Criteria for this award includes a 5% gain over the previous year's membership quota and achieving target membership, an increase in regular members.

Golden Trophy award winners were Eugene Fleming, Otsego; Betty Anne Anderson, Mecosta; Clifford Poehlman, Cass; and Donald Sisung, Clinton.

The 1982 Target Award winning counties were Chippewa, Clare, Kalkaska, Otsego, Cheboygan, Gladwin, Manistee, Mecosta, Ogemaw, Barry, Cass, Oceana, Allegan, Clinton, Huron, Ottawa and Sanilac.

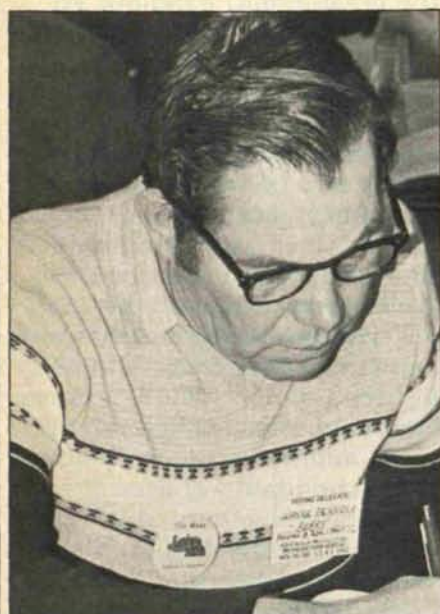
Excellence in County Programs Starred

Forty-three county Farm Bureau presidents took the spotlight when they were called on stage during the annual awards program to accept gold stars for outstanding program achievements.

Two presidents, Robert Hesselink of Chippewa County and Harold Werderman of Macomb County, accepted honors for their county Farm Bureaus as

(continued on page 33)





Economic, Environmental Issues

During the two and a half days of MFB policy sessions, Farm Bureau delegates from the state's county organizations reviewed, debated, amended and added to the 127 policy resolutions presented by the state Policy Development Committee.

The 512 farmer delegates recognized the need to work with the new governor and the nearly 60 new members of the Michigan Legislature to make them aware of the importance of agriculture and the need for expansion of the industry in Michigan.

They called for continuation of work on recommendations which resulted from the Governor's Conference on Agriculture in 1981. Those recommendations included increased pork production, a modern meat packing plant, a soybean pro-

cessing plant, development of anhydrous ammonia manufacturing facilities and attracting investors for a hard cheese processing plant in the state.

The delegates adopted strong policy opposing any legislation which would interfere with or disrupt accepted animal care and management practices. They also opposed attempts to give animals legal or constitutional rights. Delegates urged land grant colleges and the USDA to continue research and development programs which will enable farmers to improve the care and management of livestock and poultry.

On national and international issues, the Farm Bureau delegates adopted recommendations dealing with the national

farm program, agricultural exports and imports, agricultural credit and federal marketing orders. These recommendations have been forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration by voting delegates at the national annual meeting in Dallas this month.

The following state resolutions address crucial economic and agricultural issues facing Michigan residents and businesses in the year ahead:

Agricultural Development in Michigan

The 1981 Governor's Conference on Agriculture helped to focus attention on the agricultural industry as an important and vital part of Michigan's total economy. We recommend that the work started at the



Dominate Policy Considerations

1981 conference be continued, including a periodic review and assessment of our industry.

The 1981 conference emphasized several specific areas for the expansion of agriculture and food processing in Michigan. Potential areas suggested include increased pork production, a modern meat packing plant, a soybean processing plant, development of anhydrous ammonia manufacturing facilities and attraction of a hard cheese processing plant. We wholeheartedly support these specific areas and others that will provide for economic growth in Michigan.

Animal Care

Family farming and the way farm animals are raised has changed significantly in the last 20 years. These changes result from the need to meet consumer demands, to respond to changing economic conditions

and improve animal health. No one has greater concern for the care of farm animals than the farmer who raises them.

New research and development programs enable farmers to improve the care and management of livestock and poultry.

We urge Farm Bureau members to respond knowledgeably to misleading information on animal care. Members should continue to tell the success story of modern animal agriculture in the schools and to the consuming public, and utilize positive public relations techniques for mass media use.

We recommend that the Michigan Department of Agriculture

maintain a high priority in its budget for animal health programs not only for the good of agriculture, but also for the consuming public.

We urge our land grant colleges and USDA to continue and initiate new research and development programs which will enable farmers to improve the care and management of livestock and poultry.

We oppose any legislation which would interfere with or disrupt accepted care and management practices. A system for safeguarding the proper care of animals now exists and if properly enforced will provide the necessary protection animals need.

We oppose any attempts to give animals legal or constitutional rights. We further oppose

(continued on page 27)

Hunger is no longer a problem that exists only in distant, foreign countries; it's a problem in Michigan. It's happening just down the road, across the street, in rural areas as well as in the cities. In response to the governor's recognition that an emergency does exist in the state as a result of its depressed economy, the Michigan Farm Bureau has agreed to participate in an industry-wide program to bring food to those who need it most. Farmers, agricultural organizations and commodity groups, retailers, processors and packers, and agribusiness will be involved in the effort.

Donations of agricultural products and financial contributions will be used to bring Michigan-grown products to soup kitchens and agencies that distribute food to the needy. Passage of H.B. 4122, which protects retailers, processors and packers from liability for donation of food in good condition to those in need, gives a boost to the effort.

County Farm Bureaus are being contacted regarding farmer participation in the program. Robert Braden, MFB administrative director, and Larry Ewing, director of the MFB Information and Public Relations Division, have been designated as "farmer coordinators" for the program.

Membership kick-off meetings are underway throughout the state as FB leaders prepare for a goal getting membership campaign in 1983. These information and training meetings for county FB campaign leaders will be continuing through mid-January. Be sure to attend! A successful membership campaign depends on the involvement of every member. Statewide membership goal for 1983 is 78,924 member families.

Take the first step by renewing your FB membership for 1983. The membership year ends Dec. 31, 1982. Don't forget that eligibility for some FB member services and programs will end Jan. 31, 1983 for those who have not renewed their membership.

Japan has pledged to present a new package of trade concessions early next month in reply to U.S. demands for the liberalization of Japanese markets. U.S. trade representatives told Japan that a failure to respond swiftly and positively to proposals for opening Japan's markets almost certainly would result in new U.S. trade barriers.

AFBF President Robert Delano has returned from the 88-nation General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) conference in Geneva, Switzerland, where he served as an agricultural advisor to U.S. trade representative William Brock. Delano said the U.S. should meet the increasing emphasis of foreign subsidies stealing our farm markets by confrontation and retaliation. He suggested counter-subsidies utilizing U.S. carryover stocks to recover market margins lost to subsidized European producers.

The Federal Land Bank of St. Paul's new interest rate will be 11.75% effective Jan. 1, 1983 for all farm loans. This is welcome news to member borrowers, who have been experiencing low commodity prices and higher rates for money to keep their farms operating.

Farmers Petroleum Cooperative, Inc. has sold the Breckenridge Service Center to the Breckenridge-Wheeler Cooperative, Inc., one of FPC's member cooperatives. The co-op will continue to serve customers in Gratiot County (excluding the northwest corner) and south of M-20 in Midland County (excluding the city of Midland). FPC recently acquired a petroleum bulk plant in Mt. Pleasant to more efficiently serve customers located north of M-20 in Midland County, in the northwest corner of Gratiot County and in the city of Midland.

MFB delegates unanimously nominated Elton Smith to his 18th term as MFB president. He was re-elected to the post during the re-organizational meeting of the 16-member board of directors in Grand Rapids, following the close of the MFB annual meeting. Also re-elected to the MFB board's executive committee were John Laurie, vice president; and Donald Nugent, third member.

Re-elected to their positions as district directors were Lowell Eisenmann, Blissfield; Lyle LeCronier, Freeland; Margaret Kartes, West Branch; Elton Smith, Caledonia; and John Laurie, Cass City.

Incumbent at large directors Robert Rottier of Fremont and David Conklin of Corunna were also re-elected. New board members are Faye Adam, Snover, representative for Farm Bureau Women, and Mark Smuts, Charlotte, Young Farmer representative.

Challenging Future

The staff of the Ypsilanti Farm Bureau Association would like to express our support and willingness to help in any way we can during the Farm Bureau Services, Inc. reorganizational transition. We know how important a vote of confidence can be. We believe in your organization and we believe in what Farm Bureau Services stands for.

Perhaps the good news is that this is probably the most interesting and challenging time for cooperatives. If we generate enthusiasm and support, we'll all be here to continue to serve farmers. If not, then cooperative organizations may become a thing of the past. Only time will give us the answers to the questions that keep us all awake at night. Only time will tell us if we should have slept instead of paced.

We have appreciated the support of Farm Bureau Services in the past and are ready to demonstrate our support to you now, so get your trucks pointed toward Ypsilanti.

Angelo L. Pecora
General Manager
Ypsilanti Farm Bureau Assn.

(Editor's Note: This letter is one of many received by FBS President Elton Smith, expressing confidence in the success of the cooperative's reorganization, announced Oct. 4, 1982.)

That's the Spirit!

"Reaching for a Dream," an article in the December issue, is excellent! Unfortunately not all of us are 100% all of the time when it comes to using safe practices. Craig Burns shows us that those who wish to remain in agriculture can overcome physical handicaps.

Craig's spirit to overcome and adapt is what our workshop on March 22 and 23 is all about. Join us at the MSU Ag Engineering Farmers' Week workshop for farmers/growers with physical handicaps. This article is very valuable to our agricultural safety program goals, concerns with positive attitude, and encouragement toward continuing in Michigan's agriculture as a primary occupation, even if you have to adapt. I hope your readers agree with me.

Howard J. Doss
Ag Engineering, MSU

(Editor's Note: For further information about the workshop for farmers with physical handicaps, contact Howard Doss at the Ag Engineering Dept., MSU, East Lansing, Mich. 48824; or phone 517-353-3737.)

I really enjoyed the article in the December Rural Living on Craig Burns, a young amputee. It was a very heartwarming story, demonstrating the courage and determination of today's young farmers.

The article also brings to our attention a question that has only recently begun to be addressed. The question that concerns me and many other farmers is: If rescue personnel had reached Craig in time to save his arm, would they have had the knowledge, skill and equipment to respond in a farm accident situation without causing further injury?

The Kent County Young Farmers, with the assistance of the Davenport College EMS unit, addressed this question last April when they sponsored an Ag Accident Rescue Seminar at a local high school. It was an all-

(continued on page 29)

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 agriculture industry. Five farmers were honored in November 1982:

Nov. 1 - Herman Openlander, 68, raises 150 acres of cash crops near Grand Ledge. He is active in the Wacousta United Methodist Church and served on the church board, is assessor of Watertown Township and is a member of the Wacousta Masonic Lodge and the Clinton County FB.

Nov. 8 - John Eisenga, 42, farms 500 acres and milks 120 cows in partner-

ship with his brother, David, near Marion. He is active in the Highland Christian Reformed Church; is an Osceola County FB member and past discussion leader of his community action group; is a past board member of the Highland Township Association, formed to benefit local farmers participating in oil lease sign-up; and is a member of DHIA, MMPA and MABC.

Nov. 15 - Laverne Eldred, 50, and his family operate a 320-acre dairy farm and milk 65 cows near Blanchard. He is on the Mecosta County 4-H Council and the local ASCS committee; is a county FB member and served six years on the board, including two years as president; is a member of the local United Methodist Church; and has served eight years as a township trustee.

Nov. 22 - Frank Lipinski, 48, farms 400 acres and milks 45 cows near Buckley. He is on the MMPA board, has been local MMPA president for 15 years, was Kingsley Co-op president for nine years, is a 13-year member of the township board of review and serves on the ADA board. He is on the Michigan Dairyman Market Program Temporary Committee, is a past president of the Dairy Council of Michigan and earned the 1983 Dairyman of the Year award from MSU.

Nov. 29 - Gary Spicer, 32, a cash crop farmer from Hanover, farms 600 acres with his father, Ray. He is on the county ASCS committee, serves on the Jackson County FB executive committee and was co-chairperson of the 1982 FB membership drive. He has also been active in 4-H activities.

County Newsletter

Through My Kitchen Window

Some Thoughts for the Farm Bureau New Year

By Eunice Dancer, Editor
Jackson County Newsletter

Today as I look through my kitchen window, it is snowing. A fresh snow does so much to add beauty. It is too bad we cannot have a fresh snow to make our world fresh and free from hunger and strife.

As we start this New Year we should ask ourselves, how can I better serve my fellow man? May I make one suggestion? Get more active in Farm Bureau. First join (we are given this choice each year as Farm Bureau is strictly voluntary) and then participate in Farm Bureau activities. You can serve all agriculture by being aware of the current problems and by being ready to discuss them. Maybe we cannot come up with any concrete answers or solutions, but by discussing them they can become more clear.

Sometimes we think we are too busy or too small to do anything,



but we aren't. No one is too busy not to try to better one's position. By working with others through Farm Bureau, a lot can be accomplished. You know it takes little drops of

water to make a mighty ocean.

As you can gather from the above, I am hoping you will renew your membership in Farm Bureau. This month we are all interested in membership and hope that we can reach our goal. If your neighbor is not a member, why not ask him to join. Membership applications are available at the county office.

I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season. We did at the Dancers. It got a little hectic at times but we are so thankful that we live in the United States where we can celebrate the birthday of our Lord. Now I only hope I can feel that thankful when I start figuring out and paying our income tax and Social Security. I'm afraid I'll complain a little about Uncle Sam's hand in my billfold. Maybe we ought to pay our income tax on Christmas when we are full of the spirit to give.

Counties Selected for New 'Operation Grassroots' Project

Gratiot, Jackson and Kent County Farm Bureaus have been chosen by Michigan Farm Bureau to try out a new concept of grassroots involvement. It has been named "Operation Grassroots: Farm Bureau's Profile for Township Action."

In recent years, participation in Community Action Groups has dropped drastically. Since as a grassroots organization Farm Bureau needs input from local farmer members, a study was made on how to gain involvement at the grassroots level. "Operation Grassroots" is the result of this study.

"Operation Grassroots" will concentrate at the township level, which is the basic unit of government in rural Michigan. The concept of "Operation Grassroots" will have the director representing a township conduct meetings in the local township. The director will invite local farmer members to a local meeting.

The objectives of these meetings will be to: surface farmers' needs - economic, social, legislative and local; surface and develop leadership; increase members' knowledge of service programs; provide educational opportunities for all members; use Farm Bureau as a tool to achieve members' needs; and expand opportunities for member involvement through Farm Bureau.

When the director for your township calls you and invites you to an "Operation Grassroots" meeting, be sure to attend and help surface local problems and ideas, and discuss solutions and ways in which the Farm Bureau organization can help or be helped. As a member it is not only your privilege but your duty to be a contributing member.

These meetings will not only be a challenge but should prove interesting and educational. What farmer doesn't enjoy talking with another farmer about crops, prices,

weather, etc. This will be a great opportunity to do this. So when you get your invitation, say YES!

If you are interested in attending the meeting held in your township either contact your director or county secretary.

Branch FB President Heads Soybean Committee

Gary Albright, Branch County Farm Bureau president, has been elected chairperson of the Michigan Soybean Committee.

The committee is responsible for allocating soybean check-off funds to research projects and market development.

*Have a great
New Year!*

Award Winning Young Farmers Display Talents at State Annual

The competition in the MFB Young Farmer contests held during the state annual meeting, Nov. 30-Dec. 3 in Grand Rapids, was stiff this year, with judges having to make hard choices to declare a winner. When the results were in, Laurie Isley of Lenawee County was the winner of the Discussion Meet, Christine Wizner of Clinton County was MFB's 1983 Outstanding Young Farm Woman and Gary & Marta Carmichael of Osceola County won the Distinguished Young Farmer title.

Discussion Meet competition was especially exciting this year because of one of the prizes - use of the truck that "took America by storm," the Chevy S-10 pick-up. In addition to the truck provided by the Chevrolet Division of General Motors, Isley will represent MFB at the national Discussion Meet held during the AFBF annual meeting in Dallas this month. Last year's state Discussion Meet winner, John Young of St. Clair County, was a finalist in the national competition.

Isley said she participated in this year's Discussion Meet determined to take the statewide title, having been runner-up in 1981, and preparation was the key to her success. Isley started four notebooks, one for each of the announced topics, and collected articles, prepared opening and closing statements and kept a list of facts and statistics.

She and her husband, James, live near Palmyra. They farm 200 acres of cash crops. Isley is a teacher of vocational agriculture and is FFA advisor at Blissfield High School.

First runner-up in the contest was Paul Jefts of Mecosta County. Other finalists were Neal Sanford of Jackson County and Dale Kettler of Saginaw County.

Christine Wizner of Laingsburg has come a long way to become the 1982 Outstanding Young Farm Woman titleholder. Both Wizner and her husband, George, were raised in Saginaw. The couple dreamed of a future in farming and in 1976, they purchased their farm in Clinton County.

Formerly a cash crop and beef

farm, the Wizners turned it into a fruit and vegetable operation. They have opened a farm market and offer Pick-Your-Own service to their customers as well.

Other finalists in the Outstanding Young Farm Woman contest were DeAnn Sattelberg, Tuscola County; Maria Sandow, Midland County; Rebecca Somers, Saginaw County; Pat Tirrell, Eaton County; and Laurie Isley who was chosen as first runner-up.

Expansion of a family farm operation was the blueprint for Gary Carmichael when he went into partnership with his father in 1975. Evi-

dence that the building plan is working is the 1,200 acres of tillable land and the 500 head of Holstein cattle. The expansion program worked out by this year's Distinguished Young Farmer now also includes a new partner, Gary's younger brother. Carmichael says that a management plan and constant farm operation analysis and evaluation is absolutely necessary.

Bill McPhee of Huron County was the first runner-up in the Distinguished Young Farmer contest. Other finalists were Kurt Fisher of Gratiot County and Brian Benedict of Eaton County.

Gladwin County Member Receives Life Membership



Paul Lange accepts a lifetime membership in the Gladwin County Farm Bureau from Fritz Klieboneit, county president.

"Very Important Pioneer" was the designation given to a Gladwin County Farm Bureau couple during the MFB annual meeting in Grand

Rapids. Paul & Laura Lange of Beaverton, who were earlier honored at the Gladwin County annual meeting with a life membership, were also recognized by the state organization for being a Farm Bureau family for nearly 66 years.

The Langes were among the special guests at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual banquet on Dec. 2, and again at a District 8 breakfast the next morning where Paul was presented with a gold pen.

He joined Farm Bureau in 1917 in Champaign, Illinois. He moved to Mt. Pleasant in 1939, then back to Illinois in 1951. He and Laura moved to Gladwin County in 1961 where he has remained actively involved in Farm Bureau.

Harvest Time for Membership January 1 - March 1

Renew your membership in the nation's largest farm organization and continue to reap the benefits.

For more information contact your county Farm Bureau secretary.



FARM BUREAU MARKET PLACE

FARM EQUIPMENT

For Sale: Used Storage Tanks. 6000 to 20,000 gallon capacity. Vertical or horizontal. Phone 616-798-1805. (8-6t-15p-ts)

For Sale: 1974 International Tractor 966. 20.8-34 tires; 2,400 hours, cab, heater, 100 hp diesel. Very good condition. Call 517-764-4383. (11-3t-20p)

Wanted: New Idea single and narrow row cornpickers, New Holland forage harvesters and Ford tractors. H.C.E.C., Inc. We pay cash. 517-523-2803. (7-12t-22p-ts)

1979 JD 2840D tractor, 1975 JD 4400D combine, 4-row Lilliston cultivator, JD 3-16 plow. Call 313-662-6636. (1-17p-ts)

Farrowing Stalls - All steel \$154.32. Includes feeder-waterer, top rail, rump rail. Weighs 196 lbs. Free literature. Starr National, 219 Main, Colchester, IL 62326. 309-776-3446. (1-24p-ts)

FARM EQUIPMENT

"ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN FARM TRACTORS." Covers tractors from 1800s to 1979, 352 large pages, 1,500 photos, \$28.95. "150 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL HARVESTOR," covers all tractors and equipment, 2,000 photos, 416 pages, \$28.95. SPECIAL! Both above hard leatherette books, \$49.95 postpaid. Diamond Farm Book Publishers, Dept. MFN, Box 537, Alexandria Bay, NY 13607. Phone 613-475-1771. (1-53t-ts)

LIVESTOCK

Wanted Holstein Helpers - will purchase any quantity good quality, well-bred, fresh or springing helpers, B/W or R/W, registered or grade. 517-423-5831. (12-2t-22p)

Dieterie Corriedales "give shear pleasure." Four bred ewes, choice of flock. 313-429-7874. (1-2t-12p)

LIVESTOCK

Milking Shorthorns: Young bulls, yearlings and calves for sale. Write or visit Stanley M. Powell and Family, Ingleside Farm, Route 2, 3248 Powell Hwy., Ionia, Mich. 48846. (10-6t-12p)

Dairy Cow Leasing Service - Increase profits of your dairy herd by leasing additional good quality, young Holstein cows. Reserve early to assure availability. 517-423-5831. (12-2t-24p)

Top quality poultry at reasonable prices. Chicks for eggs, meat or novelty. Also Guineas, Goslings, Ducks, Turkeys. Picture brochure 50¢. Country Hatchery, Wewoka, Oklahoma 74884. (1-6t-24p-ts)

Corriedale sheep breeding stock. 313-429-7874. (1-12t-5p)

Free catalog, wholesale prices, Reds, Cornish Cross, Barred Rocks, White Rocks, Sexlinks, Leghorns, Turkeys, Ducks. Reich Poultry Farms, RD1, Marietta, Pennsylvania 17547. (1-6t-21p-ts)

Flock of registered Suffolk ewes. Bred to lamb in January-February. 35 ewes, 1 buck, 10 ewe lambs. Good production, young - MSU and Heltz breeding. 517-655-2995. (1-27p)

Purebred Hampshire boars. Byron Waddell, Charlotte. 517-543-3415. (1-7p)

Bantams - 14 breeds, Black Silkies, White Silkies, Golden Sebrights, Silver Sebrights, Cochins, Cornish, Araucanas and others. Also standard and rare breed chickens. Free catalog. Grain Belt Hatchery, Box 125-6, Windsor, Missouri 65360. (1-6t-32p-ts)

DOGS

Sheltie Pups (Miniature Collie). All colors. Ardyth Schroeder, 7080 Billmyer Hwy., Tecumseh, Mich. 49286. 517-423-3069. (12-2t-15p)

FOR HOMEMAKERS

Nutall Quart each pecan halves, pecan pieces, walnuts. Three-quart sampler, \$14.95 postpaid!!! Canecreek Farm, Box 2727-MF, Cookeville, TN 38501. (2-12t-20p-ts)

MISCELLANEOUS

Why Die Without a Will? Two legal "will forms" and easy instructions. Only \$4... Order Today! Guaranteed! TY-Company, Box 752-MF, Pryor, OK 74361. (1-6t-22p-ts)

"Conquer Harmful Anger 100 Ways." Win love, health, power, security. Vernon Howard Booklet. \$2. NEWLIFE, Box 684-AQ, Boulder City, Nevada 89005. (9-6t-20p-ts)

1001 free things, worth hundreds of dollars, simply by asking. Directory \$3.00. Dry cleans clothing for only 10¢ per garment; amazing new product \$2.50 each package, 3 just \$5.00. How to live longer, book \$4.00. Order from: ZIQ, Box 651 (MFBJ), Maplewood, NJ 07040. (1-42p-ts)

MISCELLANEOUS

"Ju-Ai" soft, knit Ostomy Pouch Cover - made by an Ostomate for your comfort and peace of mind. Economical and easy to care for. "Ju-Ai" Appliance Covers, Route 1, Box 150, Springtown, Texas 76082. (11-4t-33p-ts)

Fen Pals nationwide! Service for "Country Lovin'" single people. Lists available. Details - Box 593RL, Appleton, Wisc. 54912. (12-2t-17p-ts)

Save \$400: Cookware, extra heavy 19 piece stainless steel sold through in-home demonstration at \$595. Now available direct only \$189.95. Only 100 sets from bankruptcy. Order now to avoid disappointment. 100% refund if returned within 10 days unused in original condition. Send check, money order, Visa or Mastercard number and expiration date. Yankee Trader, 4600 Stein Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48105. \$1 for brochure. (12-6t-65p-ts)

Book Sale! Hardcover, \$1.00 each! Over 400 titles: fiction, western, mystery, Children's series books and classics. Two 20-cent stamps for list. Glenn Smith, Box 1513, Akron, Ohio 44309. (12-2t-28p-ts)

Wanted: Fire, police and medical patches. Any business, co-op or service. Can purchase. Mike Starr, EMT-A, P.O. Box 101, Hadley, Mich. 48440. (1-22p)

Little calico or gingham cloth houses cover tissue boxes. Boutique size, \$7 p.p.; regular size, \$8 p.p. Your choice color. Send check or money order to Sue A. Teichman, 1371 S. Aiken Road, Owosso, Mich. 48867. (1-31p)

Pure maple syrup and syrup maker's supplies. Dodd's Sugar Shack, Niles. 616-683-3283 evenings. (11t-13p-ts)

\$10,000 possible positively in two weeks or less! Remarkable but factual! Details \$1.00 plus self-addressed, stamped envelope. KNOW Publications, 1460 Patterson Road, Midland, Mich. 48640. (1-26p)

REAL ESTATE

Selling A Farm? Wanted: Dairy - Beef - Hog - Cash Crop - Horse - Poultry - Orchards and Berry farms in Tuscola, Bay, Huron, Sanilac, Lapeer. From \$100,000 to \$1,000,000, can be stocked and equipped. See, write, call United Farm Agency - National Brokers, 1764 M-24, Caro, Mich. 48723. Phone 517-673-6888. (10-5t-45p-ts)

Three bedroom modular manufactured in 1979 by Active Homes, used as summer residence. Excellent condition. Must be sold and moved to settle estate. Price \$21,300 includes set up on your foundation. For particulars: Penta, 2595 Williams Road, Petoskey, Mich. 49770. (11-6t-38p-ts)

For Sale - Investment and income property! 30 acres - blueberry farm in excellent producing condition. Home-packing shed - irrigation equipment and pond - farm machinery. Phone 616-924-0229. Maxson's Blueberry Farm, 6540 W. 92nd St., Fremont, Mich. 49412. (1-2t-21p)

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

Members pay 10¢ per word for non-commercial ads and 15¢ per word for ads which promote a commercial business other than agriculture. All other advertisers pay 20¢ per word for one insertion and 15¢ per word for two or more consecutive insertions.

The deadline for advertisements is the **first Monday of the month preceding publication** and the publisher has the right to reject any advertising copy submitted. **All ads must be pre-paid** and may be pre-paid up to one year in advance. Please indicate if you are a Farm Bureau member. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to re-insert the ad on a month-by-month or year-by-year basis.

Send ads to Rural Living, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909. No ads will be taken over the phone.

Name _____

Address _____

☐ Farm Bureau member. ☐ Non-member

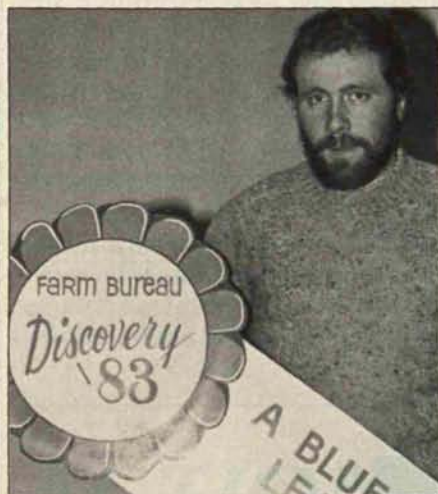
Run the following ad in the _____ issue(s):

Words _____ Insertions _____ Total Due _____

Eaton County Young Farmer Selected in Discovery '83 Drawing

Brian Benedict, a cash crop farmer and maple syrup producer from Vermontville in Eaton County, will have the opportunity to hone his already-sharp farm management skills at Discovery '83.

Benedict, who was one of the four finalists in this year's "Distinguished Young Farmer" contest, stopped by the Discovery '83 exhibit at the MFB annual meeting and filled out a request for details on the seminar. A drawing from the request slips at the close of the annual meeting won Benedict a free day at the March 9-11 "Management/Business/Personal Skill-Building Seminar for Farm Families."



BRIAN BENEDICT

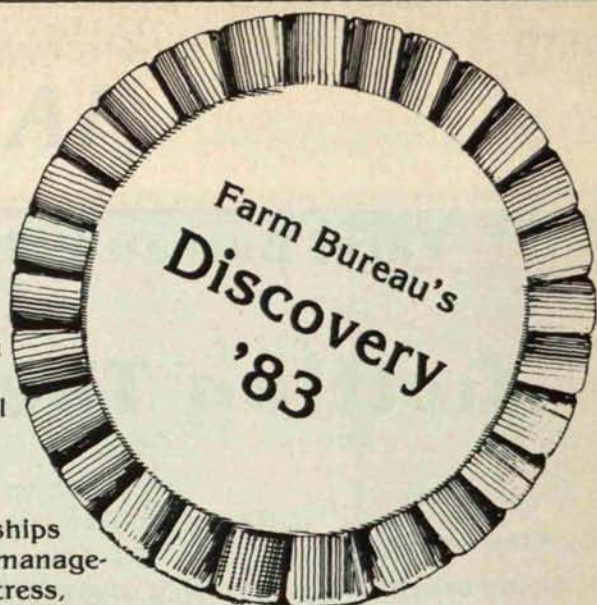
Scheduled for Flint's Hyatt Regency, the seminar will offer Benedict and other participants a broad choice of classes with top-notch instructors. The statewide commodity conference and a computer show will

be held in conjunction with Discovery '83. The class schedule will include beginning, intermediate and advanced marketing; interpersonal relationships in farm partnerships; management of taxes, debt, stress, time and personal finances; preparing for retirement; handling conflict constructively; and motivational management.

According to Discovery '83 chairperson Larry R. Ewing, director of MFB's Information & Public Relations Division, although the seminar is patterned after last year's successful Discovery '82, many new instructors and classes have been added to the agenda.

"We expect many of the Discovery '82 participants to sign up for Discovery '83," he said. "We've used their evaluations to strengthen some areas and added new classes based on their suggestions. It will be a blue-ribbon learning experience for repeaters as well as first-timers."

MFB commodity advisory committee members will begin their sessions at 10:30 a.m. on Wed., March 9, with Discovery '83 officially kicked off at a noon luncheon. "Markets - do they affect management?" will be the topic of the first speaker, Dr. Charles VanEaton, Hillsdale College economist. Management classes start at 3:30 p.m. that afternoon and continue to 9 p.m. with a break for dinner.



On Thursday, classes will run throughout the day. The dinner speaker that evening will be Dr. Barrie Richardson, a motivational speaker from Hope College, on "The Magic of the Mind." A general assembly following the dinner program will include an introduction to computerized management and a computer show will give participants an opportunity for hands-on experiences.

Friday will be "computer day" at the seminar, with adjournment set for 1 p.m.

A brochure with complete class schedules, course descriptions, instructors, speakers, costs and registration forms will be available soon. For this information, write Discovery '83, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909.

Farm Bureau Volunteer Communicators

Getting Their Act Together

By Mike Rogers

"Stand by," the floor director yells. There's a flurry of last second activity in the television studio as cameramen position their equipment and technicians adjust microphones and videotape recorders. The director sweeps his arm in a wide arc and ends up pointing at the hostess of the TV program.

"Good morning," says Martha Thuemmel, "and welcome to another edition of 'Farm and Garden.'"

For Thuemmel, a big city TV studio is quite a change from the milking parlor of her dairy farm in Port Austin. How she moved from milk to microphones is the story of a unique communications project recently developed by Farm Bureau and WNEM-Channel 5 television in Saginaw.

Background

Although WNEM broadcasts to one of the most populated television markets in the country (serving, through broadcast and cable, over 1,300,000 homes), the station also serves one of

Michigan's richest farming areas — the Saginaw Valley and Thumb.

WNEM, like all television stations in the United States, is required to provide a portion of their broadcast time for "public service." This public service time should, ideally, reflect the type of population in the television station's viewing area. For a number of years WNEM has committed a block of time each week to a program designed to serve its many farm viewers.

Most recently, the WNEM-TV farm show was coordinated by Ron Beech, director of the Midland County Cooperative Extension Service. However, last summer Beech informed WNEM that he could no longer produce the program.

That's where Farm Bureau came in. In September, WNEM program director Terry Dolan contacted Michigan Farm Bureau. Would Farm Bureau be interested in taking over the production and coordination of the WNEM farm show? After a series of meetings between MFB personnel and county Farm Bureau presidents from the WNEM viewing area, MFB was able to give Dolan a resounding answer to the question — yes!



Martha Thuemmel, "Farm and Garden" hostess, prepares for the cameras to roll on the FB weekly program on WNEM-TV.

LIGHTS! CAMERA!

How to Organize a TV Show

Seven county Farm Bureaus agreed to take on the responsibility of organizing and coordinating a regular farm show for WNEM. The Midland, Bay, Huron, Tuscola, Gratiot, Sanilac and Saginaw County Farm Bureaus each appointed one or more Farm Bureau members to serve on a Channel 5 TV coordinating committee.

Committee members are Maria Sandow of Midland, Reuben Pruetz of Bay City, Marvin Kociba of Harbor Beach, Mark & Rachel Schlefer of Vassar, Rhonda Fisher of Breckenridge, Betty Shaver of Wheeler, Geraldine Smith of Snover and Bonnie Vasold of Saginaw.

The first task facing the committee was: Who should host the show? After consulting with WNEM and MFB staff, the committee interviewed interested farmers in order to find a person to co-host the show along with Mike Rogers, manager of MFB's Broadcast Services Department. The person they selected was Martha Thuemmel, a farm wife from Huron County.

The next job for the committee was deciding how to structure the show and what kinds of



Mike Rogers shares host responsibilities with Martha Thuemmel on the early morning "Farm and Garden" show.

information it should contain. WNEM offered the use of a cameraman twice a month to videotape "on the scene" stories from around the region, so the committee decided to schedule a segment of the show to report stories and events from the participating counties. Other portions of the program were set aside for farm news, home and garden advice, the week's weather forecast, upcoming events and an in-studio interview.

The nine members of the coordinating committee were asked to serve as "county correspondents," responsible for surfacing stories from their counties. They arranged interview times, worked with the WNEM cameraman to produce the stories and actually appeared "on-the-air" doing the interviews.

Finally, the committee discussed a number of possible program titles. They decided on "Farm and Garden," to reflect the dual purpose of the program: communicating with both consumers and farmers.

ACTION!

Farm Bureau on-the-Air

The first "Farm and Garden" show went on the air Oct. 26 and featured a report by Maria Sandow from the pumpkin farm of Clay & Linda Maxwell near

Beaverton. Other programs since then have included visits to a sugar beet farm, the Pigeon Co-op, an apple farm, a Christmas tree operation, a turkey farm, and a boat being loaded with soybeans at the Michigan Elevator Exchange terminal in Saginaw.

Guests who have appeared on the show include Harold Wood,

vice president of Michigan Milk Producers; John Knoerr, chairperson of the MFB Sugar Commodity Advisory Committee; and Gary Albright, chairperson of the Michigan Soybean Committee.

Volunteer and Viewer Ratings: Excellent

"I was very nervous about doing the first couple of shows," Thuemmel remembers. "But, it's been a real growth opportunity for me."

The show now airs every Wednesday morning from 6 a.m. to 6:25 a.m.

Checking the Ratings

"We are committed to public service programming and we are pleased with the 'Farm and Garden' show," says John Haupricht, production manager for WNEM-TV. "It works out real well using the county Farm Bureau volunteers as 'reporters' out in the country, and we think the show is a good communications vehicle."

"The reaction to the show has been real good in Midland County," according to Maria Sandow. "Our members feel the show is a good public relations tool for telling city viewers about farming." Sandow also enjoys serving as a TV reporter. "It has given me more opportunities than I ever dreamed for learning more about other people and Farm Bureau."

"The people I've talked to think the show is painting a good image of farmers and farm people," says Reuben Pruetz. "They wonder where we get the talent!"

"It's very informative and interesting," says Rachel Schiefer. "I'm especially interested in the different types of farming that are shown on the program."

"The program has been very successful and well received in Huron County," says Marvin Kociba. "I'm very enthusiastic about all the potential it has for bringing the farm-message to our urban neighbors. We farmers are only about 2½ percent of the total population now, and if we want to inform the other 97½ percent, we have to tell the story ourselves."

The show has given me more opportunity than I ever dreamed for learning more about other people and Farm Bureau.

"I think the show is an excellent opportunity, personally, for a new challenge, while at the same time actively promoting agriculture," says Geraldine Smith. "The show gives us an opportunity to become more knowledgeable about other kinds of commodities and the problems involved in raising them. Also, the program informs consumers about what's involved in farming, what farmers are like and where food comes from."

Other Farm Bureau Television Efforts

The "Farm and Garden" show is not the first Farm Bureau effort in the world of television. Deni Hooper of the Northwest Farm Bureau has produced a regular farm show for WPBN-TV in Traverse City since 1968.

That show is coordinated by a regional Farm Bureau advisory panel and airs every Wednesday morning at 6:15 a.m.

Cable television has also been fertile ground for Farm Bureau broadcast efforts. The Ingham County Young Farmer Committee has produced the "Country Cornucopia" program on the Continental Cablevision system in Lansing and the Washtenaw County Women's Committee has produced the "Fabulous Food Machine" program on the Ann Arbor cablevision system for several years.

Growing and Learning

Farm Bureau is often admired as a growth organization that offers opportunities for its members to improve personally and professionally. The "Farm and Garden" project certainly lives up to that expectation.

The growth in Martha Thuemmel from a nervous beginner to a poised TV hostess... the growth of the county correspondents as they learned the intricacies of on-location TV interviews... the growth in the sophistication and professionalism of the "Farm and Garden" show... and the growth of the Farm Bureau image in the eyes of the WNEM-TV viewing audience, all prove that a group of talented, committed Farm Bureau volunteers can "make it happen!"

Mandatory Acreage Reduction Analyzed for Market Impact

Proposals to require a mandatory 25% reduction in acreage in 1983 have gained increased attention as economic conditions have deteriorated in grains. This policy approach was analyzed for the 1983-84 and 1984-85 crop years assuming a 25% reduction for each year from the base acreages for corn and wheat. Since soybeans do not have a base, acreage was cut 25% from the 72.3 million acres planted in 1982.

Quite obviously, production and stocks were cut for all crops, usage declined and prices rose, but the degree of change varied considerably by crop.

Corn prices, supplies and use were quite responsive to the acreage reduction. Carryover supplies declined from 3.3 billion bushels at the end of the 1982-83 crop year to 2.1 billion bushels at the end of the 1983-84 crop and 1.3 billion bushels at the end of the 1984-85 crop year.

Farmer-held reserve stocks declined from 2.2 billion bushels to 400 million bushels and CCC inventories declined from 450 million bushels to 150 million bushels. Prices rose from an average of \$2.44 per bushel in 1982-83 to \$3.00 per bushel in 1983-84 and \$3.39 per bushel in 1984-85.

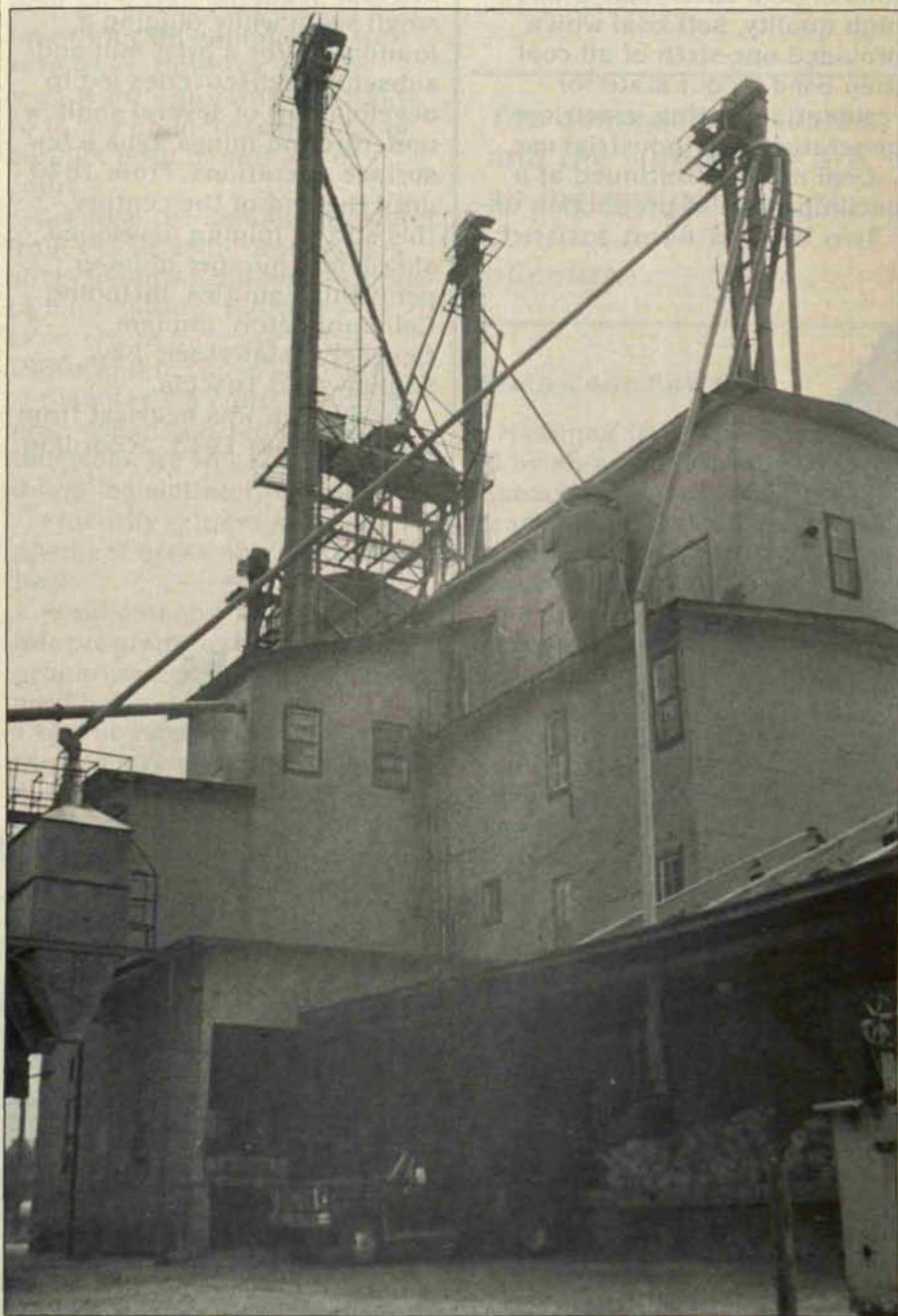
Corn usage also dropped, from 7.4 billion bushels in 1982-83 to 6.8 billion bushels by 1984-85. About two-thirds of this decline came in domestic feed use and one-third came in exports. This decline in usage would likely continue into

1985-86 as livestock producers in the U.S. and in major feed-grain importing countries adjust to higher feed prices.

With usage falling the only option open for 1985-86 would

be continuation of at least a 20% corn acreage reduction. If yields are higher or use lower than expected, an acreage reduction of 25% or 30% may be needed in future years.

The 25% mandatory acreage reduction in wheat would give
(continued on page 28)



Strip Mining

If you recall growing up in a household warmed with coal, then it is likely that Michigan coal was burned in your home at one time or another. Coal mining was once a thriving industry in Michigan. In fact, back in 1906, there were 37 mines operating in our state, turning out around 2 million tons of coal each year. It was high quality, soft coal which provided one-sixth of all coal then used by our state for residential heating, electrical generation and industrial use.

Coal mining continued at a declining rate of production un-

til 1952, when the last deep mine then operating at St. Charles closed.

An open pit mine operated briefly at Williamston in 1974 and 1975, but since then there has been no commercial production of coal in our state.

Michigan coal was first discovered in Jackson County in 1835. Workmen found a small seam while digging a foundation for a grist mill and subsequent discoveries led to development of several shallow underground mines, plus a few surface operations. From 1840 until the end of the century, this sort of mining developed slowly in a number of lower peninsula counties, including Calhoun, Eaton, Ingham, Genesee, Shiawassee, Bay, Saginaw and Tuscola.

Production was heaviest from 1890 to about 1915, according

to statewide records that were kept from 1860 until the Swan Creek Mine in St. Charles closed in 1952. A total of more than 46 million tons were produced from 160 mines. The average life of these mines was six to eight years, after which they would be blasted shut and operations moved to a new location. These mines were located 100 to 300 feet underground; the average depth was 110 feet.

Today, interest centers around surface mining — removal of all earth materials lying above coal so that fuel can be taken out of the pit by the use of surface operating trucks and loaders.

The shallow depth of Michigan's coal seams makes surface mining a reasonable possibility. Our coal deposits were laid down in a geological structure known as the Michigan Coal Basin about 280 million years ago.

In some places, the overburden of soil and rock is only a few feet thick, but in others, it's 800 feet or more. The coal seams also vary, ranging from only a few inches thick up to

(continued on page 34)

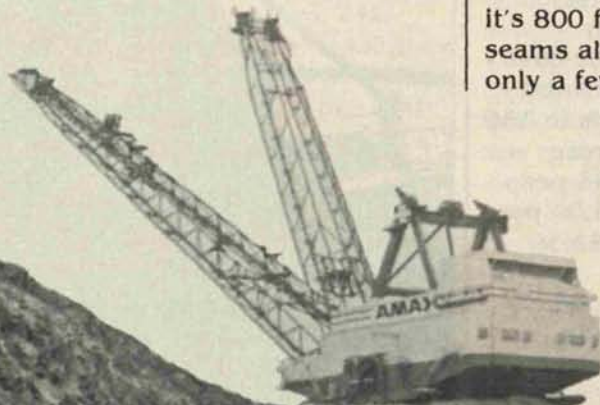


Photo by Cathy J. Kiruan

Policies . . .

(continued from page 15)

any regulatory actions that would restrict the farmers ability to produce poultry and livestock at an economically feasible level.

Michigan Farm Bureau should continue to communicate and provide leadership with state livestock, poultry and other groups to discuss and coordinate action on this issue.

The first edition of "A Humane Education Curriculum Guide: People and Animals," developed by a division of the Humane Society of the United States for pre-school and elementary school children, is now being distributed on a national basis. Additionally, it has been introduced in at least one of Michigan's rural counties. The guide was prepared by individuals with little or no agricultural background, discourages the consumption of meat and the use of other animal products or by-products and equates animals directly with humans.



Animal welfare concerns continue to be a key policy issue for delegates.

Farm Bureau should work on all levels to prevent the use of this guide, in its present form, in our school systems. Members should be encouraged to take an active role in their local schools, humane societies and other community organizations. Members should continue to develop programs that will expose consumers to production practices and create positive publicity for their industry.

Water Rights

Agriculture is highly dependent on water. Michigan is well known for its abundant water resources. However, the demands for water and the rights to it, are an increasing area of conflict both in and out of court.

Because the demand for water from the three largest sectors of Michigan's economy — industry, agriculture, tourism — is expected to increase in the 1980s and because settlement of disputes via court action is slow, expensive, tedious and uncertain, we will support enabling legislation that would:

- Identify critical water management areas on a watershed basis.
- Implement a water-use permit program for surface and groundwater on a critical water area basis.
- Allow establishment of minimum in-stream flow standards and/or maximum groundwater withdrawal rates to protect the natural resources of the state from pollution, impairment and destruction.
- Clarify that commercial agricultural irrigation for food and fiber production is in the public interest and is a reasonable use of water.
- Allow interbasin transfer of irrigation water and modify the severance rule by permitting ir-

rigation water on land which is immediately contiguous and adjacent to lands which touch lakes, streams or other water-courses so long as such land is held in the ownership of a single individual or other legal person and is held for the purpose of agricultural production of food and fiber.

- Clarify that the riparian rights doctrine is applicable to groundwater.

Michigan Farm Bureau should aggressively communicate the growing need for enabling legislation to implement these recommendations.

The demands for water and the rights to it are an increasing area of conflict both in and out of court.

Drain Code Revision

Michigan farmland is enhanced by an adequate and well-managed drainage system. Nearly 12 million acres of Michigan farmland require drainage to produce food, feed and fiber.

We support the amendments recommended by the Michigan Department of Agriculture Drain Code Task Force, which would retain authority for administration of the Drain Code in the Department of Agriculture. The recommended revisions in the Drain Code which would benefit agriculture include but are not limited to the following:

- Provide access to the minority of landowners in petitioning for a drain.
- Require uniform construction standards to minimize negative public opinion aspects of

Policies . . .

(continued from page 27)

drain construction and maintenance.

- Encourage a program by local governmental units to manage stormwater coming from urban areas in a manner compatible with overall watershed needs.

- Provide for the establishment of a fund for annual maintenance work on each new drain constructed or in existence as of a specified date. The fund would be established by an annual assessment of landowners

benefiting from the drain with provision for exempting a landowner from the assessment if he voluntarily maintains that portion of a drain on his property.

The Drain Code should be limited to drainage issues and not include other issues such as water rights or irrigation.

Drainage laws in other nearby states provide for routine maintenance which benefits agricul-

ture specifically and the community in general.

We believe that all revisions to the Drain Code should be limited to drainage issues and not include other issues such as water rights, irrigation or any other water issues.

Coal Strip Mining

Coal deposits are located in at least 24 counties in the Central and Thumb Regions of Michigan. Exploration for coal in Michigan will depend on several factors including depth and thickness of the deposit, quality, economics and energy

(continued on page 30)

Acreage Reduction Analysis

(continued from page 25)

only a modest price response with prices averaging \$3.87 in 1982-83, \$4.14 in 1983-84 and \$4.24 in 1984-85. Stocks decline only modestly from 1.45 billion bushels at the end of the 1982-83 marketing year to 1.2 billion bushels at the end of the 1984-85 marketing year.

Domestic use would weaken some due to less livestock feeding and exports would decline about 150 million bushels from the 1981-82 record year of 1.773 billion bushels.

The 25% cut in soybean acreage would leave soybean stocks about unchanged at the 350 million bushel level. Soybean and soybean product usage is fairly responsive to price changes and the production reduction is offset by lower use. Prices are pulled higher by the smaller production and strength in corn prices with

soybeans averaging \$5.61 per bushel in 1982-83, \$7.36 in 1983-84 and \$7.75 in 1984-85.

The only crop that would benefit from the 25% mandatory set-aside in terms of sharply lowering carryover stocks would be corn. This is due mostly to the huge crops of 1981 and 1982. If our estimates of the use reduction due to higher corn prices are too low, then stocks would decline less than our estimates show.

Both corn and soybeans have significantly stronger market prices with the acreage reduction, the soybean prices due mostly to the lower corn supplies.

The impact of the mandatory acreage cut is limited for three reasons.

- Yields on the acres actually planted are higher because the poorest land is left idle and the remaining acreage is farmed more intensively.

- The programs already announced by USDA will provide for about a 10-15% acreage reduction from normal plantings.

- The acreage cut does not strengthen U.S. or world demand for U.S. products.

Except for corn, our problems have been caused more by poor demand and the use of reserve programs to support prices rather than production. To the extent that the 25% acreage cut strengthens prices, usage is reduced and markets are lost, requiring larger acreage cuts and more government involvement in succeeding years.

This analysis does not deal with the questions of enforcing acreage controls; the capitalization of higher commodity prices into farmland prices; the problem of young farmer entry into crops where allotments are in effect; and the proposed, but not yet finalized, payment-in-kind program (PIK).

The analysis does illustrate the problem with farm policies which have encouraged stockpiling in an effort to bolster prices in the face of declining inflation and reduced domestic and export usage.

Letters to Rural Living

(continued from page 17)

day seminar with class in the morning and demonstration in the afternoon. The seminar covered everything from extrication from farm machinery to hazardous atmospheres.

We were excited to have such an overwhelming response from rescue personnel. Over 200 persons attended, representing 41 EMT units. They came from as far south as Hastings and as far north as Traverse City. I believe this demonstrates the genuine interest that rescuers have in improving their effectiveness in any emergency rescue situation - including the special conditions of a farm accident.

There is a continued interest in our area for a program of this type. In fact, the Kent County Sheriff's Department has requested another seminar this coming spring. I also received several requests for information about the seminars at the state annual meeting.

This is an excellent project for Young Farmer Committees. The need and the interest for this type of program is there - all that is needed is for the farm community to initiate the planning and support.

Craig Schweitzer, Chairperson
Young Farmer Committee
Kent County Farm Bureau

(Editor's Note: Assistance for county FBs interested in sponsoring an Ag Accident Rescue Seminar is available from Ron Gaskill, MFB Public Affairs Division, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909; or phone 517-323-7000, ext. 559.)

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Policies . . .

(continued from page 28)

needs. Much of the coal deposits lay under highly productive farmland which is under contract to P.A. 116. The decision of whether to terminate a P.A. 116 contract must be considered on an individual case-by-case basis.

We recommend that coal strip mining not take place on land under contract to P.A. 116 unless all of the following are met:

• Coal as an energy source is critically needed.

• Research on Michigan farmland is completed to determine if the original productivity can be restored.

• Technology is upgraded to speed up the reclamation of farmland to its original productivity.

Agricultural Impact Statement

Whenever a proposed project in an agricultural area requires an Environmental Impact Statement, we recommend that an Economic Impact Statement and an Agricultural Impact Statement also be required.

Highway Finance

We are concerned over the rapid deterioration of Michigan's highway system including state, county, and local roads and bridges.

Studies show that over one-third of all bridges are deficient. Many heavily traveled roads are deficient or obsolete.

County Road Commissions have severely curtailed operations. Most counties lack funds to match available federal allocations and have eliminated road improvements using township matching funds. Most counties are unable to repair road surfaces, replace worn out

equipment, maintain snow and ice control, gravel roads and other routine functions. Only one third of normal resurfacing, resealing and equipment replacement is being done.

This has resulted from a combination of skyrocketing construction costs and declining revenues.

Declining revenues result from more people sharing rides or van-pooling, smaller and more fuel efficient cars, less driving, and lighter cars.

One study showed that the average person paid \$5 per year less in gas taxes than five years ago.

Michigan's road revenue system is based on "user taxes." Each person pays his share according to his "use" of the road system.

Agriculture, tourism and industry are dependent on a good road system. An MSU transportation study showed that grain production will increase throughout Michigan until the year 2000. This means an even greater dependence upon our highway system.

With the numerous railroad abandonments, agriculture becomes more dependent on roads for the delivery of food and fiber to market and for production inputs coming to the farm.

We support:

- "User Taxes" for revenue for road purposes. We must not revert to the property tax, special assessments or money from the General Fund as a means of building and maintaining state roads.

- Any increase in fuel taxes should be flexible and recognize increasing costs but should have a ceiling.

- Increasing the present weight fee for passenger cars 15%. Increasing commercial vehicle fees 30%.

- Maintain the present "90-10" allocation of funds to comply with the constitutional provision approved by the voters in 1978.

- Maintain the present cost relationship of farm licenses and registrations. Any new revenue package should contain an expiration date.

Michigan is not alone in this road dilemma. More than 29 states have increased their taxes for transportation during the last two years, and at least six more now have increases under consideration.

There are needs for new processing plants for livestock, fruit and vegetables, soybeans and cheese, all of which would create jobs.

Workers' Compensation

Historically, Workers' Compensation insurance costs have been a major contributor to Michigan's unfavorable business climate. We commend the governor and the Legislature for the reforms enacted in 1980 and 1981.

While it is necessary to obtain experience with the recently reformed system, there is a serious problem that affects many self-employed and others who contract for services with self-employed contractors. For example, many woodlot owners and self-employed wood producers find that buyers refuse to purchase their products. This is due to unclear definitions and unusual interpretations of the Workers' Compensation law

resulting in possible liability. Farmers and others also face such liability when contracting with other self-employed persons.

We strongly support legislation to change Workers' Compensation laws to clarify the unusual interpretations that result in the passing through of Workers' Compensation liability to a purchaser of goods and/or services from private firms or individuals who do not provide Workers' Compensation insurance coverage for their employees or themselves.

Unemployment Compensation

Michigan's debt to the federal government for this program is over \$2.2 billion.

The federal penalty and payment begins in January 1983 which will place an additional penalty tax on employers of \$18 per employee payable by the end of January 1983. This could rise to \$162 per year by 1991. The interest on the debt is now over \$80 million and could increase to nearly \$200 million by fiscal 1985. Compared with other major states, Michigan has the highest average weekly benefits, federal debt, tax rate on taxable payroll, etc.

It is obvious that this problem must be solved to prevent a further decline in Michigan's business image. New job creating businesses cannot be attracted to our state and be faced with this employer debt burden.

This is as important to agriculture as to any other segment of the economy. There are needs for new processing plants for livestock, fruit and vegetables, soybeans and cheese, all of which would create jobs.

There are several reforms that should be considered including:

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reinstitute the waiting week, freeze present maximum benefits, increase qualifying weeks from 18 to 20, increase tax rates, increase wage base, employee contributions, debt interest paid by state, special solvency tax on "negative balance" employers, etc.

Any solution will require a good faith cooperative effort on the part of employer groups, labor organizations and the executive, legislative and judicial branches of state government.

Michigan agriculture has much at stake as farmers must compete in the U.S. and world markets. Therefore, we continue to believe that coverage required for agriculture continue to be the same as provided by the Federal Unemployment Act.

We further believe that since under federal law full time students are not eligible to receive unemployment benefits, their wages should not be included in the federal base.

We will work to assist in the solution to this most important problem. One thing is clear, Michigan must become competitive with other states.

Legislative Reform

Michigan is one of only six states with a full-time Legislature. The Legislature conducts a legislative session throughout the year. We support a limited legislative session not to exceed six months.

The pay scale of elected officials should be commensurate with the duties and responsibilities of the office. Sufficient pay to attract a high quality individual who is interested in properly representing the district is important. The salary level of legislators in states of similar size and make-up should also be considered.

We recommend that if an elected official is convicted of a

felony while serving in elected public office, the individual should be removed from office and be denied any benefits which were earned by virtue of the office held at the time the felony was committed.

Job Retraining

The unemployment rate in Michigan is projected to be above the national average for the next few years. Job retraining programs will be necessary to help many of the unemployed find new employment. We support legislation that would initiate a job retraining program to encourage agriculture and industry to hire the unemployed and initiate "on-the-job" training. We believe such a job retraining program should include a learner permit provision that allows persons 18 years old and over to obtain a learner permit and work for an employer at less than the state minimum wage, for a period that is sufficient enough to provide effective on-the-job retraining. We recognize that such a program could be abused and that such legislation needs to protect both employers and employees.

Legislative Review

(continued from page 7)

GATT Conference - Commenting on the 88-nation GATT conference in Geneva, AFBF President Robert Delano said the U.S. should meet the increasing emphasis of foreign subsidies by confrontation and retaliation.

He suggested counter-subsidies utilizing U.S. carryover stocks to recover market margins lost to subsidized European producers. Delano said he expects full support of this course of action from the president and Congress.

Members Honored

(continued from page 13)

five star winners in the competition for the title of "Top County Farm Bureau" in 1982.

Chippewa's gold stars were for local affairs, policy development, policy execution, commodity activities and information. Chippewa also earned silver stars for women's activities and the member to member program.

Macomb County earned gold stars for community action groups, information, local affairs, policy development and policy execution.

AgriPac 'Booster' Awards Presented

At the 1982 AgriPac Breakfast, leaders in MFB's political action activities were presented with plaques designating them as AgriPac "Boosters of the Year."

Presentations were made to Neal Sanford, Jackson County FB president; Karen Weidmayer, chairperson, Washtenaw County FB Women's Committee; Betty Laurie, chairperson, District 6 FB Women; Glenn Preston, 1982 chairperson, MFB Young Farmer Committee; and to Vivian Lott, 1982 chairperson, MFB Women's Committee.

Country Ledger

(continued from page 5)

roduce themselves to it. They have positive power for winning.

When I was 10 years old, I was your basic tomboy, which was kind of nice for my dad since he didn't have a son. Nice for me, too, otherwise I might have missed some important lessons about winning. He might have

let me play dolls while my "brother" learned to hit a home run.

When he taught me to take my "at bats" aggressively, I was a slow learner. He kept hollering at me to *step into that ball*. I didn't know what he was talking about until he showed me. When he swung the bat, I saw that he stepped forward to meet the ball and that increased the power of the swing. You're not static anymore; you're stepping right into it and taking hold of the power you've got and then boom, it's a homer!

Meeting a challenge is one thing, but to walk up to it and say, "How do you do? My name is Jane Brown. Let's see what we can get done here. . . ." that's stepping into the ball; and the big attitudinal difference between winners and losers and the "go-alongers." It's the same for an organization and FB people have got to be congratulated for stepping into a challenge.

You are an impressive group because you refuse to remain a static organization. Whether it's developing policy for your farm organization or involvement in your own rural communities, you are ready to act dynamically.

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Discussion Topic: Strip Mining

(continued from page 26)

seven feet or more. The entire basin is tilted as well, sloping downward towards the center of the lower peninsula, but lying closer on the surface on its southern and eastern portions.

About one-third of the total basin lies within 50 to 100 feet of the surface, and it is this coal that is now the target of surface mining. State officials predict surface mining could begin on private land in southern Michigan at any time.

Coal companies are now investigating Michigan and some are betting that they can make a reasonable profit surface mining our state's reserves of fuel.

Despite handling problems, environmental restraints, land restoration requirements and other controls that will cost producers heavily, it will still be cheaper for electrical generating plants to buy and use coal than to use oil and natural gas.

Also, the future supply of domestic coal is a much safer bet for America against a cutoff of foreign oil supplies. Consequently, there appears to be no question that Michigan coal will be surface mined and entered into the U.S. energy market. The major questions remaining are: Where will this mining take place? How extensive would it be? What impacts will be allowed on Michigan's land surface, air and water resources?

Surface mining in Michigan has such a bad reputation that any suggestion of the method brings mental pictures of barren craters, upending eroded slopes of worthless land, polluted streams and angry neighbors. Such history, while not part of our state, has, however, provided us with a strong awareness of the potential dangers to land, air and water we face through surface

mining. Because of this, substantial controls over surface mining of coal in the state have recently been enacted and signed into law.

Lands to be surface mined in Michigan will have to be returned to their original quality or better. To accomplish this, the huge shovels used to remove the overburden will stockpile separately the valuable surface soils, the subsurface sands, shales, gravels and sandstones, remove the coal, and then replace all the surface materials in their respective order.

Groundwater supplies will have to be protected from contamination. Surface contours will be restored to original shape, or will be improved upon if possible. Roadways to and from the mine sites will be controlled for dust and environmental impact. A variety of other controls will be imposed, all aimed at preventing the sort of land destruction that has given surface mining such a bad image.

Even though this healthy approach will be expensive, surface mining in Michigan is expected to have a bright future. More than 250 million tons of the fuel, all high quality bituminous, are within easy reach of moderate and efficient surface mining equipment. That amount is worth \$10 million at today's non-shipped price and worth considerably more delivered.

Delivery is one of the prime reasons Michigan coal is now a promising enterprise. All coal used in Michigan today must be imported either from Appalachia or western states and that adds sharply to the per ton cost. In 1980, for example, Michigan used 31 million tons of coal, all imported, and the delivery cost per ton was around \$60 to \$80.

However, state officials expect mining here will be on a smaller scale, with a typical mine probably limited to a square mile or less. That amount of land is believed to be enough to occupy a mid-size company's operation for 10 to 15 years producing 100,000 tons of coal per year. Consequently, this is seen as long-range, heavy investment mining, with annual production geared to relative local need and a national pricing structure.

If the price of oil and natural gas continue to rise, coal could become more attractive, both for standard uses and as the base for conversion to gas and other forms of more concentrated energy. In such a case, surface mining in Michigan could be hastened and increased. If oil and gas prices stabilize, production of Michigan coal will probably also stabilize at a more moderate level.

(Editor's Note: This Discussion Topic is based on an article by Jon Roethele and Jim Parrish which appeared in the September-October 1982 issue of the Michigan Natural Resources Magazine.)

Questions for Discussion

- In your opinion, is Michigan coal critically needed as an energy source?

- In your opinion, would the loss of farm production for the few years required for mining and reclamation to full productivity be a small price to pay for the amount recovered in strip mining?

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