

# RURAL LIVING



**Down on the Farm with  
Farm Bureau's First Lady**

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City \_\_\_\_\_

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# RURAL LIVING

FARM NEWS

A publication  
of the  
Michigan  
Farm Bureau

Michigan Farm News  
**RURAL LIVING**



Down on the Farm with  
Farm Bureau's First Lady

JUNE 1983  
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**THE COVER**

Lynde Smith introduces a "Fabulous Food Friend" to Chad Wheeler, 4, during a visit by the Kentwood Community Education Preschool. Photo by Cathy J. Kirvan

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## Reduced Spending — Not More Taxes — Will Remedy Budget Deficits



While emotional, divisive issues within the agricultural industry have made demands on our time and efforts these days, there's one that affects every farmer — no matter what his or her major enterprise might be — and one which, I fear, is not receiving adequate attention. Put into proper perspective, it makes all other issues minor in comparison.

Certainly, we're all aware of what is going on in Washington, D.C., with much media attention focused on the current budget discussions. But, are we concerned enough about the direction in which those discussions are heading to temporarily put aside other concerns to launch an all-out attack on efforts by a liberal Congress to preserve its tax and spend habits?

If only each of us would "put a pencil" to the proposals that are being considered and evaluate what they would mean to our own families and farms and their futures, I'm sure there would be a grassroots outcry, the likes of which Congress has never seen before. But, if everyone takes an apathetic, "let George do it" approach to this very real threat, that outcry will never be heard.

The proposals that should be of such concern to us include

elimination of the 10% personal tax break scheduled for July 1, and elimination of the income tax indexing designed to protect us from inflationary tax bracket creep.

It also includes a freeze on estate and gift tax exemptions and reductions as authorized in the 1981 tax act. For many years, farmers and small business people fought for estate and gift tax reform to assure that farms and businesses could stay in the family. The freeze would halt the six-year phase-in of the \$600,000 estate exemption as it nears the half-way mark, and the scheduled decreases in the tax rate itself would be frozen at 60% instead of 50%.

These proposals illustrate the twisted economic reasoning that abounds in Washington. Congress seems bent on slamming the brakes on the economy just as it begins to show signs of recovery. If Congress is successful in its efforts to address the budget deficit by increased taxes, you and I will end up paying the government more and ourselves less, so Congress can keep on feeding its insatiable, undisciplined appetite for taxing and spending.

Farm Bureau member involvement in getting the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 passed was intense and effective and we must act immediately if we are to keep what we worked

so hard to gain. We simply must not let Congress renege on its promises!

I urge each and every one of you to join me in sending that message to Washington, D.C. Tell your representatives and senators that the remedy for decreasing the budget deficit is less government spending — not increased taxes. Increased taxes will speed up government spending, not slow it down. More taxes and more spending at a time when our fragile economy is trying to kick-start itself can only delay or even destroy the recovery.

Tell them how the proposed freezes on the July 1 tax cut and income tax indexing will affect you personally and how vitally important the estate tax exemption is to keeping your family farm in the family. Tell them the freeze you need is a freeze on federal spending.

Right now, the tax action we all need is a freeze on our congressmen's ability to put their hands in our pockets. Get involved in influencing that action. Your future, the future of your families, the future of your farm businesses, depend on it.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elton R. Smith".

Elton R. Smith, President  
Michigan Farm Bureau

## Becoming Computer Literate After 30

By Connie Turbin

I recently read that learning to use computers was about as threatening as learning to drive or use a typewriter. Just another tool, the article read. I allowed as how that was probably so.

Nevertheless, I didn't find much solace in that analogy since I have almost total recall of my first years of driving — a threat to the orderly society at best. And although I recall executing a perfect demonstration of parallel parking on my first try, it was a feat I was unable to duplicate for many years after. In fact, five years after graduating "cum mediocre" from driver's training, I posted a sign above my typewriter (that's another story), proclaiming parallel parking as the only true art form.

Since then I've had a refresher course on the subject. Crunched fenders while exiting the garage and a variety of lurching starts and stops have punctuated the first four or five months of driving for my two 16-year-old daughters. If that's not lesson enough, another daughter is coming along ready to take the wheel of the Charlotte High School driver education car, and ultimately the family "bomb."

So I'm not lulled into a false notion that one simply sits down at a computer terminal and performs expertly any more than I am ready to view parallel parking as a routine accomplishment.

That's why, although I delayed the confrontation for as long as possible, I felt a real surge of accomplishment when I pulled up a chair in front of

our word processor and began entering my first "document." That was a mere 90 days ago. Since then I have become comfortable enough with the equipment to do some weekend work without the watchful assistance of our staff expert.

If I'm not yet completely familiar with all of the capabilities of the "software," I am at least familiar enough with the equipment to know that it is not my adversary in a new world of technology. Thank heaven!

In fact, thanks to the communications capabilities of the word processor and our phototypesetting equipment, articles for *Rural Living* are composed and edited without using a single sheet of paper. The first "hard" or paper copy we see is the typeset page of the article. And it's fun! A line of copy so poorly written that it should disappear off the face of the earth — does!

Perhaps what is the most rewarding for a person who still cannot type an error free envelope, the word processor can "blip" away the x's and \*\$\$/& that dotted the "stone age" typewritten *Rural Living* copy.

I may not have been "right there" when the kids were learning new math, and they practically never need to call on my three years of Latin, but thanks to my growing computer literacy and my vast driving experience, we have whole new worlds in which to relate to one another.

That's something to consider if your own youngsters are among the junior high and high school students who are working with and learning about computers in their classrooms.

And while many Michigan farmers and agribusinesses have already taken the step toward the computer age with AgriCom's computerized information system and microcomputer systems which allow recordkeeping, inventory and analysis functions, students at the Branch County Career Center are keeping pace with the new technology as subscribers in the AgriCom system. These vo-ag students in southern Michigan are receiving daily market updates, daily reports of agricultural news, legislation and weather reports.

Learning to use computers as tools alongside of farm equipment to get tasks accomplished more quickly and efficiently is all part of the education for tomorrow's agriculture.

For those of you who are just a little wary of the computer age and your ability to adapt and use the new technology in your everyday life, the analogy of computers as a tool, not a system you must understand, is apt. After all, as the article I read suggested, you need not be able to understand all of the component parts of your automobile to use it effectively — learning to parallel park is a sufficient demonstration of skill. And I'll be satisfied with the computer equivalent of the three point turn for my next plateau of accomplishment.

Just for now, I'm staying out of computer centers, where 10 and 11 year olds hang out and program computer games, invent computer riddles and generally make those of us who are not yet computer literate feel strangely out of synch and not just a little anachronistic.

# FB Campaign Fights Tax Increases

**WASHINGTON**

Signaling an all-out fight against increased taxes, AFBF President Robert Delano told presidential advisor Edwin Meese that Congress will be hearing from the American people in opposition to the tax and spend practices of Congress. "Higher taxes are never used to reduce deficits, they simply underwrite more spending," Delano said.

Of particular concern to farmers, Delano said, are proposals to freeze scheduled reforms in estate tax laws, efforts to cancel the July 1 10% tax cut and threats to remove tax indexing that could prevent "bracket creep."

Delano said farmers support reductions in the federal budget deficit, but believe the way to do it is by reducing federal spending, cutting taxes and moving toward a sound, balanced budget.

In a plan of action to oppose tax increases, Farm Bureau leaders are urging the organization's 3.2 million members to send letters and cards, or to make telephone calls, to members of Congress in opposition to the increases.

**Early Start on 1984 Wheat Program** — In an effort to get the jump on any 1984 wheat program, USDA is calling for public comments on what should be included if the de-

partment decides on a wheat program next year. Deadline for comment is June 6. While the statutory deadline for announcing a 1984 wheat program is Aug. 15, USDA says it will release details "well in advance" to give farmers more time to make planting decisions.

Among the issues for public comment are whether there should be another Payment-in-Kind program in 1984; acreage reduction or set-aside programs; loan, purchase and target prices; farmer-owned reserves; conservation and land diversion allowances; crop acreage bases; and other matters relating to a 1984 wheat program.

## Cargo Preference Increases

**Export Costs** — A bill requiring all bulk commodity exporters to ship a portion of their cargoes on domestic ships would cut farm income by at least \$1.1 billion, and possibly as much as \$6.4 billion, AFBF spokesperson George L. Berg testified before the House Merchant Marine Subcommittee. Berg, who is assistant director of national affairs, said that proposed legislation (H.R. 1242) to expand existing cargo preference rules would hurt U.S. agricultural exports at a time when the farm economy needs to compete aggressively for access to foreign markets.

The measure, called the Competitive Shipping and Shipbuilding Act of 1983, would require 5% of bulk exports to be shipped on U.S. flagships with a 1%

annual increase until 20% of all bulk commodities are carried by U.S. ships.

"Transportation costs are likely to increase by \$40 to \$80 per ton for grains shipped in American flagships," Berg said. "Extending cargo preference requirements to agricultural trade would substantially reduce agricultural exports and farm commodity prices, in direct conflict with overall U.S. economic policy objectives of expanded agricultural exports and higher farm income."

With only the 5% cargo preference requirement in effect, he said, per bushel prices for corn would fall 7 to 10 cents; wheat by 10 to 15 cents; and soybeans by 10 to 13 cents. If the 20% requirement was applied, prices could drop by as much as 42 cents for corn and 61 cents for wheat.

## Compromise Preserves

**Marketing Order Concept** — Following a cabinet level meeting to discuss federal marketing orders, Agriculture Secretary John Block sent a letter to selected members of Congress and Federal Marketing Order Administrative Boards stating that White House review had resulted in a reaffirmation of administration support for the marketing order concept, for policy guidelines issued in 1982 and for the secretary of agriculture to administer the programs.

However, Block outlined program changes which he said would further define the marketing order guidelines and would make the marketing

order concept even stronger. The changes are as follows:

- Phase out entry barriers to producer allotment programs over the next five years.
- Require that primary markets have available a quantity equal to 110% of recent years' sales in those outlets before approving secondary market allocation or pooling.
- Analyze prorate programs with the intent of providing greater flexibility.

**A House Government Operations Committee** has urged USDA to make an early announcement of its intentions regarding the PIK program for 1984, to facilitate advance planning for farmers. The USDA has stopped short of the one announcement that would help farmers with long-range planning, namely whether there will be a PIK program next year.

USDA Secretary John Block has said he is "90% certain" that a PIK program will be offered to wheat producers in 1984. USDA Deputy Secretary Richard Lyng said details of the 1984 wheat program would be announced well in advance of the Aug. 15 deadline.

## LANSING

**State Jobs Program** — Gov. Blanchard has announced a \$75 million Summer Youth Jobs Program for 60,000 youths between the ages of 16 and 21. Some \$16 million of the funding would come from the "Kammer recreational land trust fund," the rest would come from federal and other funds. Grants for hiring would be

## Say "Yes" to Michigan Commerce



Paula Blanchard was interviewed at the 1,500-acre livestock farm of Saginaw County FB members, Dale & Evelyn Irish, during her Michigan Week tour to call attention to good things happening in Michigan. The farm was the second stop on Blanchard's itinerary, which included a supermarket, auto plant, U.P. lumber and copper industries, state park and two Grand Rapids manufacturers.

made to local governmental agencies (cities, counties, townships, school districts, etc.). Funds would be disbursed through various state departments including agriculture, natural resources, labor, etc.

Other parts of the plan include 20,000 summer public service jobs for unemployed workers, free job training, housing programs, etc.

Funding will also include \$300 million in housing and transportation bonds and \$500 million in federal funds for public works and construction. It is not yet known where all of the state's share will come from during this fiscal year.

**State Budget** — Gov. Blanchard's general fund budget totals \$5.3 billion, which is

\$592 million higher than the current budget. This is the portion of state spending that is controlled by the Legislature. When earmarked programs are considered, the expenditures for 1984 will total nearly \$11.9 billion. While costs continue to rise, the large reduction in inflation is an important item.

The MDA received an increase from the 1983 budget of about \$18 million, to \$19.6 million for 1984. In reality, this is a "continuation" budget when increased costs and added responsibilities are considered.

The budget includes \$2.9 million for a Plant and Soil Science Building at MSU. This will continue the project approved a couple of years ago. MSU's Ag Experiment Station and the Extension Service received a 9% (continued on page 32)

# Down on the Farm with Lynde Smith — Farm Bureau's First Lady

By Donna Wilber

She's been fondly and respectfully identified as Michigan Farm Bureau's "First Lady" . . . she was also once cruelly referred to as "Mrs. PBB." She's comfortable at a social gathering in the White House rose garden . . . or in a straw-lined pen showing a city youngster how to bottle feed a calf. She confesses to a sinking feeling of loss when her husband was elected vice president of the nation's largest farm organization . . . yet glows with pride in his record of accomplishments. She shuns the limelight for a backstage, supporting role . . . yet takes a speech class to help her handle leadership responsibilities.

She's Lynde Smith, who swore she'd never marry a farmer when she grew up. She's the gracious mistress of Med-O-Bloom Farm, and one of the key reasons why Elton R. Smith grew through the years to become a nationally-known agricultural leader. "No one who decides to climb the leadership ladder can do so without the kind of strong support she has given me," says the president of the Michigan Farm Bureau

and vice president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Located outside Caledonia in Kent County, Lynde's home reflects her own personality — warm, charming, stylish yet invitingly comfortable. There's homemade muffins, fruit, cheese and milk or coffee to welcome visitors to her sunny kitchen. And outside the kitchen window is a view of the well-manicured lawn that's her "territory," and the maternity field where she can keep an eye out for expectant "moms" who might need help.

Lynde doesn't spend as much time as she once did in the actual operation of the farm, which has grown from its original 125 acres to 800 and boasts a world-renowned Red and White registered Holstein herd. She and Jerry Good, the Smiths' partner in Med-O-Bloom Farm, still do the farm accounts together, but other work is handled by — not hired hands — but what Lynde calls "members of the Med-O-Bloom family."

She speaks affectionately of Jerry who is "just like a son to



Lynde Smith enjoys a rare moment of relaxation with her bull dog under her "hunkered-down" elm tree.

us," of Roy, the farm mechanic who is in charge of the field work and who "fixes my lawnmower when it breaks down," and of Karen, their herdsman who also serves as official tour guide for farm visitors and as artist of the original "My Visit to Med-O-Bloom Farm" coloring book for school children.

She remembers when Jerry Good first came to work on the Smith farm while he was still in high school.

"He'd practice on the old John Deere tractor, putt-putting around the farm. I'd take him to 4-H and haul his calf around in



**Lynde and Elton, who have been partners in marriage for 45 years, team up for a square dance at the Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting jam-boree.**

the old truck to the various activities." After graduation from high school, Jerry went to Michigan State University where he met his wife-to-be, Judy, who worked for Dr. Clint Meadows in the dairy department. Jerry became a full partner in Med-O-Bloom in 1969 and he and his family now live in the home directly across the road from the Smiths, where Lynde was raised with her six brothers and four sisters.

It was a mutually-shared Uncle Roy — Elton's half uncle and Lynde's mother's cousin — who helped the Smiths get started in farming. When Lynde married the boy who "lived down the road six or seven miles and used to go by our house in a horse and buggy on his way to school," she had only to move across the road. It's a house that's been home to the Smiths throughout their 45 years of marriage.

Lynde has seen a lot of changes during those 45 years. "I can remember when my dad used to take the old bull down the road to the neighbors. Then came artificial insemination, and now we have the embryo transfer. It boggles your mind and you wonder just how far scientific advances will take us in agriculture."

While these changes in technology and lifestyle have freed Lynde for more involvement in county Farm Bureau, Extension, community and church activities, for learning to play golf, for taking a "Speaking on Your Feet" class at the "Y" and for walking two miles a day with "the girls," she still misses some things about the early years.

"Elton and I used to register all the cows, and together we'd think of names for each. Now they're given a number," she said.

Another thing she misses are the many young MSU ag students who lived and worked on the Smith farm and raided Lynde's always well-stocked refrigerator. She wishes now that she'd kept a written record of those years so she could write a book about "all the boys we've had." Now and then, she said, the doorbell will ring and there will stand one of those young men asking, "Do you remember me?"

The Smiths had two daughters of their own, Virginia, who died in 1965, and Barbara of Ashland, Ohio, who has given her parents three granddaughters, "of whom we're very proud," says Lynde. They spend most holidays together and when the Smiths travel to Ohio, Lynde reports, "Barb usually gets Elton a good book and hopes she can keep him for 24 hours.

"He can't sit still; he's just got to be doing something. That's his make-up. I've tried, but you just cannot slow him up!"

And while she maintains that the president "does what he wants to do without asking for my approval," it could be that her initial reaction to his steadily increasing commitment to Farm Bureau responsibilities had an impact on what Med-O-Bloom is today — a dairy farm.

"When we started out, we had horses, pigs, cows and chickens," said Lynde. "There was a time when we were making more money on hatching eggs (my responsibility because men don't like working with chickens) than we were on milk, and we were thinking of expanding that part of the business. Then, when Elton got so involved in Farm Bureau, I said, 'I'm not going to stay home and clean all

those eggs while you're traveling around the country,' so we got rid of the chickens."

Lynde has seen her husband continuously respond to leadership challenges and opportunities throughout the years — from Community Action Group offices to county Farm Bureau board service to MFB director, vice president, then president — and on to the national level as an AFBF board member, then the executive committee and finally, in 1982, vice president of the three-million-member family farm organization.

"Each step has taken a little more of his time and I miss him when he's gone. But you learn

to just take it as it comes," she said. "When he was elected AFBF vice president, my first thought was 'Oh, no! Now he'll be gone more than ever.' But then I thought how proud his folks would have been. And, of course, I was proud of him. I was proud of him when I married him and he wasn't a president or vice president then."

What the president loves to do when he's not tending to Farm Bureau business or carrying out the responsibilities of his many appointments, Lynde says, is to take a thermos bottle and lunch bucket and "take off on the tractor. He loves to see that soil turn over."

The president's fast pace has provided some highlights for Lynde, among them the annual AFBF conventions which are held in various parts of the nation.

"There's been something nice about every place we've visited and, of course, Farm Bureau people are special no matter where you go. I like to get right out on the farms and see the different operations — the sheepherder in Montana, the Oregon strawberry farmer who dried off his fields with a helicopter so the workers could pick, the cotton fields in the south and the pineapple plantations in Hawaii," she said.

## THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

Following their field trip to Med-O-Bloom Farm, Kentwood Community Education preschoolers expressed their appreciation to Lynde Smith with pictures of the day's highlights, along with special thank you messages:

*"Thank you for letting us see your bull."*

*"Thank you for the ice cream bars made of milk."*

*"I liked the baby cows in their cribs."*

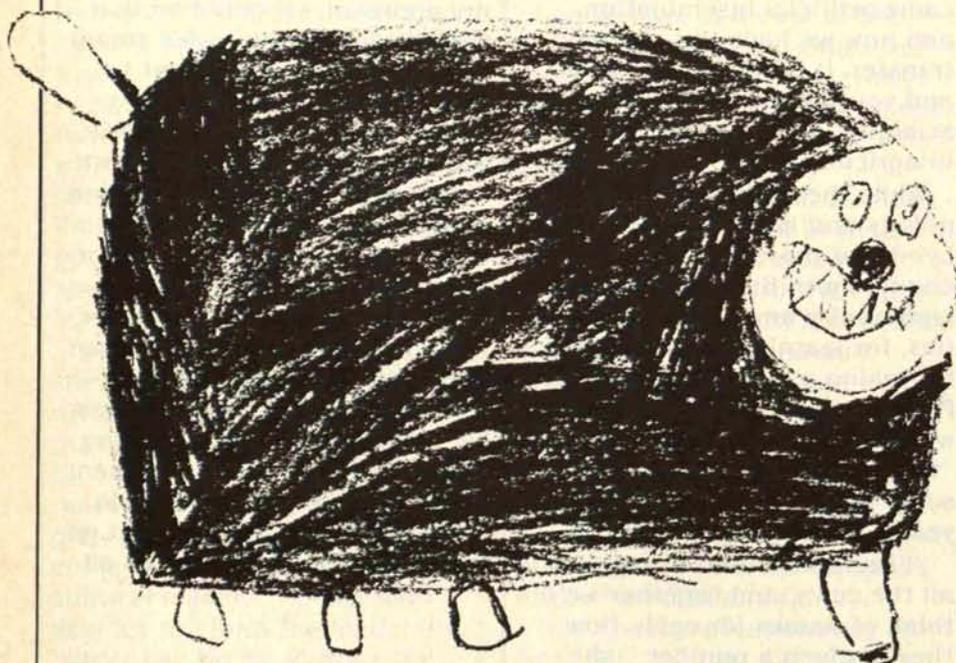
*"I liked the big cows and feeding the baby cows."*

It's simple, sincere responses like these that make the investment of time and effort worthwhile to the Kent County Farm Bureau Women's Committee, chaired by Kathy Kusters and Beth Finkbeiner, to Karen Eaton, Med-O-Bloom's herdsman and official tour guide, and to Lynde.

In addition to the farm tour, the children viewed the slide-tape presentation, "Fabulous Food Friends," ate ice cream bars and received "Our Field Trip to Med-O-Bloom Farm" coloring books developed by Karen Eaton, and "I Like Milk" buttons to take home.

To illustrate that they knew who their "Fabulous Food Friends" were, the children, led by teachers Connie Frances and Lynda Fife, had a special song for their hostesses:

*I eat green grass,  
I chew and chew,  
Then I say Moo Moo.  
And when it is milking time  
I give white milk to you.*



*I liked  
Mike.*

Other fond memories include a visit to the White House rose garden when Elton served on the Farm Credit Board under Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz and the Smiths' old friend and former congressman, President Gerald R. Ford; the time the Michigan Farm Bureau Women presented Betty Ford with an Easter bonnet decorated with cherries; and the pride of having her husband serve on President Reagan's agricultural transition team. . . the list goes on and on.

A low point in the lives of both the president and Lynde was the PBB-era, when MFB's affiliate, Farm Bureau Services, of

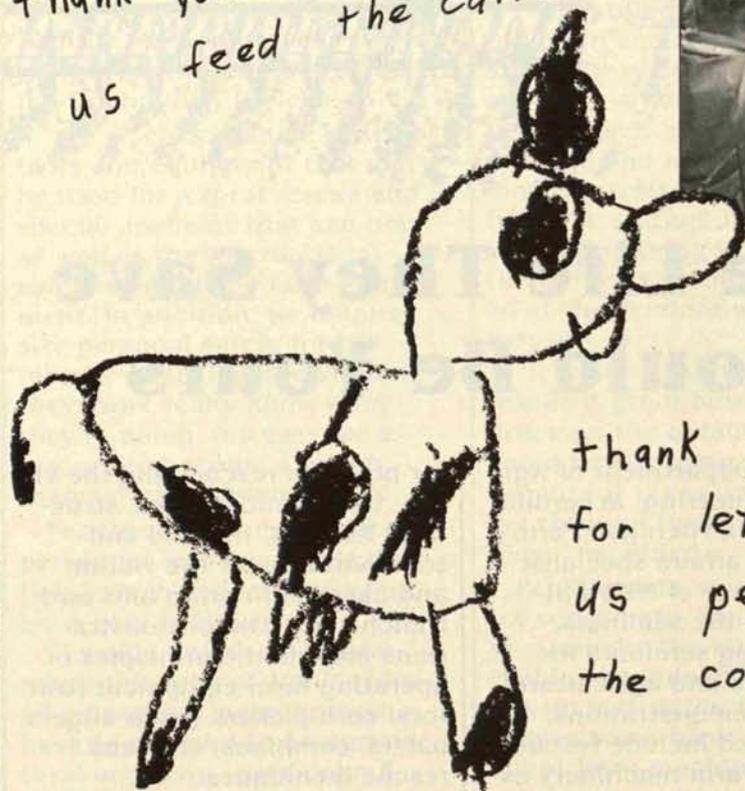
which he also serves as president, became involved in what has been described as the worst agricultural disaster in history. It was a time when not only statewide, but national and even international, media attention was focused on the accidental mixing of the chemical into cattle feed and the revered name of Farm Bureau suffered from negative public opinion. "It got so bad that one time someone called me 'Mrs. PBB.' It was a sad time — very sad," Lynde remembers.

The dark memory which temporarily extinguishes the usual twinkle in her eyes fades away with thoughts of tomorrow and

the preparations for it. Tomorrow and the next day would bring busloads of preschoolers to learn about their "Fabulous Food Friends," the dairy cows of Med-O-Bloom Farm, and there are many things for her to do.

That's Lynde Smith: mother, grandmother, surrogate mom to dozens of future farmers, church and community stalwart, dairy booster, and wife of a farm leader who admits, "I couldn't have done it without her."

thank you for letting  
us feed the calves



thank you  
for letting  
us pet  
the cows.



Thank you for the ice cream bars.

# Agricultural Accident Rescue Seminars

By Marcia Ditchie

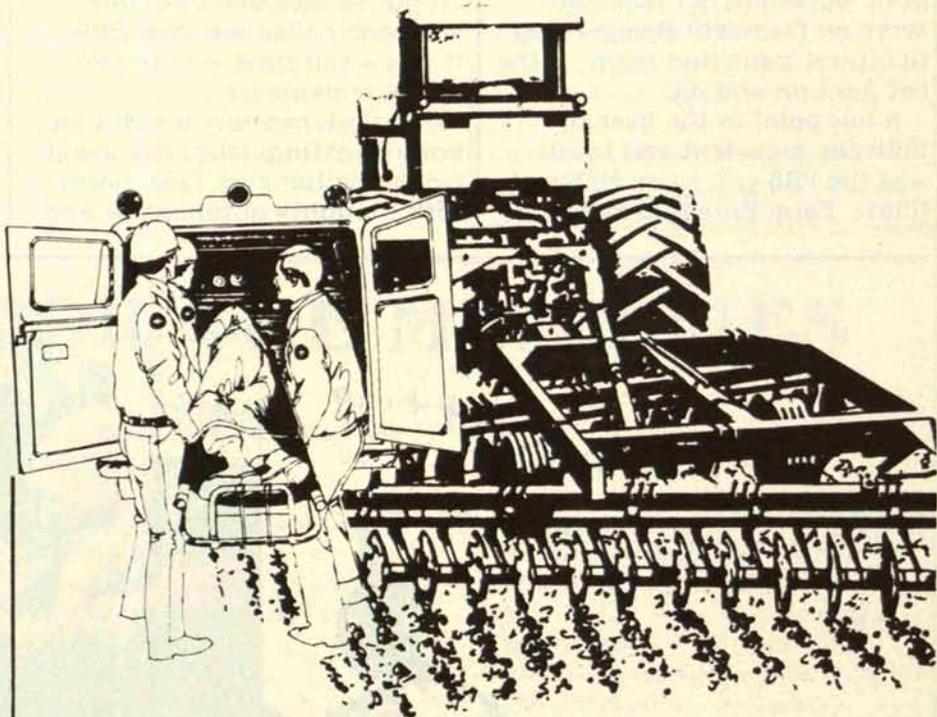
When emergency personnel are summoned to the scene of an agricultural accident, they soon find that many rescue techniques applied to common accidents, such as automobile, do not apply to agricultural situations.

In some tragic cases, rescuers jeopardize their own, as well as the victim's, safety because of their lack of knowledge regarding the unique and complicated situations involved in agricultural accidents.

In an effort to fill this training void, county Farm Bureaus throughout the state, in cooperation with the MSU Extension Service and other concerned agencies, have been sponsoring agricultural rescue seminars.

The tremendous response to the seminars by fire, police, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), paramedics and farmers indicates the crucial need for this type of training. Over 460 people have attended the seminars conducted so far this year and predictions are that hundreds more will attend an additional nine scheduled through September.

The original program was developed by George M. Brown, formerly with Michigan State



## The Life They Save Could Be Yours

University's Department of Agricultural Engineering, according to Ron Gaskill, Michigan Farm Bureau local affairs specialist and coordinator of MFB's involvement in the seminars.

The day-long seminars include lectures and agricultural equipment demonstrations. Topics covered include rescue procedures, farm machinery extrication, personal protection

for both the rescuer and the victim, toxic atmospheres, structural hazards, first aid and transportation of the victim, and cave-ins in grain bins and trench silos. The demonstrations include the principles of operating farm equipment (tractors, corn pickers, grain augers, balers, combines, etc.) and rescue techniques.

"We identify the different types of agricultural equipment and some of the various common accident situations that may arise," Gaskill said. "In addition, we inform the rescue personnel about some different techniques that can be used to extricate a victim from certain farm machinery and demonstrate how some of the equipment they use for the average rescue, such as an automobile accident, won't work in the case of an agricultural accident.

"We also demonstrate various types of machinery so they are familiar with the operation and function, and the process through which material flows," Gaskill said.

"We cover the special complicating factors involved in rural accident rescues such as silos and building collapses," said Birge Anderson, a seminar instructor who is a volunteer firefighter for the Mason Fire Department. Anderson also serves as an instructor for EMTs and the state approved Firefighter Training Course at Lansing Community College.

"We discuss a whole series of tools and equipment that can be used for a rural rescue and special agencies that can help, as well as the international safety symbols on farm equipment. In addition, we emphasize personal safety for the rescuer as well as the victim. If they don't really know what they're doing, it's easy for a rescuer to become a victim themselves," Anderson said.

Feedback from emergency personnel who have been participants in the seminars has been very positive.

"I would definitely recommend this type of seminar for all emergency personnel who have to respond to an agricultural accident," said John F.



O'Leary, a volunteer firefighter and EMT in Eaton Rapids who attended the Eaton County Seminar. "It helped familiarize me with some of the newer equipment. For example, I know how to shut off a new John Deere diesel tractor."

In some instances, knowledge learned by rescue personnel at the seminars may help reduce fatalities from agricultural accidents.

"One problem we have is with grain bin accidents," O'Leary said. "Every call I've been on has been a fatality. It's like a heart attack, you've got six minutes and most farms are more than six minutes away from the station. If the farmer is still breathing when we get there, then the knowledge gained at the seminar will certainly help.

"It would also really help in a rescue if grain bins had access doors on the outside so we could let the grain out quickly because it takes us so long to get through those heavy steel bins," he added.

Peg Nietdete, an EMT instructor coordinator in Oscoda County, attended the northeast Michigan seminar in Mio. "As an instructor, I'll be able to give some basic details about farm machinery, the

*(continued on page 30)*



**Films, lectures and demonstrations round out information and training seminars for rescue teams and farmers.**

# Is School Out on Vocational Agriculture?

By Connie Turbin

In a string of budget cuts at the federal, state and local levels, school administrators and teachers have had to make some hard decisions affecting not only the basic academic programs of Michigan schools, but vocational education programs, including vocational agriculture.

According to Richard Karlese, vocational-technical education specialist for the Michigan Department of Education, annual funding for all vocational education programs has dropped \$11 million since 1979.

"Our funding from the state has been at about \$19.3 million for vocational education since 1979. Prior to that, however,

budget for vocational technical education had been at \$30 million. Federal funding during the same period has been steady at about \$24 million a year," he says.

While state funding and personnel to support vocational education programs in Michigan have been reduced, Karlese says that vocational agriculture has been "holding fairly well."

Vocational agriculture education is allotted approximately \$1 million each year for the education of the nearly 12,000 students enrolled in high school vocational agriculture training. However, he points out that a good vocational agriculture program in high school requires approximately \$45,000 annually in financial support from all sources.

"There are schools that get by on a whole lot less than that, but those are the same schools that have not spent enough on equipment, texts and teaching aids to qualify for matching funds at the end of the year," says Karlese. In such cases, he says, the state is in the position of requiring the return of "match" funds.

"I don't want that money back. It doesn't do us (the Department of Education) any good. It gets thrown into the general fund and doesn't even go to another school," he adds.

The danger, he says, is that a vo-ag program operating on a limited, 38-week school year with emphasis on lecture and classroom study can quickly get the reputation of an easy, no work course. In these cases, good students are soon lost to a more challenging curriculum in science and math.

Such academic studies are undeniably a necessary complement for the vo-ag program, but do not provide the opportunities for career-specific instruction or practical application of learned skills.

The standard nine-month teacher contract simply will not allow time for important hands-on and community based work experiences for the students supervised by the vo-ag teacher, says Karlese, and, he contends, to do a really good job of training high school students, a year-round program is prerequisite.

He admits that the squeeze on local school budgets has taken its toll in the number of year-round programs operating in Michigan, but some school districts continue to maintain a skeleton summer vo-ag program.

"Some look at the program and determine how much teacher time and what level of monetary resources they can allocate to a summer program of activities such as the county fair, stock show and sale and work with the kids. The school can look at the 38-week school year and break out the cost and determine from that how many additional weeks they want to pay the vo-ag teacher to be working with students in the summer," he says.

## The Community is Really a Laboratory

An agricultural advisory council, made up of farmers, farm business people and county 4-H and Extension personnel, working in cooperation with the vo-ag teacher, can make a significant difference in both the quality of the classroom experience and in the community based work experience for the student.

"One of the cornerstones of our vo-ag program is that the community is really a laboratory. Even where there are schools with a large school farm, we find that the teacher needs to go out and work with students in a supervised occupational experience program on the family farm, another farm

or agribusiness to build on the program.

"Basically, we're saying we've done this (in the school setting), now here's some things you can do to help give this kid some practical experience," says Karlese.

It is this facet of the program that has suffered from inattention and lack of support, both from the farming community (including agribusiness and farm groups) and by some vo-ag teachers.

"There has been some reluctance in the farming community to assist in providing these experiences in a planned situation, coordinated with the vo-ag department in the high school," says Karlese, "and we've had teachers who were hesitant to go out and seek that kind of help."

That's where the support and advisory role of the community based council can be instrumental. Karlese recommends that the minutes of every ag advisory council meeting go to the principal and the school superintendent. He also recommends that a member of the board of education sit on the advisory council as an ex-officio member to gain an understanding of the goals of the vo-ag program in the high school, the extent of community support and to stay abreast of concerns and recommendations made by members of the council.

Similarly, he says, an active ag advisory council will maintain communication with the school board and be alert for changes in budget or curriculum that will impact the vo-ag program.



**Vo-ag teachers reviewed new curriculum guides and developed sample lesson plans at a series of workshops held in May.**

## You Make the Decision

"I'm not talking about holding the school budget hostage, but I am saying that farmers can decide they will have a good ag program and will help to support it through volunteering to sit on an advisory council and assisting in identifying program needs and priorities," he says.

When parents and the farm community, in general, get interested and involved there is the possibility that some hard questions may be asked on both sides.

The school district and the vo-ag teacher may readily agree that the high school program needs updating and revitalizing

**The administration has reaffirmed its support for the marketing order concept and for USDA administration of the programs.** FB had urged the president to reject the Office of Management and Budget's proposal to eliminate or significantly modify marketing orders and to continue support for the current system of administration with the secretary of agriculture. Congressman Don Albosta (D-Mich.) introduced a resolution expressing the intent of Congress that the orders should be administered by USDA.

**Some 50 demonstrators, carrying FLOC (Farm Labor Organizing Committee) flags, "Boycott Campbell Soup" and "Long Live Farm Workers" signs, gathered at an East Lansing church on May 14 and marched to the state capitol.** The group stopped at each intersection along the journey to chant their message to passersby in the heavy Saturday traffic. Farmers concerned about such activity in their areas may be interested in a new pamphlet, "Facts About Farm Labor," developed by AFBF, which addresses the information gap about farm labor among the general public. The pamphlet is available by writing Jack Angell, AFBF News Service, 225 Touhy Ave., Park Ridge, Ill. 60068. Cost is \$25 per hundred or \$15 for 50 copies. Another pamphlet, by Sister Thomas More Bertels, examines the issue of FLOC activities and its use of consumer boycotts. It is available free of charge by writing: FYI, Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909.

**Members of the boards of directors of Michigan Farm Bureau and the Michigan Milk Producers Association met together in Howell on May 5 to discuss issues of common concern.** Topics included the dairy program, P.A. 116 and federal budget proposals. The meeting of the two boards is an annual affair.

**Ag Expo '83 is scheduled for July 26-28 on the MSU campus.** FB will again have its own special tent, this year with the theme, "You Make It Happen." Last year, nearly 30,000 people visited the MFB and affiliate company exhibits at the continually-growing farm show.

**Ciba-Geigy Corporation, one of the nation's major agribusinesses and an advertising supporter of Rural Living magazine, has contributed \$500 to Project AIM (Agriculture Involved in Michigan),** the industry-wide effort to help feed the hungry of Michigan. AIM contributions from county FBs have continued through the spring months and many coordinators are urging members to commit their orchards and fields for gleaning this fall.

**The claim for \$5 million by New Hampshire Insurance Company against Farm Bureau Services, Inc. was settled May 13** for \$500,000 to be paid upon confirmation of the plan for reorganization. The case was being tried in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court before Judge Harvey D. Walker when the agreement was reached between the two companies. Judge Walker agreed to the settlement and it must now be approved by the four committees. In addition to the claim by the New Hampshire Insurance Company, the claims brought by the individual PBB claimants and the claim of Velsicol (Michigan Chemical Company) have been settled. The settlements will be incorporated into FBS' plan and resolved on confirmation of the plan. The suit by the state of Michigan was settled earlier in the reorganization without any requirement of payment by the debtor.

**U.S. News and World Report Magazine** — in its tenth annual compilation of people considered national movers and shakers — has again listed AFBF President Robert Delano "most influential" among non-government agricultural leaders. It is the third year in a row for this designation for the American Farm Bureau president.

**Start planning now to attend the 65th AFBF annual meeting in Orlando, Florida, Jan. 8-12, 1984.** Accommodations have been reserved at the beautiful Sheraton Twin Towers hotel and air transportation will again be available from Lansing, Detroit and Grand Rapids. The annual Michigan breakfast will be held Monday, Jan. 9 at the Orange County Convention Center. Optional tours to Walt Disney World, Epcott Center, Sea World, Stars Hall of Fame, Church Street Station, Circus World, Cypress Gardens, Kennedy Space Center and more will be readily available. Space has also been reserved at the Sheraton Twin Towers for pre- and post-convention stays at the special convention price. In addition, a seven-day Caribbean cruise, commencing Saturday, Jan. 13, aboard the luxurious TSS Carnivale, has been arranged. Detailed convention information and prices are being prepared and will be available in the near future. Arrange your schedule now to attend this best yet AFBF annual meeting.

## A Privilege to Speak at Citizenship Seminar

Thank you for the invitation to speak to the young people in Albion again this year. That is always the highlight of the year for me.

I don't know how the Farm Bureau is able to select such fine kids every year, but they are just the greatest group of young people I have ever had the privilege to speak to.

I am keeping June 17, 1983 open for you.

Marla Schultz  
St. Joseph

## Citizenship Seminar Influence Felt

I would like to express how much last year's Young People's Citizenship Seminar has influenced my life in ways that I couldn't have imagined before. I really feel that that experience has opened many more doors for me, and I certainly feel more confident of my public speaking and my beliefs.

Last summer I was one of the few juniors attending. Most of your junior counselors are recent high school graduates, as I will be in June 1984. I would

appreciate being considered for the junior counselor position for the next year.

Lynne Renee Strand  
Constantine

## Members Protest 'Pay Cut' Policy

We are writing to express our viewpoint on the column entitled "Supply-Demand Balance Basis for a Recovery Plan" that appeared in *Rural Living*. We address this issue as Farm Bureau members, dairy farmers and taxpayers.

Supply and demand is the way it ought to be, but with all the government "assistance" we've been getting, it's a little late to change the game and expect the farmers to take a cut supposedly to solve the problem. Why shouldn't we expect government to provide us with new markets in the world? They were sure willing to eliminate the markets with the embargoes.

By cutting the price of milk to \$11.32, it would reduce our income per day by \$50. With the cost of machinery, seed, fertilizer, feed, utilities and high interest rates, farmers have a dif-

ficult time making ends meet now. Haven't you been watching the news? Are you willing to take a \$50 per day cut in pay?

We would like to suggest that Farm Bureau do some lobbying that will give new markets, protection against imitation products flooding the market and balance of trade that will benefit the farmers in the U.S. — no handouts — but some good assistance.

We have been dairy farmers for 37 years and are very proud of our profession. We want to be able to continue doing business for ourselves and son, and profitably, too.

Mr. & Mrs. J. Lionel Foote  
St. Johns

## President Explains Dairy Policy Development

Judging from the letters, calls and conversations I've had with Farm Bureau members recently regarding our position on the dairy program, it's evident that while there is broad recognition of the serious problem the industry faces, there is very little agreement on how it should be solved.

(continued on page 33)

## 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. Four farmers were honored in April 1983:

**April 4 — Jack Anderson, 37,** a dairy farmer from St. Johns, farms 900 acres in partnership with his brother. They have a 300-cow herd. Anderson is treasurer of Lowe Methodist Church; a member and past vice president of Clinton County Farm Bureau; an MMPA delegate; a DHIA member; served three years on the local Soil Conservation board; and is Clinton County Farm

Bureau Local Affairs Committee chairperson.

**April 11 — Norman Korn, 41,** of Athens, is a grain and hog farmer who farms 720 acres. He serves on the township board of review; is an Athens Methodist Church member; and he belongs to the Calhoun County Farm Bureau.

**April 18 — Frank Grinsteiner, 54,** operates a large dairy farm near Stephenson. He serves on the Agricultural Advisory Board of Stephenson High School; is a member of the Menominee County Farm Bureau and served eight years on the board; served eight years

as Stephenson Township treasurer and one year as township clerk; is a past DHIA board member; is an MMPA member; and is a past member of the Parish Council of Precious Blood Church.

**April 25 — James Ramthun, 52,** of Montague, operates a 400-acre dairy farm and milks more than 100 cows. Ramthun serves as an elder in Faith Lutheran Church; is on the Soil Conservation District board; is a member of the board of the Federal Land Bank in Grand Rapids; is a DHIA board member; serves as area delegate to the MMPA; received the Dairyman of the Year Award; and is a member of the Oceana County Farm Bureau.

## Project AIM Asks Farmers to Participate in Gleaning Program

Farmers across the state are urged to commit their fields and orchards to Project AIM (Agriculture Involved in Michigan) for gleaning after harvest this summer and fall.

"In the past, there has been some concern on the part of farmers to allow gleaning," said Larry Ewing, MFB's coordinator of the industry-wide effort to help feed Michigan's hungry. "However, last December a law was passed which provides immunity from possible damages if the food is donated to non-profit organizations. Farmers who permit gleaning by qualified charitable organizations may also receive a special income tax credit."

Those interested in the gleaning program should contact Ruth Trowbridge at 517-371-5860 or statewide Project AIM coordinator Jim Byrum at 517-373-0090. These people have

contacts with groups that will perform the gleaning service.

"We are also considering other projects to help the needy," Ewing said, "and we would like input from the membership."

Other possible projects include: providing local people in need with ground for gardens and teaching them how to garden, possibly in cooperation with the Extension Service, 4-H or FFA; encouraging members to plant an extra row of carrots or potatoes, or a couple extra hills of squash, and then contribute the products to a food bank or other service agency; contacting local greenhouses and nurseries to see if they will donate damaged flats of vegetable plants to be distributed to families in need.

If you are interested in any of these projects, please contact Ewing

at Michigan Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909, phone 517-323-7000, extension 507.

Project AIM was initiated in response to the crucial hunger crisis caused by the high unemployment in Michigan. Since late December, farmers, agribusinesses, commodity organizations, labor unions and other concerned citizens have contributed over two million pounds of Michigan commodities for distribution to the state's destitute families. Over \$18,000 in financial donations have been made to AIM, all of which have been used to purchase state-grown or processed foods, with all transportation, administration, warehousing, distribution, labor and promotion contributed by various businesses, organizations and agencies.

## Success... Something Measured in Inches

*By Jim Gribbell, President*

*Mac-Luce County Farm Bureau*

Being successful in this business of farming is measured by the degree that the farm family has reached the goals that it has set for itself.

Success never comes easy. Success is attained by intensive struggle toward the set goals. It is usually measured in inches rather than feet or yards. Any gain is often off-set by a loss in some other area of the business. In other words, "there is no free lunch."

Farm Bureau is a business related to farming. Success in Farm Bureau programs is won in inches also. Often gains are practically eaten up by losses elsewhere. Success is won by unwavering struggle toward the goals set by the membership.

I am very disturbed by the members who have decided they cannot afford the dues this year. Often these are long-time Farm Bureau members who are well aware of the benefits that have been won.

I know that times are not easy and that cash is short; our farm is no exception. But not paying your Farm

Bureau dues because of a cash shortage is like throwing "the baby out with the bath water." We can't win that way.

Two recently won programs can save actively farming members many times the membership dues each year. P.A. 116 can return a share, if not all of your property taxes — no small item in these times of depressed farm income. And the new federal highway use tax will save operators of low mileage heavy trucks significant amounts of money. Even though you don't operate a heavy truck, you get produce and business supplies hauled. Some of the trucks hauling for you will be able to charge cheaper rates because of the mileage exemption on these trucks.

The two items listed above can save you many times your yearly dues. These are part of the successes achieved by Farm Bureau and farm families working together. They can also be lost very easily. Let's do everything possible to maintain the gains already won and to achieve new goals... by working steadily together.



## Discount Tickets Offered

If your summer entertainment plans include a trip to Cedar Point, "The Amusement Park," located near Sandusky, Ohio, then you'll be interested in discount tickets available from Michigan Farm Bureau.

Tickets, which are good any day, are \$10.50 each; this is a savings of \$1.45 per person age 5 and older. Children 4 and under are admitted free. Senior citizens (65 and over) may want to purchase tickets at the gate as they receive a special discount with proof of age.

To purchase tickets, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and a check or money order (payable to Michigan Farm Bureau) to MFB Information Division, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Mich. 48909.

## Little Known Facts About Dairy Products

# June is Dairy Month

•Historians cannot tell us for sure when milk was "discovered" but, there are more than 50 references to cows and milk in the Old Testament.

•In many parts of the world, butter has long been prized as a flavorful food. More than a thousand years ago Monogolians and Tibetans savored steaming cups of tea laced with golden melting butter. This custom is still popular in China.

•Buttermilk dates back many centuries. It evolved from the process of making butter, and butter has been consumed for 5,000 years. Ancient Hindus based the market value of their cows on the amount of butter churned from their milk.

•According to legend, cheese was discovered thousands of years before Christ by a traveler who placed milk in a pouch made of a sheep's stomach to carry with him. During the journey, the sun's heat and the enzymes in the lining of the pouch changed the milk into curds of cheese and whey. Cheese making is now a highly controlled scientific method to provide the best tasting product available.

•Cottage cheese has been popular for centuries. In the United States, it's been known as Dutch cheese, pot cheese, Frisco, popcorn and many other names.

•Although sour cream has always been considered rich, it contains only 25 calories per tablespoon.

•Yogurt was discovered in Biblical times, when people in the Middle East discovered that milk thickened and developed a tart flavor when left in a warm place. Most important of all, it had better keeping qualities than fresh milk.



By Chris Witt

Clinton County Farm Bureau

Just as there are many traditions carried on at a wedding, there is also a tradition in the dairy industry — June is Dairy Month.

June Dairy Month has been an annual celebration by the dairy industry for its products and the cow that makes them possible. This annual event began in 1937 when June was selected as the most productive month in the dairy calendar. Since that time, May has become the month with the highest milk production figures, but June is still celebrated because of tradition.

June is the month when nature bestows upon us her most nearly perfect weather, and milk is nature's most nearly perfect food.

Americans have come to expect food stores, food page ads and restaurants to feature June Dairy Month specials on milk, cheese and ice cream.

Milk goes with so many foods. Would you eat a muffin or cookie without milk? You might, but it tastes better with milk.

It's easy to drink a toast to June Dairy Month with an ice cold glass of milk.

## Washington Legislative Seminar Observations and Impressions

By Clare Monroe  
Hillsdale Legislative Leader

Attending the legislative seminar in Washington, D.C., April 5-8, re-emphasized the importance of your membership dollars. The clout that our organization has in legislative circles is significant. It makes one aware that our membership dollars are at work.

We were impressed by the fact that this year the news media, both television and the press, were requesting interviews far more than in the past. This demonstrates that they hold our policy positions in high regard. Our congressmen also listened with interest.

No other organization spends as much time in developing policy. Development of Farm Bureau policy starts in the local community action groups and then is voted on in each county. The policies of all the counties are then presented again at each state's annual meeting. The state policies that are accepted are again acted upon at the annual convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

At the seminar we represented national Farm Bureau policy. Our policy had already been made by the above process. Therefore we presented a united front. Members are not always in agreement. However, it points out to us that if we disagree, we should express our views back at the county annual and the state annual meetings.

We had breakfast with our U.S. representatives on Wednesday and with our senators on Thursday. We also went directly to the office of representatives and talked with him and/or their agricultural assistants. We attended a seminar with the Department of State and also one with the Department of Agriculture.

If one is in doubt about the importance of writing your congressmen, the doubt is removed when you realize that each letter for and against an issue is tabulated.

See your local SAFEMARK dealer today  
for all your spring tire and battery needs

5% discount on SBR II highway passenger tires

## FARM EQUIPMENT

**Wanted:** New Idea single or narrow row cornpicker. Will pay cash. Phone 517-523-2803, evenings. (7-13t-22p-ts)

**Farrowing Stalls** - All steel \$167.40. Includes feeder-waterer, top rail, rump rail. Weighs 196 lbs. Free literature. Starr National, 219 Main, Colchester, IL 62326. (6-24p-ts)

**For Sale:** Baker Separator, 28 Inch belts. John Deere grain binder, 7 ft. John Deere 2 horse cultivator all housed, good condition. Reuben Lindemann, Dexter, Mich., phone 313-426-3541. (5-2t-30p)

**Spring Special - New Alumax hard hose irrigation traveler**, 1200 ft. of 3/4" ID hose - \$14,500. Allis Chalmers diesel pumping unit, complete, 500 GPM @ 140' - \$8,000. **Manure pumps, agitators, pipe and irrigation travelers** to pump manure directly from lagoon or pit to field. We also custom pump. Plummer Supply, Bradley, MI, 1-800-632-7731. (6-51p-ts)

**J.D. 4-15 plow**, \$775.00. Phone Portland, 517-647-6859. (6-8p)

**Double Incline Fruit Harvester** with shockwave shaker head. Heavy duty conveyors. Excellent condition. Phone 616-256-9644. (6-15)

## FARM EQUIPMENT

**Hay Loader, McCormack Deering**, always housed, excellent. M.S.T.A. #45, 517-669-9920. (6-10p)

**Wanted:** International horsedrawn manure spreader and PTO corn blinder. John Spezia, 120 Gerst Road, Leonard, Mich. 48038. 313-628-4147. (6-19p)

**Melroe 8-bottom plow**, 8x16s, good. Dempster fertilizer spreader. Corunna, Mich. 517-743-3847. (6-10p)

**For Sale:** 1979 Model 820 4-wheel drive Belarus diesel tractor, 3-point hitch, 300 hours. Phone 313-651-6332. (6-10p)

## 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. (4-6t-12p)

**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)

## LIVESTOCK

**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)

**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)

**Bred angus cows**. Phone Portland, 517-647-6859. (6-5p)

**For Sale: Dairy Goats**, French Alpine Nubian and Saanen. Registered and grade. Clo Barker, Route 1, Box 168, Manton, 616-824-3972. (6-2t-20p)

**For Sale:** Suffolk, Suffolk-Finn crossbred ewe and wether lambs. Born January and February, also a few ewes with twins. South Haven, 616-637-2929. (6-20p)

## 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)

**LEE Jeans. Factory outlet** work clothes, shoes. Bargains on new shirts (low as \$4.95), Lee jackets, boots, gloves, coveralls. Send \$1.00 for catalog. SARA GLOVE CO., 16 Cherry Ave., Dept. C-95, Waterbury, CT 06704. (2-5t-34p-ts)

**CEDAR fence posts, any size**. Rustic round rail sections. Log homes. Rapid River Rustic Cedar Log Homes and Fencing, Rt. 3, Ensign, Rapid River, Mich. 49878. 1-906-474-6427. (2-11t-27p-m)

**Cherry growers** - will market, harvest or rent your crop. 616-429-4260 or 616-944-5248. (4-3t-11p)

**Unattached?** Confidential correspondence with other "Country Lovin' Singles." CLSRL, Rt. 3, Box 353, Appleton, Wis. 54915. (4-3t-16p-ts)

**Wanted: Old Indian Artifacts**, Axes, celts, arrowheads, drilled slate. Information to: Relics, Box 152A, Eau Claire, Mich. 49111. (5-6t-18p)

**Rake Knitting Looms** - This fascinating craft can be mastered by people of all ages and excellent therapy for the handicapped. SASE. Davidson's Old Mill Yarn, Box 8, Eaton Rapids, Mich. 48827. (5-3t-31p-ts)

**Patterns for making stuffed animals and dolls**. 15" baby boy, individual fingers and toes, dressed in coveralls and shirt. \$3.00. 12" horse, \$2.00. Lifelike cat, standing position, \$3.00. Brochure of all available original patterns, \$1.00 and LSASE, Dixie's Love & Stuff, 2328 Vernor Road, Lapeer, Mich. 48446. (5-3t-47p-ts)

## FOR HOMEMAKERS

**SAVE! Make Your Own!** Frozen hash-browns, tater tots, french fries! Complete, easy, instructions, \$1.00. Hamiltons, Box 652-131, New Ulm, Minn. 56073. (6-20p-ts)

**Now! Frozen Tomato Slices!** Enjoy garden fresh flavor year round! Complete, easy instructions, \$1.00. Hamiltons, Box 652-131, New Ulm, Minn. 56073. (6-20p-ts)

## FOR HOMEMAKERS

**Recipes! Coupons!** Cooking Delight Magazine, Cookeville, TN 38502-2727. \$3/year. (4-10t-10p-ts)

**Coldwater Dill Pickles!** Can in minutes! No hot brine. Delicious. Crisp. Factory secrets! Recipe, \$1.00. Hamiltons, Box 652-131, New Ulm, Minn. 56073. (6-20p-ts)

**Sell your grocery receipts** to a national company. Earn five level cash on grocery receipts. Easy, fantastic opportunity. Full details, James E. Burkhardt, 13785 Solon Road, Traverse City, Mich. 49684. Phone 616-946-5292. (6-32p-ts)

## NURSERY STOCK

**Nursery Stock** - Evergreens, shade & ornamental trees, shrubs, roses, perennials, ferns & ground covers. Top quality at reasonable prices. Our 26th year! Lantollary Nursery, 5736 N. 25th St., Kalamazoo, 616-385-2488. (5-3t-30p)

**Strawberry plants** (Maryland virus free) - Earliglow, Sparkle, Midway 25-45, 100-114. Everbearing 25-46.50, 100-120. Grape Vines \$2.50 each. Add 15% for shipping. Send for free letter. I & J Wolverton Nursery, 6197 Lake Road, Millington, Mich. 48746. 517-871-2325. (5-2t-33p)

## REAL ESTATE

**New condominium project** on beautiful Duncan Bay off Lake Huron in Cheboygan, Mich. Pre-construction prices now available. For more information: Lofgren Construction Company, P.O. Box 35, Cheboygan, Mich. 49721. Phone 616-627-9506. (6-30p)

**Smoky Mountain riverside home for rent**. Townsend, Tennessee, near Gatlinburg and Cades Cove. Pictures sent on request. \$50.00 night. Carl Morgan, 409 Lambert Lane, Maryville, Tenn. 37801. (6-4t-27p-ts)

**Farms, homes, businesses** - free catalog No. 204 lists acreage and property in 15 states. American Farm Digest, 3546 Watson, St. Louis, MO 63139. 800-525-9943. (4-4t-23b-ts)

**80-acre tiled clay loam**, 150 sow feeder pig operation, modern farrowing barn, nursery, home, central Michigan. David Richardson, 6775 Hoover, Beaverton, Mich. 48612. 517-386-2737. (5-3t-25p)

**80 acres, seven room farm ranch home for sale**, with basement and fireplace. Large barn with basement, also 24x30 workshop. All cleared farmland. Spring and large pond. Price \$70,000. Ralph Freel, 638 Highway, Box 577, Millersburg, Mich. 49759. 517-734-4343. (5-2t-46p)

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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.

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**Come Help Us Celebrate The Child**  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital continues its search for life-saving knowledge about childhood diseases because people care. Help us celebrate the child. Write St. Jude, 505 North Parkway, Memphis, TN 38105.




# County Communications Rate Recognition

By Cathy J. Kirvan

With over 50 of the 69 county Farm Bureau units in the state publishing monthly newsletters or regional newspapers, Michigan is recognized as a leader among the state Farm Bureaus in grassroots communications. Michigan is also one of the few states to have county information committees that deal with the news media on a regular basis.

So when John Lewis, AFBF director of media relations, wanted to know how a successful county information program works, Michigan was one of two states he visited to get a first hand look.

Lewis spent April 26 and 27 in Kent County visiting with In-

formation Committee Chairperson Sharon Steffens and the county Farm Bureau board of directors. Kent County was selected because of the diversity of the media in the area. The county includes both urban and rural areas served by a daily newspaper, five weekly newspapers, three television stations and 11 radio stations.

"I was very impressed with the Kent County situation," Lewis said. "I was particularly impressed with the way the entire county board seemed to pull together as a team with respect to information."

Lewis also visited three counties in Iowa to gather information on county communication networks. "What I have found is that wherever members go out

and really try to work with the media, Farm Bureau gets a lot more attention than it does by spending a lot of time on formalities.

"The key to success with the news media seems to be accessibility," he said. "If the media know who in the county to call for information, that's more important than all the news releases and all the formalities put together."

Lewis will use the information he has gathered to write an article for AFBF's *Farm Bureau News* and eventually to publish guidelines for use by state Farm Bureaus in establishing effective county information networks.

## Board Recognizes Importance of Good Communications

When the Kent County Farm Bureau board decided a few years ago to make improving member relations a priority, the board also recognized the need for a strong member and public information program. It established the position of information director as a voting member of the board and appointed Sharon Steffens to the position.

"Being a motivator is my primary role as information director," Steffens said, "and if I can motivate people to get involved and do things, then there is something to report on for the news media.

"Our first step in improving member relations was to make members aware of their member benefits," she said. She developed a directory of ser-



John Lewis, AFBF director of media relations, and Sharon Steffens, Kent County Farm Bureau information director, discuss the county's "team" approach to county communications.

VICES that was mailed to all members. It is also used as a membership tool.

"We have also activated our committees so that they are viable, and we want to strengthen them even further," Steffens said. "We have involved those committees, board members and community action groups in policy development so that we now have a very strong PD process. And in the course of doing that, we have activated the membership and have dou-

and former board members as resource people.

"I am trying to build a group of people who are not afraid to speak out on issues, or to speak up on their commodity," she said. "When an issue arises, I try to provide them with background information and ask them to make their own media arrangements. It gives them a valuable experience, helps them organize their thoughts and makes them much more confi-

## Northwest FB Gives Agriculture Fifteen-Year Media Boost

By Donna Wilber

When Deni Hooper walks through the doors of WPBN-TV, high on a hill overlooking Traverse City, everyone from the receptionist to the cameraman greets her with a smile. She's been a familiar figure there since 1968 as commentator and interviewer for the 15-minute "Accent Agriculture" show.

During those 15 years, Deni has had some character-building experiences. She's seen gregarious guests enthusiastically share their knowledge and experiences on a particular topic during the pre-show warmup, then become rigid and nearly mute when the countdown to air time concludes and the ominous eye of the camera focuses on them. There's nothing like the challenge of filling 15 minutes of air time with a one-sided interview to build character, she reports.

She's also had some moments of on-camera panic, such as when a 4-H youth temporarily lost control of his blue-ribbon winner and the animal, "looking a lot like a bull," charged toward her and a nervous cameraman in a bolt for freedom.

But it's been these kinds of experiences that have made a "pro" out of Deni, a farmer and Information Committee chairperson for the Northwest Michigan Farm Bureau, and she's almost as comfortable before the Channel 7-4 cameras as she is pruning trees on the Hoopers' 217-acre fruit farm.



Board member Craig Schweitzer proudly describes the cooperation between county committees to achieve member and media support for Kent County Farm Bureau activities.

bled attendance at the county annual.

"We're constantly trying to find more ways to make contact with the membership, and one of those ways is through the news media. If members read that Kent County is doing this or will be doing that, or that the board has taken a position on a particular issue, then the membership knows what's happening. We do this through the general media, but the primary means is the county newsletter."

Steffens' Information Committee consists of all board members and a few other key leaders in the county. She also utilizes members who serve on statewide advisory committees, members who are involved in other agricultural organizations

"One of the things that has happened now is that we have become a team," Steffens said. "It takes more member involvement to develop stronger leadership and new leadership. Kent County has lots of room for improvement; we haven't reached the pinnacle yet."

With the recognition of agriculture as Michigan's most stable industry, Steffens has seen an increased interest in agriculture by urban media. "We now have an excellent farm page in the *Grand Rapids Press*, and they have discovered a whole new source of advertising revenue that they had not been tapping," she said. Area television stations have also become more interested in covering agricultural issues.



During the 15 years "Accent Agriculture" has been on the air, the setting where Deni interviews guests has changed from a country kitchen table to a news anchor desk to today's "Good Morning, America" style.

With over 750 shows on record, the original motivating factor for launching "Accent Agriculture" — sharing agricultural information with the general public to establish better rural-urban relations — has remained the same throughout the years. The public service program has focused on every type of farming enterprise in the area, family life, legislative issues, current concerns affecting the entire community and, most important, the people involved.

"The only time we've been knocked off the air is when the transmitter iced up or we've been bumped by assassinations or election results," Deni said.

While it's difficult to single out a highlight of her 15 years in this role, Deni believes a special half-hour show on the cherry industry ranks as one she enjoyed most.

"We went right through the entire industry from when it started and why. We did a lot of study and playacting. The station's personnel were very helpful and supportive. We took the cherry from the tree through all the production practices to the processing plant, through marketing and distri-

bution," Deni remembers. "It was a fascinating show."

Deni gives major credit for the origination of "Accent Agriculture" to former Michigan Farm Bureau regional representative John Willsie, who felt there was an information void that the talents of Farm Bureau volunteers in the area could fill. It was Willsie who made the initial arrangements with the station management, encouraged the appointment of a regional committee and shared hosting responsibilities on the show.

The regional committee, which was composed of a woman from each of the Northwest Region counties and met once a month to brainstorm on show content ideas, no longer exists and Deni misses this interaction.

"The people involved were so interested and excited about farming and about life in general. They were just fine people and as we talked together, they brought out things they felt were of vital importance to them, both then and in the future," she said. Today, "Accent Agriculture" program ideas are drawn from regional boards with the help of MFB regional representative Dennis Gibbs.

"When we first started, we worried about running out of ideas, but so far we haven't run dry. It seems we always have more ideas of what we'd like on the show than we have room for," Deni said. The guests she's had on the shows throughout the years provide her with ongoing resources. "It's like you have to keep in touch with them and find out what they're doing that's new and different and why they're doing it."

It appears that "Accent Agriculture" is far from running its course. The show has recently been moved to a better viewing time, Saturdays at 7:15 a.m., and plans are to do an on-site program once each month.

Certainly, one of the reasons for the longevity and bright future of the show is Deni Hooper, who also serves as editor of the Northwest Michigan Farm Bureau newsletter. As Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton Smith stated in his congratulatory message to Deni on "Accent Agriculture's" 15th anniversary, "you serve as an inspiration to information volunteers throughout the state and the nation."



Deni and cameraman Mike Street check signals before filming of the show begins.

# Ford Tractor Employees Host Open House



Nearly 1,200 farmers and dealers toured Ford Tractor's manufacturing and assembly plant in Romeo, Michigan, on May 5.

In a unique program to promote their products, hourly and salaried employees at Ford Tractor's manufacturing and assembly plant hosted more than 1,200 farmers, other tractor buyers and tractor dealers at an open house in Romeo on May 5.

Conceived by employees through the Romeo plant's employee involvement process, the open house was planned and coordinated by them with the support of plant management, local UAW leaders and Ford Tractor's North American Sales Operations' marketing staff.

In a joint statement, Jack van de Kerckhof, plant manager, Romeo Tractor and Equipment Plant, and Henry Marshall, plant UAW chairperson, said that the open house dramatizes the

commitment to quality by Ford and its employees.

"To our knowledge, this is the first time that hourly and salaried employees in Michigan have taken such an active role in promoting the products they build," the group said. "Romeo plant employees believe in the quality of our work."

Several months in the planning, the open house included plant tours, product displays and field demonstrations of Ford's farm and industrial tractors.

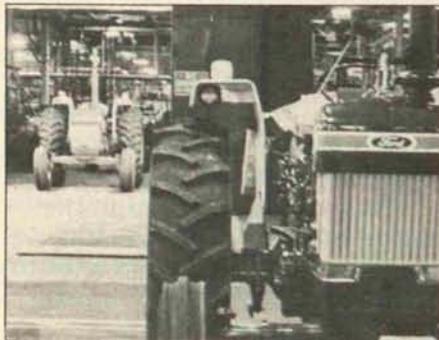
An informative video tape presentation highlighting the plant's manufacturing and assembly areas, prepared by the employee groups, was

shown to guests prior to the plant tour.

Invitations to the event were sent to Ford Tractor dealers, who in turn invited their customers. In addition to many dealers and farmers from Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, some groups arrived by chartered plane from as far away as New York, New Jersey, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois.

"The employee involvement program began at the Romeo plant in 1980 and since that time has contributed many solutions to improve the product and quality of work life," Marshall said. "The open house and other events sponsored by program participants are examples of employee pride in doing a good job and typify their creativity and resourcefulness."

Ford Motor Company produces three separate product lines at its Romeo Tractor plant — 30-to-90 horsepower Series 10 farm tractors; three- and four-cylinder industrial tractors, tractor loaders and tractor loader backhoes; and over-100-horsepower six-cylinder TW Series farm tractors.



# 1983 Michigan Fair Schedule



Fair	Location	Fair Date	Harness Race
Alcona County	Lincoln	Aug. 1-6	
Alger County	Chatham	Aug. 25-28	
Allegan County	Allegan	Sept. 9-17	Sept. 12-17
Alpena County	Alpena	Aug. 21-27	Aug. 22
Arenac County	Standish	July 24-30	July 24-25
Armada	Armada	Aug. 16-21	
Baraga County	Pelkie	Aug. 6-7	
Barry County	Hastings	July 17-23	July 20-22
Bay County	Bay City	Aug. 1-6	Aug. 1-3
Berlin	Marne	July 17-23	
Berrien County	Berrien Springs	Aug. 12-20	
Branch County	Coldwater	Aug. 7-13	
Calhoun County	Marshall	Aug. 14-20	Aug. 15-19
Cass County	Cassopolis	Aug. 8-13	Aug. 8, 10-12
Chelsea Community	Chelsea	Aug. 30-Sept. 3	
Chippewa County	Kinross	Aug. 31-Sept. 5	Sept. 2, 3-5
Chippewa County	Stalwart	Sept. 8-10	
Clare County	Harrison	July 30-Aug. 6	Aug. 1-6
Clinton County	St. Johns	Aug. 15-18	
Croswell	Croswell	July 17-23	July 18-21
Dickinson County	Norway	Sept. 2-5	Sept. 4-5
Eastern Michigan	Imlay City	Aug. 29-Sept. 5	
Eaton County	Charlotte	July 24-30	July 24-25
Emmet County	Petoskey	Aug. 22-27	Aug. 22-23
Fowlerville	Fowlerville	July 18-23	July 20-22
Genesee County	Genesee	Aug. 15-21	
Gladwin County	Gladwin	July 25-30	July 26-28
Gogebic County	Ironwood	Aug. 11-14	Aug. 12-14
Gratiot County	Ithaca	July 17-23	July 18-20
Gratiot Co. Youth	Alma	Aug. 1-6	
Hillsdale County	Hillsdale	Sept. 25-Oct. 1	Sept. 26, Oct. 1
Houghton 4-H	Hancock	Aug. 26-28	
Hudson Grange	Hudson	July 7-9	
Hudsonville	Hudsonville	Aug. 22-27	
Huron County	Bad Axe	Aug. 7-13	Aug. 9-12
Ingham County	Mason	Aug. 1-6	Aug. 5-6
Ionia Free Fair	Ionia	July 29-Aug. 7	Aug. 2-4
Iosco County	Hale	July 27-30	July 28-30
Iron County	Iron River	Aug. 18-21	
Isabella County	Mt. Pleasant	Aug. 7-13	Aug. 7-9
Jackson County	Jackson	Aug. 7-13	
Kalamazoo County	Kalamazoo	Aug. 22-27	Aug. 22-25
Kalkaska County	Kalkaska	Aug. 24-27	
Kent County	Lowell	Aug. 1-6	
Lake Odessa	Lake Odessa	June 30-July 4	July 1-4
Lapeer County	Imlay City	Aug. 29-Sept. 5	Aug. 29-31
Lenawee County	Adrian	Aug. 14-20	Aug. 17-19, 28
Luce County	Newberry	Aug. 26-29	
Mackinac County	Allenville	Aug. 26-28	
Manchester Community	Manchester	Aug. 9-13	
Manistee County	Onkama	Aug. 31-Sept. 5	Aug. 31-Sept. 1
Marion	Marion	July 6-9	July 6-9
Marquette County	Marquette	Sept. 15-17	
Mecosta County	Big Rapids	July 10-16	July 10-13
Menominee County	Stephenson	July 28-31	

Fair	Location	Fair Date	Harness Race
<b>Michigan State Fair</b>	<b>Detroit</b>	<b>Aug. 26-Sept. 5</b>	
Midland County	Midland	Aug. 14-20	Aug. 15-18
Milan	Milan	June 21-25	
Missaukee-			
Falmouth	Falmouth	Aug. 8-12	
Monroe County	Monroe	Aug. 1-6	
Montcalm County	Greenville	July 10-16	
Montmorency	Atlanta	Aug. 10-13	
Muskegon County	Ravenna	July 26-30	
Newaygo County	Fremont	Aug. 15-20	
Northern District	Cadillac	Aug. 15-20	Aug. 17-19
Northern Michigan	Cheboygan	Aug. 13-20	Aug. 15
N.W. Michigan	Traverse City	Aug. 29-Sept. 3	Aug. 30-31
Oakland County	Davisburg	Aug. 2-6	
Oceana County	Hart	Sept. 1-5	Sept. 1-3
Ogemaw	West Branch	Aug. 17-20	
Ontonagon	Greenland	July 28-31	
Osceola County	Evart	July 26-30	
Oscoda County	Mio	Aug. 10-13	
Otsego County	Gaylord	Aug. 8-14	Aug. 9-12
Ottawa County	Holland	July 25-30	July 25-30
Presque Isle County	Posen	Sept. 9-11	
Roscommon	Roscommon	Aug. 9-13	
Saginaw County	Saginaw	Sept. 10-17	
Saline Community	Saline	Sept. 6-10	
Sanilac County	Sandusky	July 24-30	
Schoolcraft County	Manistique	Aug. 26-28	
Shiawassee	Corunna	Aug. 7-13	
Sparta Area	Sparta	July 27-30	
St. Clair County	Goodells	Aug. 9-13	
St. Joseph County	Centreville	Sept. 18-24	Sept. 19-24
Tuscola County	Caro	July 31-Aug. 6	Aug. 1-4
<b>U.P. State Fair</b>	<b>Escanaba</b>	<b>Aug. 16-21</b>	
Van Buren Youth	Hartford	July 23-30	
Vassar	Vassar	July 5-10	July 5-7
Washtenaw County	Ann Arbor	July 26-29	
Wayland Community	Wayland	Aug. 18-20	
Wayne County	Belleville	Aug. 8-13	
Western Michigan	Ludington	Aug. 22-27	Aug. 23-26

## Dairy Assessment Update and Analysis of Program Alternatives

The future of the Dairy Price Support Program, under close scrutiny for almost two years, is still very uncertain, following the granting of a temporary injunction by a federal judge in South Carolina.

For the second time in five months, Judge Matthew Perry blocked the U.S. Department of Agriculture from collecting a 50-cent assessment for each hundred pounds of milk sold by the nation's dairymen.

On May 13, the 4th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Virginia issued a stay against the temporary injunction which means the USDA can again collect the assessment. However, on May 25 Judge Perry was slated to re-examine the issue and either agree to leave the assessment in place, or impose a permanent injunction which would send Congress and the USDA back to the drawing board looking for a solution to the dairy industry's largest milk supply/demand imbalance on record.

At the same time, Congress is looking at another overhaul of the dairy program. On April 27, the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry reported two dairy bills. Both are opposed by Farm Bureau. The first bill, H.R. 2264, repeals the authorization for the two 50-cent per hundredweight assessments and freezes the dairy price support at \$13.10 per hundredweight through fiscal year 1985. The second bill will create a system of historical basis, producer payment incentives and price support penalties in an attempt to resolve the current dairy price support problem.

As of this writing, the latest news from Washington indi-

cates that an attempt is being made in the House Agriculture Committee to work out a compromise. This compromise could well combine parts of each of these proposals as well as other proposals being developed by the Reagan administration and offered by industry groups.

With all of this uncertainty and the wide variety of proposals offered as a solution to the imbalance of overproducing by nearly 14 billion pounds or 10%, it seems prudent to perform an economic analysis as to how each of the major proposals would impact the dairy farmer and make an effort to answer the question "Will this plan reduce milk production?"

### Table 1

Table 1 depicts a typical Michigan dairy farm with 70 milking cows and a herd average of 13,900 pounds per cow. A milk market price of \$13.00 per hundredweight and a cost of production of \$11.90 per hundredweight reflect current market conditions according to our estimates and those of the MSU Agricultural Economics Department. The current annual milk production for this hypothetical farm is 973,000 pounds which is a 7% increase over their 1981-82 base.

Situation A of Table 1 is the basis for comparison of the various proposals listed under alternatives B through K. Situation A reflects the basic \$13.10 per hundredweight price support program which has been in effect since October 1980. With Program B in effect, a 50-cent assessment is charged to the dairy farmer for each 100 pounds of milk produced. This

results in an annual gross income of \$121,625.00 or a decline of \$4,865.00 from Situation A.

The economic analysis under Situation D of Table 1, when compared to B and C, suggests that a dairyman seeking to maximize income would not reduce milk production to his 1981-82 base in order to gain a refund of the second 50-cent assessment. This is because his annual income under Situation D (\$115,163) is lower than with the \$1.00 assessment scenario under Item C where the annual gross income is \$116,760. Also, D takes into account a 20% cost savings due to reduced milk production.

The above analysis clearly shows that the assessments with B and C in Table 1 would encourage an operator to become more efficient and further reduce costs. However, the question remains "Will this program cut production or encourage increased milk production?"

Items E through I reflect an analysis of the National Milk Producers Federation proposal. Situation F, when compared to E, indicates that a dairyman would cut back to his 1981-82 base. Situations G and H assume a further reduction of 10% and 30% respectively. Even with a diversion payment of \$10.00 per hundredweight on reductions below his 81-82 base, and the addition of \$2.38 per hundredweight in reduced milk production costs for each hundredweight of milk not produced, the result is still lower returns (a decline of \$7,345 and \$8,472 with Situations G and H respectively as compared to a \$6,781 reduced yearly income

with Situation F). This suggests that while a dairyman will reduce production to his 1981-82 base, he probably will not reduce production enough to take advantage of the diversion payments.

Item I of Table 1 reflects this same Michigan dairyman who adds seven cows or otherwise increases his production per cow such that his total production is 10% higher than present. This increases his annual income by \$2,759 over what he is currently receiving and when compared to "no production change" in Item E, the net change in annual returns is well over \$10,000. It appears that

there is some economic incentive to increase production for this dairy producer under the NMPF proposal.

Next, Situations J and K of Table 1 detail the impact of a cut in the support price of \$1.50 per hundredweight. This approximates the current American Farm Bureau Federation policy position on the dairy issue.

Historically speaking, this approach of "lowering the support price" has been used five times since 1949. Each of these times, milk supply exceeded demand and each time the industry responded and cut production. The analysis under Item K

suggests that even a 10% increase in production will not return the producer to the level of income currently received, thus encouraging the dairy farmer to become more efficient by reducing production costs. This would tend to underscore the effectiveness of this approach to deal with the current milk surplus.

### Table 2

Table 2 reflects the returns for this same Michigan dairyman who now decides to add five cows to his existing herd.

(continued on page 34)

TABLE 1

**FARM DATA** — Number of Cows — 70 Pounds/Cow — 13,900 Market Price — 13.00/cwt.  
Current Production — 973,000 81-82 Base — 909,150 Cost of Production — 11.90/cwt.  
Percent Current Production is Over 81-82 Base — 7.02  
Percent of Production Subject to Second Tier Price — 7  
12.22 = Blend Price Under NMPF Proposal

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
	\$13.10 Support	50-cent Assessment	\$1.00 Assessment	-50 cents Produce at 81-82 Base	NMPF No Production Change	NMPF Cut to 81-82 Base	NMPF 10% Below 81-82 Base	NMPF 30% Below 81-82 Base	NMPF 10% Above Current Prod.	AFBF \$11.60 Support Price	AFBF \$11.60 Support Price + 10% Above Current Prod.
Monthly Lbs.	81,083	81,083	81,083	75,762	81,083	75,762	68,185	53,033	89,191	81,083	89,191
Monthly \$	10,540.79	10,135.38	9,729.96	9,596.89	9,909.69	9,975.70	9,928.72	9,834.78	10,770.76	9,324.55	10,064.00
Annual \$	126,490.00	121,625.00	116,760.00	115,162.68	118,916.78	119,708.40	119,144.67	118,017.36	129,249.15	111,895.00	120,768.00
Monthly \$ Change From Situation A		-405.42	-810.83	-943.90	-631.10	-565.09	-612.07	-706.01	229.97	-1,216.25	-476.79
Yearly \$ Change From Situation A		-4,865.00	-9,730.00	-11,326.80	-7,573.22	-6,781.60	-7,345.33	-8,472.64	2,759.15	-14,595.00	-5,722.00

TABLE 2

**FARM DATA** — Number of Cows — 75 Pounds/Cow — 13,900 Market Price — 13.00/cwt.  
Current Production — 1,042,500 81-82 Base — 909,150 Cost of Production — 11.90/cwt.  
Percent Current Production is Over 81-82 Base — 14.67  
Percent of Production Subject to Second Tier Price — 7  
12.27 = Blend Price Under NMPF Proposal

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
	\$13.10 Support	50-cent Assessment	\$1.00 Assessment	-50 cents Produce at 81-82 Base	NMPF No Production Change	NMPF Cut to 81-82 Base	NMPF 10% Below 81-82 Base	NMPF 30% Below 81-82 Base	NMPF 10% Above Current Prod.	AFBF \$11.60 Support Price	AFBF \$11.60 Support Price + 10% Above Current Prod.
Annual Income	135,525.00	130,312.50	125,100.00	116,816.87	127,951.78	121,362.59	120,798.86	119,671.56	139,022.54	119,887.50	129,394.56
Annual Income Change From Situation A		-5,212.50	-10,425.00	-18,708.13	-7,573.22	-14,162.41	-14,726.14	-15,853.44	3,497.54	-15,637.50	-6,130.44

**NOTES FOR TABLES 1 AND 2:**

If new production exceeds the 81-82 base by 7% or more, then 7% is used as the surplus amount. If the new production is less than a 7% increase above the 81-82 base, then the exact increase is used.

Columns D, F, G and H calculate lower production costs based on given reduced milk production and assume 20% of total cost of production as variable costs which can be saved.

Columns E and I assume a second tier price of \$1.10/cwt.

Columns C and H assume a diversion payment of \$10.00/cwt.

Columns I and K calculate higher production costs for the 10% increase in production and assumes 20% of the total cost of production as variable costs.

Columns J and K assume a cut in the support price of \$1.50, and a direct relationship between the price received by the dairyman and the support price.

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

**State and Local Taxes**

The topic of taxation, with or without representation, is the center of many discussions at the local coffee shop or wherever people are gathered. We often talk about taxes, but really, how well do we understand our system of taxation at the state and local level?

There is a somewhat complex mix of 39 Michigan taxes, consisting of 29 state and 10 local taxes, which are mandated for collection either by the Michigan Constitution or by law. There are six categories or types of taxes. These include:

- Individual income tax — which includes both state and local, based on a person's income.
- Business taxes — such as the Single Business Tax and the Corporate Income Tax.
- Payroll taxes — consisting of workers' compensation and unemployment compensation.
- Consumption type taxes — consisting of sales and use

taxes. Specific examples include the excise tax on gas and the Motor Vehicle Weight Tax. Sumptuary taxes, or what may be referred to as "sin taxes," are levied on liquor and cigarettes.

- Property taxes — consisting of both real and personal property.

- Transfer of wealth taxes — including gift tax and inheritance tax.

The theory of having a large number of taxes is that everyone should contribute to one or more of the various revenue generating mechanisms. For instance, if a person's household income is low and he or she does not pay an income tax, the person may pay a direct sales-use tax when goods are purchased, or indirectly, if the person buys a product and a business generates an income.

The pie chart in figure 1 indicates the major sources of revenue anticipated for 1984.

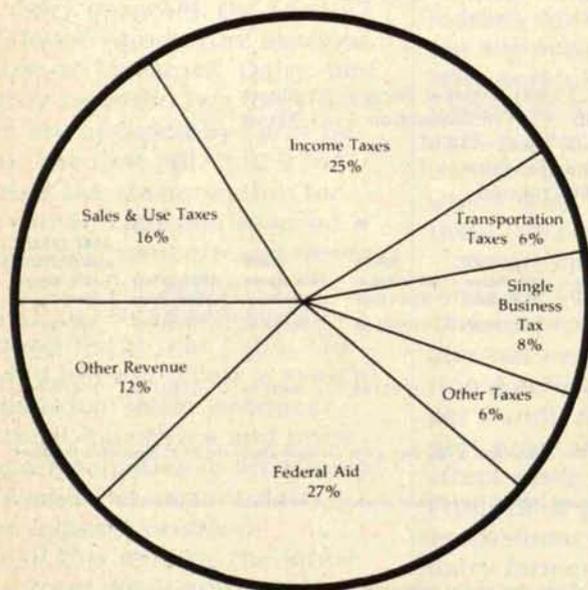
The total anticipated revenue for the 1984 state budget for revenue is over \$11 billion.

The state budget for 1984 expenditures is also over \$11 billion. The pie chart in figure 2 indicates the major areas of expenditure proposed in the budget for fiscal year 1984.

We often discuss the size of the state budget relative to need for, or quality of, the services provided. The historical function of government has been to provide those services which could not be or were not provided by private enterprise. These have included education on an equal basis, fire and police protection, prisons, etc.

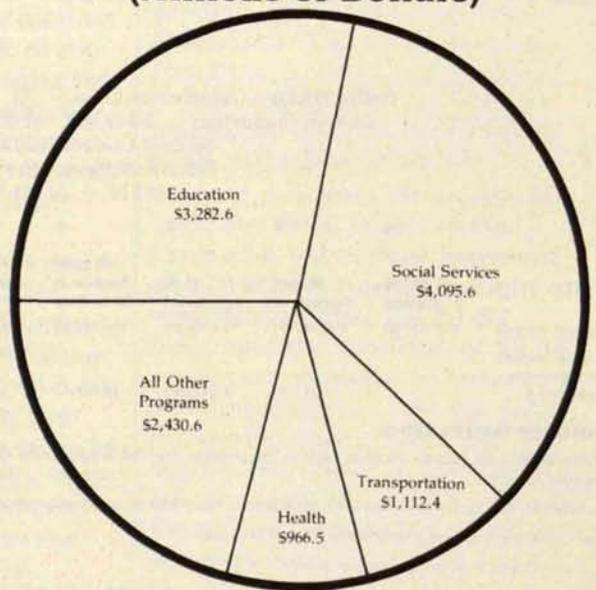
There's been substantial growth in the Michigan budget in the last 20 years. In 1960, the state budget was approximately \$2 billion. In 1980, the total was approximately \$10 billion. However, much of this increase is due directly to the inflationary spiral during that per-

**Revenue**



**Figure 1**

**Expenditures: \$11,887.7 (Millions of Dollars)**



**Figure 2**

iod of time. The inflated dollars do not necessarily buy any more goods and services. Thus, the total is somewhat exaggerated.

A specific section of the budget which has suffered because of the inflationary spiral is the transportation revenue generated by gas and weight taxes. In 1970, approximately \$400 million was generated through these sources. In 1980, that figure had leaped to \$700 million. However, if that figure is adjusted for inflation, we find that in 1980 dollars, the revenue generated was actually less than the dollars available in 1970. The 1980 revenue, adjusted for inflation, was only \$200 million, \$200 million less than in 1970.

As we consider the state budget, we often overlook the fact that each one of us is impacted almost daily by the state budget at the local level. Local revenue for 1980 totalled approximately \$11.4 billion. Of that total sum, approximately one-third came from property tax, one-third from state revenue sharing and one-tenth from federal revenue sharing. Approximately one-half of the local revenue is generated by state and federal sources. Thus, a cutback in the state budget has a direct and significant impact on local government.

School finance is another area of major concern. In the budget squeeze, schools have become more reliant on property tax much to the concern of voters. However, most schools receive a significant, although reduced, amount of dollars from the state and federal government. Items, such as "categoricals" for transportation and other sources, are often overlooked. Thus, as state revenue and state budgets are trimmed, schools too have suffered.

In addition, declining enrollment has further complicated the problem. As enrollment declines, the total cost of education per student is not reduced

at the same rate because of the need to continue operating expenses and, oftentimes, staff at the same level as before.

The state average per pupil expenditure of \$2,408 places Michigan 27th among the states. The national average expenditure is \$2,510.

The Michigan school aid formula attempts to provide an equal amount of dollars for each student no matter where

they live in the state. Currently, the state guarantees \$328 per student plus \$54 per mill levied. Subtract from that the amount generated locally and the remaining is the amount of dollars due from state aid. However, as the budget became tight, payments to schools have been delayed. This has caused serious cash flow problems for many school districts.  
(continued on page 30)

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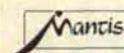
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## Agricultural Accident Rescue Seminars

(continued from page 13)

shut off points and how the machinery actually works. We'll know what we're dealing with when we get to the accident scene," she said. "I would recommend this type of seminar for all emergency personnel, especially in any part of Michigan that has a great deal of farms."

Farmer attitudes about safety are also covered at the seminars in an attempt to help avoid agricultural accidents.

"It was stressed that we use common sense," said Larry Leach, a Kalamazoo County beef and grain farmer who attended the seminar in his county. "We were reminded to keep all guards and shields in place and to use proper operating procedures."

Leach said that from a farmer's standpoint, these are good seminars for emergency personnel. "The life they save, as a result of attending, could be mine!"

The seminars also provide five continuing education credit units for basic, limited advanced and advanced EMTs. Co-sponsoring the seminars throughout the state besides county Farm Bureaus and the Cooperative Extension Service are EMT associations, hospitals, community colleges and the Department of Civil Defense.

Upcoming seminar dates and sponsoring counties include: June 18 — Lenawee; June 25 — Menominee; July 23 — Mecosta and Osceola; July 16 — Ingham (tentative); July 30 — Huron; Aug. 6 — Newaygo and Muskegon; Aug. 20 — Northwest Michigan; Aug. 26 — Ogemaw; and Sept. 10 — Saginaw and Tuscola.

## Discussion Topic

(continued from page 29)

The state budget does, in fact, affect more than just state government. We are often removed from the issue and feel that the state expenditures are excessive and unreasonable, forgetting that they do impact local services such as counties, townships and schools. Local budgets are controlled by voters and often, voters turn down millage issues in an attempt to send a message to those who insist on spending.

### Special Note to Discussion Leaders

To help your group members better understand how the state budget affects them, several questions have been prepared. You are encouraged to contact your county treasurer, township treasurer or school to assist your group in evaluating local government and the impact that the state budget has in your area.

### Discussion Questions

- What is the cost in your school district to educate one student for one year, kindergarten through 12th grade? How does this compare with the state average? Higher or lower?
- What percent of your township, county and school budgets are derived from state or federal revenue sharing and what percent comes from local sources?
- How many of the 39 state and local taxes do you contribute to?
- If you were in control, what areas of the state budget would you reduce that *directly affect* you and your family? Indicate one of the following: Michigan Department of Agriculture, education, corrections/prisons, state revenue sharing to township and counties, law enforcement/state police.

## Ag Education

(continued from page 15)

and they may ask for the financial and volunteer support from the community to do the kind of vocational education training that is identified as necessary.

"When you take a look at the program and decide to make it more than textbook and lecture, the next step is determining how you will get more up-to-date materials and funding. That means support from FFA alumni in the community, fund-raising efforts or simply volunteering help in training," says Karlese.

"I think agriculture should come and knock on the school's door once in a while rather than wait for the school vo-ag teacher to come to theirs." Getting active support from the community for strengthening the vo-ag program is an ideal goal and one that Karlese holds out as achievable.

Drawing on community resources, local agricultural groups and agribusiness are among the suggested support activities in the newly developed curriculum guides for agriculture. Four curriculum guides have been developed by the Michigan Department of Education's Vocational Technical Education Service, along with the Curriculum Resource Team at Michigan State University, for farm management, crops and soils, farm machinery and equipment, and livestock.

### First Step on Career Ladder

"The vo-ag program is the first step in the youngster's career ladder by providing basic skills and understanding of agriculture. In vo-ag we will have given the student enough training so that he or she can go out and work in agriculture at an entry level.

"The youngster can decide to begin farming immediately after high school, take a two-year ag short course, work for a four year degree or even go on for advanced degrees. Those are all parts of the career ladder. We are providing the basics," says Karlese.

Using the curriculum guide, teachers work with the students to develop a plan or analyze a business venture.

For example, in the curriculum guide for farm management the student may be asked to develop and analyze a plan for farm business expansion. This exercise will require the student to look at capital investment, prospects, potential risks and decisions; to obtain input from records and documents; and to contact resource persons in the community such as farm credit institutions, real estate brokers, insurance agents and county or township officials.

"It means a lot of work has to be put into the exercise by the teacher and the student, but the student learns to look at the whys and hows behind the decision-making process," emphasizes Karlese.

For each of the four curriculum guides, writers analyzed the occupational titles and the tasks for entry level jobs, then set up learning exercises.

At workshops for teachers of vocational agriculture held during May, the curriculum guides were introduced and teachers were given the opportunity to work on developing lesson plans based on the job training exercises presented.

"The workshops were an opportunity for teachers to work with the curriculum guide and determine some activities to get the students involved in achieving the skill levels and determining their personal and career goals," says Karlese.

"Again, we're saying that the vo-ag teacher will probably need to review the guide with the advisory council and work with those volunteers to determine some priorities and coordinate community involvement in the program."



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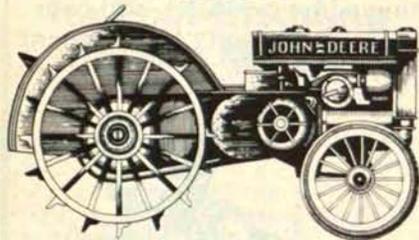
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## Legislative Review

(continued from page 7)

increase to \$14.2 million and \$12.6 million, respectively.

Total state funds for K-12 education will increase \$207.4 million to a total of \$1.9 billion. Retirement costs for teachers and employees account for almost \$508 million of that total. The increase in per student allowance would be about 7.7%. Increased school aid should lessen the pressure on increased property taxes.

### P.A. 116 Transfer Update —

The proposed transfer of the P.A. 116 program to the Department of Agriculture from the Department of Natural Resources has proven more complicated than many thought it would be. This is because very few understand the actual P.A. 116 law and other laws and provisions that are tied to it. It is a very complex piece of legislation and requires a highly competent and expert staff to administer.

H.B. 4232, as it passed the House, failed to recognize these problems and the bill required considerable change in the Senate.

FB has supported the transfer but has consistently pointed out that it must be done properly to assure continued competent service to farmers and also to assure that the existing 33,000 contracts with farmers will not be jeopardized.

Before H.B. 4232 was introduced, the MFB board took official action to support the transfer of the program to the MDA. Several things happened after that.

The DNR commission, which has policy control over the department, met and expressed support for P.A. 116. At a later meeting, the DNR commission went much further and passed

an official policy which goes through the Administration Procedures Act, giving P.A. 116 "one of the highest priorities within the department's budgeting and administrative structures." This made any recommendations by DNR Director Tanner ineffective and also sets the policy for the new director, as Dr. Tanner leaves June 1.

On April 20, the MFB board considered these new developments and voted to continue "to support H.B. 4232 and at the same time express our concern about maintaining service to farmers." The board further stated that it "understands that P.A. 116 can be administered by the Department of Agriculture. However, if the personnel who have been handling P.A. 116 in DNR do not transfer with the program, a heavy burden will be placed on the new department.

"It is projected that 8,500 to 9,000 applications for P.A. 116 will be received in 1983. If new personnel without prior experience in handling the writing of these contracts and unique problems that arise are suddenly faced with this workload, there will surely be a noticeable change in the service these landowners can expect."

When H.B. 4232 was considered by the Senate Agriculture Committee, it was reported that an attorney in the attorney general's office had expressed concern that H.B. 4232 was not adequate to assure service to farmers. His concerns were essentially in three areas. One was the wording of the present contracts in two areas, another was that the inheritance tax law that works in conjunction with P.A. 116 must also be amended and the third concern had to do with a 1973 governor's executive order creating a "land use agency" within the DNR.

(continued on page 34)

## Letters to Rural Living

(continued from page 17)

What concerns me as much as the fragmentation of the industry in its efforts to solve the problem, is the apparent lack of understanding by Farm Bureau members regarding their organization's policy development process.

Very simply, our policy position on the dairy program is: amend the Agricultural Act of 1949 to authorize the secretary of agriculture to annually set the support price for milk, taking into consideration CCC net dairy product purchases for the immediately preceding 12 months; and repeal of existing authority for the 50 cent/cwt. assessments on all milk marketed.

There is no organization that invests as much time, effort and resources as Farm Bureau does to gain farmer-input so its policies reflect the grassroots thinking of its members. Let's review, for example, how this particular policy was developed.

This subject received more study and discussion last summer and fall than any other single issue. Two statewide information meetings were held to which all dairy farmers were invited to participate. At county annual meetings last fall, every county Farm Bureau had the opportunity to recommend policy. Counties that did take action on this issue, along with our statewide dairy advisory committee, submitted their recommendations to the state Policy Development Committee which, in turn, presented a proposed policy to the voting delegates at the MFB annual meeting in Grand Rapids last December.

The policy adopted by that body was submitted to the AFBF. Farmers again had the opportunity to make their views and concerns known — which they did.

The producers who were involved in developing this policy had two major objectives: to maintain a viable dairy support program, one that provides a floor under milk prices but not at a level that encourages over-production, and to reduce the supply-demand imbalance to a level which can be absorbed by market forces in a reasonable time period. They believed the policy they adopted could best meet those objectives.

Keep in mind that only producers of agricultural commodities who are Farm Bureau members participate in setting Farm Bureau policy. In some of our national cooperatives, management has the opportunity to make very definite inputs into

policy decisions. It was producers who said the support price should be established in relationship to government purchases of dairy products.

Every year is a new year for Farm Bureau policy. We will be starting a new round of policy discussions for 1984 in July and August of this year. Every policy is analyzed by those members who are interested and policies can be changed, thrown out entirely or kept for another year. I urge you to take the many opportunities that are offered to be involved and make your voice heard.

*Elton R. Smith, President  
Michigan Farm Bureau*

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## Legislative Review

(continued from page 32)

H.B. 4232 as passed by the House is not adequate to properly transfer P.A. 116. Sen. Barcia, chairperson of the Senate Agriculture Committee, met with another attorney from the attorney general's office and he agreed that there were legal problems that must be ironed out. The Senate Committee has amended H.B. 4232 and reported it to the floor with the understanding that any other legal issues will be worked out before final passage.

**Right to Water** — H.B. 4198 is under consideration in the House Agriculture Committee. FB has strongly supported the legislation as a good step in the right direction toward a comprehensive water rights law.

H.B. 4198 would place into

law legislative intent that agriculture should have the "right to use an amount of water sufficient to meet the needs of the production of farm products and crops grown." It would provide that "water usage should conform with generally accepted agricultural and management practices."

This bill is controversial as environmental groups are strongly opposed. However, work is progressing on the bill.

**Beef Commission** — H.B. 4421, introduced by Rep. Dodak, would amend the Beef Industry Commission Act to assure that all "cattle" (meaning bovine animals) sold for slaughter would be liable for the promotion check off. Presently the assessment rate cannot be more than 1/10 of 1% of the gross receipts from sale of such cattle. The present 11-member

commission would be increased by one to provide a producer member, "engaged in commercial production of veal."

This may be a controversial bill because a group of veal producers have indicated they want to form their own commission to promote the use of veal.

*Lansing legislative topics are reviewed by Robert E. Smith, senior legislative counsel.*

## Agrinomic Update

(continued from page 27)

The analysis and results are similar to Table 1 in that a dairyman has no incentive to reduce to his 1981-82 base under the assessment program. However, the analysis of the National Milk Producers Federation proposal has changed from before.

In this case, it suggests that there is no economic incentive to cut production at all. In fact, the dairyman would gain over \$11,000 annually by increasing milk production an additional 10% as shown in Item I of Table 2 when compared to a loss of over \$7,500 with "no production change" in Item E under the NMPF program. The results under Situations J and K with the AFBF proposal again emphasize the need to become more efficient by reducing production costs as lower annual income will otherwise occur.

A brief update on recent happenings of the National Dairy Price Support Program have been presented in this article, along with an economic analysis on several major proposals designed to correct the present supply and demand imbalance with U.S. milk production.

*Agrinomic Update is prepared monthly by MFB's Commodity Activities & Research Department.*

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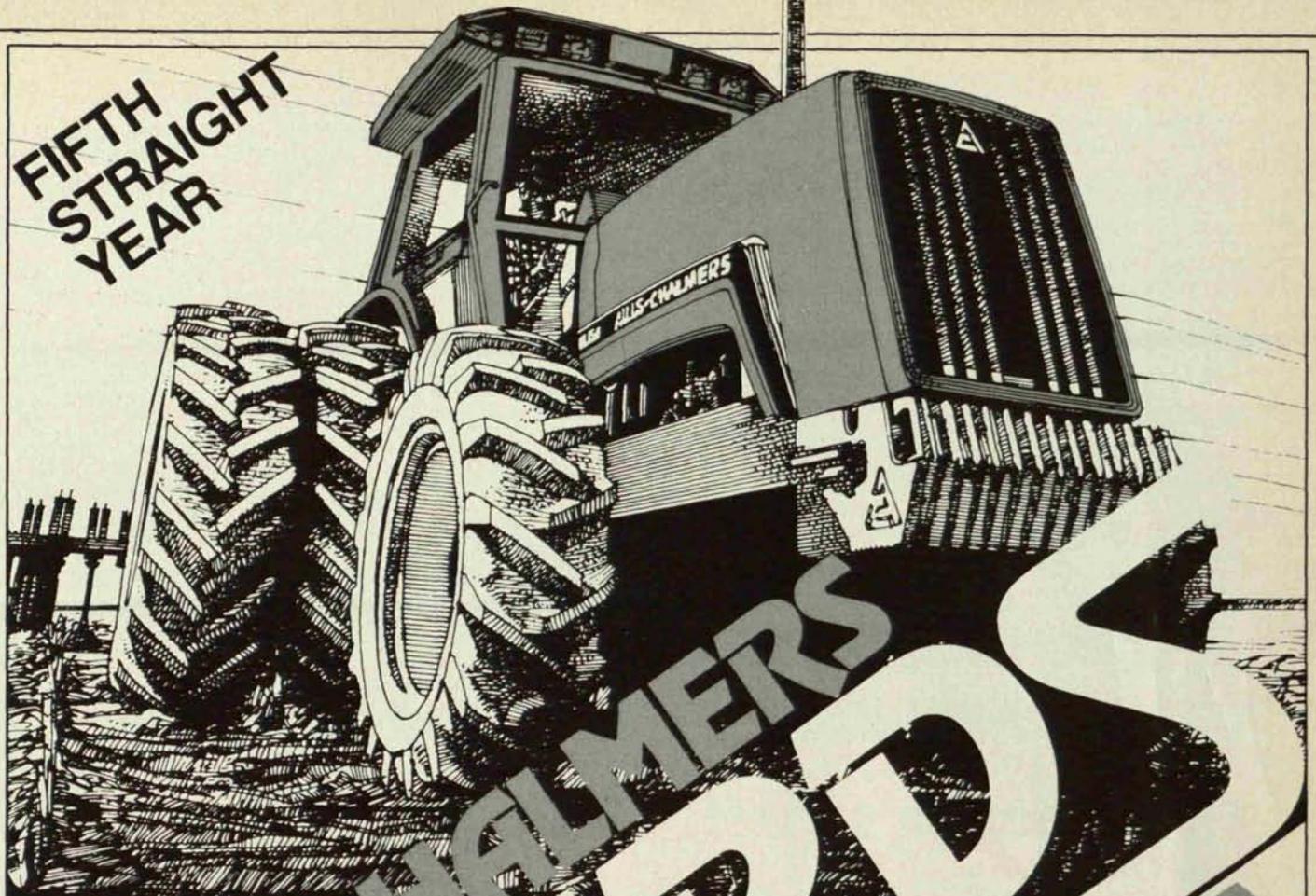
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