

# FARM NEWS

## MICHIGAN FARMERS NOW COOPERATING WITH GAME PROGRAM

By Earl Taft Benson  
Secretary of Agriculture

Any effective solution of today's farm problem must provide methods for reducing our huge stockpile of agricultural commodities and at the same time prevent further burdensome accumulations. Getting rid of these surpluses is only half of my problem. Even if we were able to bring them down to manageable proportions, we would soon acquire new hoards of wheat, corn, cotton and hogs and the existing systems of price supports.

We already have approximately \$2.5 billion tied up in loans on farm commodities. In addition to the amount invested in goods which we own outright - \$5 billion in all.

Our present program does not encourage the production shifts which are required to meet the changing market demands for various commodities.

Of course, we could destroy some of our surpluses. Remember the government's potato fiasco of a few years ago?

Or we might plow under every third row of cotton and kill little pigs. Remember the mid-1930's?

Actually, we would not even consider such wasteful practices. We are attempting to move surplus food and fiber into foreign markets. World prices, however, are well below the figures which would reduce surpluses, with a minimum of government controls.

That is our immediate goal. Such a program will be offered to Congress by this Administration in January.

## Secretary of Agriculture Benson Probes Commodity Accumulations

Our population is growing at a rate of more than 2,000,000 per year, which means that by 1975 there will be 200,000,000 Americans. Our future farm problems may involve questions of shortages, rather than surpluses.

We cannot wait for an expanding population to solve our immediate troubles, however. We need an interim program to encourage shifts to other crops. We must build up a surplus of government stockpiles now.

Our urgent need is for a price support program which can be adjusted in terms of production and demand. One which will effectively reduce surpluses, with a minimum of government controls.

That is our immediate goal. Such a program will be offered to Congress by this Administration in January.

## NOTED PASTOR KEY SPEAKER FOR FARMERS

Ex-amateur boxing champion and former correspondent, the Rev. W. H. "Bill" Alexander, will be headline speaker for the first general session of the 39th annual Farmers' Week at Michigan State College.

The dramatic 23-year-old 215-pound pastor of First Christian church of Oklahoma City - which insured his life for \$700,000 - will present "Life's Quiz Program" at 3:15 p. m. Tuesday, February 2, at the college auditorium.

Described by Time magazine with "... what Florenz Ziegfeld brought to Broadway and tabasco sauce to the raw oyster," the Rev. William H. Alexander brought to religion in Oklahoma City, he is one of the nation's most sought-after speakers. Sandwiched in between his Wednesday and Friday sermons in his home church, he talks to about 1,000 groups from coast-to-coast in five years.

Durward B. Varner, director of MSU's Cooperative Extension Service, will be program chairman. He will introduce outstanding

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Anyone having five acres or more of land, and desiring to take part in the "green-up" program can get things started by dropping a card to the conservation department of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Lansing 26.

Farmers who think they are going into the hole financially should take an inventory of their farm business to see just where they stand. An inventory is needed merely for a touch of the biplane, says John Donoh, farm management specialist at Michigan State College.

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## CRAIG OATS GOOD VARIETY FOR MICHIGAN

Southern Michigan farmers are being encouraged by Michigan State College farm crops specialists to send Craig oats next spring. Craig is a new variety that was developed in New York and has been tested in most parts of Michigan for the past four years.

Crops-Researcher John Grafius reports the new variety has yielded as well or better than other recommended varieties in the southern half of the state. The white oat also shows considerable disease resistance and better standing ability.

One of the biggest advantages of Craig oats - classed as a mid-season to late variety - is that it matures a little later than the wheat crop. That means a farmer wouldn't have two harvests on his hands at one time - as often happens with other earlier oat varieties. Grafius recommends Craig for the southern half of the Lower Peninsula - including the Thumb. He predicts the variety will do well even on extremely rich soils and where lodging usually is a problem.

Extension Crops Specialist Leyton V. Nelson cautions farmers not to be discouraged by the poor showing of Craig in county test plots last year. He attributes the poor performance to seed of low germination.

Another extension specialist, S. C. Hildebrand, estimates that there are about 40,000 bushels of certified seed of Craig oats available now from 40 growers. The growers are scattered well over the state but most of the supply is in the Thumb area and the Saginaw Valley section. Names of growers are included in the Certified Seed Directory available at the offices of county agricultural agents.

**"HOW DID YOU GET HERE SO QUICKLY?"**

HOW MY TELEPHONE HELPED IN AN EMERGENCY  
MRS. THERESA ZIMMERMAN GARDEN CITY MICHIGAN

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**FARM CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

January 20 - 21, Veterinarians Post Graduate Conference at Michigan State College.

January 21 - 22, Michigan Insecticide - Fungicide Conference at Michigan State College.

January 22 - 23, Michigan Gladstone Growers Conference at Michigan State College.

January 25, Harry J. Eustace Lecture series - "Policies of the Management" - 2:00 p.m., Room 209, Horticulture, Michigan State College.

January 27 - 31, Great Lakes Farm - Industry Show, Cleveland, Ohio.

**HELP!**

MRS. ZIMMERMAN HAD TRIPPED OVER HER DOG AND BROKEN HER LEG.

OPERATOR, SOMEBODY'S IN TROUBLE ON THE PARTY LINE. I WAS TALKING ON. CAN YOU FIND OUT WHO IT IS?

YES OF COURSE.

MRS. ALICE NELSON WAS SPEAKING TO A FRIEND WHOSE TELEPHONE IS ON MRS. ZIMMERMAN'S PARTY LINE. THEY HEARD HER MOANS.

BOTH HUNG UP THEIR TELEPHONES AND MRS. NELSON CALLED THE OPERATOR.

EASY DOES IT NOW.

WITHIN 15 MINUTES AFTER MRS. NELSON'S CALL, MRS. ZIMMERMAN, WHO IS 81, WAS ON THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL AND RECOVERY... THANKS TO MRS. NELSON'S QUICK THINKING AND TELEPHONE EMPLOYEES' FAST TEAMWORK, IN EMERGENCIES LIKE THIS AND IN EVERY-DAY USE, YOUR TELEPHONE IS WORTH A LOT MORE THAN IT COSTS.

THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE RADICED GARDEN CITY POLICE WHO RACED TO MRS. ZIMMERMAN'S HOME.

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**COUNTY FARMERS EAGERLY AWAIT STATE MEETING**

Hundreds of families in the Oakland County area, eagerly await the 39th annual Farmers' Week at Michigan State College, notes Ed Aelch, county agricultural agent.

The program from February 1 to 5 on the Michigan State College campus will have such specialties as "The Snake Hunt" presented by R. Martin Perkins, director of Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo and the Zoo Parade Television Show.

Attractions will range from better ways to grow corn, to better ways to ventilate dairy barns and

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