

Unemployment benefits cut

A federally funded program of supplemental unemployment insurance benefits which permitted recipients to collect up to 26 weeks of additional unemployment benefits has been cut back, according to Martin S. Taylor, Michigan Employment Security Commission director.

Reason for the change in the Federal Supplemental Benefits (FSB) program is reduction of the insured unemployment rate to below six percent for 10 consecutive weeks ending Oct. 30.

The insured unemployment rate (unemployed 30 per cent) should be reduced with the total unemployment rate (unemployed 8.9 per cent) which is the percentage of unemployed of Michigan's total labor force.

When the insured unemployment rate is

at or above six percent, Taylor explained, the unemployed may collect up to a total of 46 weeks of benefits through existing unemployment programs. When the rate is between 5 and 5.9 per cent, new claimants may collect only up to 32 weeks of benefits.

This includes up to 25 weeks of regular benefits, followed by up to 13 weeks of extended benefits (EB) payments and, effective Nov. 11, up to 13 more weeks of FSB before Nov. 14. 26 weeks of FSB were allowed.

After the cutoff date, persons filing a new claim for FSB will receive payments equal to half their regular payments.

Persons currently collecting unemployment insurance will not be affected by the change if they have collected half of their

FSB payments. If they have not, they will be eligible for 50 per cent of their original FSB allowance, in addition to the FSB payments they have already received.

Taylor said that all persons now drawing FSB will receive a written explanation of how the new FSB changes will affect their claims.

FSB is determined by the insured unemployment rate, which is the percentage of people claiming unemployment benefits compared to all employed workers who are covered by unemployment insurance.

The entire FSB program expires in March. After that, applicants will be eligible only for regular and EB payments for a maximum of 29 weeks of benefits.

Effect of weatherstripping around doors has much insulation in the attic, etc.

After you've compiled the information send it to Markor Boyd, Agricultural Engineering Department, Michigan State University, East Lansing, 48824.

The information will be fed into a computer to determine the costs for possible home heating improvements. In the near future, for more convenience, this data will be phoned into computers in the county extension offices.

MSU will show how to trim your heat bills

This winter, MSU will help you trim your heat bills by showing you how to weatherstrip your home. MSU's State University Cooperative Extension Service is sponsoring a series of seminars.

MSU Extension Service will provide seminars for homeowners in the Lansing area. The seminars will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 7 and 9 p.m. at the Lansing Convention Center. The seminars will be free of charge.

These are approximate costs, but we do not know the exact cost of weatherstripping your home. We also have an inflation factor built into the computer program. Ask Mark.

Here's how the program works: Obtain a weatherproofing house computer data sheet from the local county extension office. The data sheet is a checklist to guide you in weatherproofing your home. The checklist takes into account the condition of windows, number of windows and doors in the house and storm windows will be used, etc.

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