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Award plaques in Big Acre contest

The 23rd annual Big Acre Banquet was held at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth Feb. 19.

Wickes Agriculture division sponsors the event for the 27 chapters in Michigan of Future Farmers of America.

The chapters compete in five crops. Field beans, soybeans, corn, oats and wheat are judged on:

- 1) Production per acre in relation to land capabilities.
- 2) Management and cultural practices completed.
- 3) Fertilizer program used.
- 4) Records and computations.
- 5) Neatness and pictures in books.

Receiving first place awards from Cass City were Barb Broecker, soybeans, and Ed Zimba, corn, wheat and oats.

A Big Acre gold award plaque was presented for each crop, based on outstanding individual performance.

In the corn division, Ed Zimba of Cass City received the gold award.

Cass City members receiving spring jackets were Barb Broecker, Dan Hunt, John Gallagher and Ken Brown.

Winter jackets were awarded to members who received two or more first place finishes, including Ed Zimba.

The best chapter award was presented to the Corona High School FFA for the third straight year. Ugly FFA took second place.

Ugly FFA members receiving gold awards were Mike Dekoski and Diane Gosdzinski, corn; Gary Rumpitz and Jim Terbrack, wheat; Dekoski and Rumpitz, oats; Rumpitz, soybeans, and Dekoski and Melvin Volz, beans.

A total of 398 students from 27 high schools took part in the 1979 program, completing 644 individual crop projects on their home farms.



FFA WINNERS -- Ed Zimba, left, was a Wickes Big Acre Club gold award winner. Scott Hobart won first place in extemporaneous speaking in the FFA regional competition Feb. 21 at Reese. He will now compete during the state FFA convention March 19-21 at Michigan State University against the seven other regional winners. The state winner competes at the national FFA convention.

Future bright for bean growers, says Elenbaum

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Prior to the sale, the acreage devoted to navies was expected to increase, due to farmers planting less corn because of the grain embargo and a switch back from soybeans, a relatively new crop in the Thumb, which for many farmers has proven to be a poor one in terms of price and yield.

But with farmers who have contracts indicating that about half the land they will switch to pinto and black beans will come from land that would have been planted to navies, the rest to corn and soybeans, the result will be a more stable market.

If there is a short crop in 1980, Elenbaum predicted the price paid for beans will go up "the same as in the past."

The present price of \$20 per hundredweight is "not a bad price" for those farmers who had good yields last year.

THE MEXICAN BEAN sale is only one reason why Elenbaum sees a bright future ahead for bean growers.

Thanks to research, partially financed by the Bean Commission through its checkoff, he expects new varieties will be available to farmers in the next two years that will reduce disease problems and result in increased yields. He also expects a variety to be available within that time span that will eliminate the need for pulling prior to combining.

Promotional efforts financed by the Bean Commission through a communications agency to get more people to eat beans has resulted in numerous bean recipe articles in magazines and newspapers (free space worth probably \$450,000), and serving of bean soup and salads in many "elite restaurants."

Although efforts to get beans on menus in fast food restaurants haven't gone over as well, he feels that is because of poor preparation, heating them out of a can

and throwing them on a plate. "Those (restaurants) who did a good job have been very happy."

Communications have been established with bean grower groups in other states, which may result in joint promotional efforts.

The Bean Commission members are paid \$25 a day for official meetings plus expenses. They aren't paid for attending county bean

day programs and other functions relating to the bean industry, which make it a money losing proposition.

Despite that, he hopes Gov. Milliken will appoint him to a second three-year term once his present one expires.

"If you're not doing this for the interest of the bean industry, then you better not do it."

Test seed, say MSU experts

Growers can enhance the prospect for future sales of pinto and black turtle soup beans to Mexico by making special efforts to plant good seed this spring.

Dr. Larry Copeland, Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service agronomist, advises that bean seed be laboratory tested because no seed certification program currently exists for either class in Michigan.

This means that in some cases this year, tablestock beans will have to be used for seed. These may be infected with bacterial blight and mosaic virus which can seriously affect yields.

Personnel of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Dr. Alfred W. Saettler, U.S. Department of Agriculture plant pathologist based at MSU, are providing testing service for seed to be planted this spring.

If at all possible, avoid seed that has common (fuscos) blight, halo blight or mosaic virus infection. If the seed lot has common blight, go to another seed source because no chemical controls exist for this disease.

If halo blight is detected, the seed lot can be planted but fields should be sprayed for disease control. Growers

should work with their county extension offices to work out spray programs.

Under no circumstances should seed that has mosaic virus be planted. This virus can be spread readily by aphids into adjacent fields planted with varieties susceptible to mosaic virus.

Many seed suppliers are having seed stocks tested. If the seed has not been tested, growers should make sure it does undergo tests before they buy.

The Michigan Crop Improvement Association is offering growers an inspection program for non-certified colored beans this summer. This does not mean that seed from inspected plantings will be certified, but it will enable growers and seed suppliers to identify good seed sources that can be used until the certification program on new MSU-released bean varieties becomes available in 1981.

Growers interested in having this year's crop inspected should contact their county extension office.

Survivor sues for damages

The survivor of an Oct. 6, 1978, auto crash in which two persons were killed is suing the estate of one of the victims, plus two others.

Plaintiffs in the suit filed Feb. 7 in Tuscola County Circuit Court are Connie Castle, who was injured, and her husband, Ray, of Vassar.

Defendants are Shan Lorey of Sandusky, the driver of the car which struck the vehicle in which Mrs. Castle was riding; Robert Olivo Sr. of Sandusky, owner of the car driven by Ms. Lorey, and George Gleason of Millington as representative of the estate of his daughter, Amy Gleason, who was killed in the crash. She had been the driver of the car in which Mrs. Castle was an occupant.

The accident took place on M-46, northeast of Vassar, when the eastbound Lorey auto slammed into the Gleason car, which because of a steering malfunction had become sideways on the road just prior to the impact. The other person killed was also in the Gleason auto.

The suit seeks damages in excess of \$10,000 "in whatever amount the plaintiffs are found to be entitled," plus interest, costs and attorney fees.

The suit has been assigned to Circuit Judge Patrick R. Joslyn.

Driving - TV don't mix

When is watching television illegal? When one is also driving his car.

Sheriff's deputies were on patrol Saturday night on M-25, west of Unionville, when they noticed a reflection from inside a car. They stopped the vehicle and discovered the driver had been watching a television.

Reportedly, he had been watching a Winter Olympics broadcast.

The man, from Sebewaing, was given a ticket charging him with viewing a television while driving a motor vehicle.

The car was stopped at 11:45 p.m.

Letter to the Editor

Youth dies in one of area crashes protests language

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At 11:35 p.m. Friday, according to deputies, Thomas S. Prich, 18, of 9211 Huron Line Road, Gagetown, was westbound on Cass City Road, east of Seeley Road, when he lost control when his car hit a slushy spot. The car went into the south side ditch.

And then some folks are known by the things they might have accomplished -- and didn't.

Long time reader protests language

Enclosed is a check for \$13 to renew my subscription to the Chronicle.

I believe I could be listed among the people who have been reading the paper for many, many years.

When I was a little girl, my mother, Mrs. Genie Martin, was correspondent for the "Kingston Novesta Townline" news at the same time as John McCracken, who also lived on the townline near us, wrote for Deford news.

Many people will remember his interesting articles, one of which included a small booklet of the history of Novesta township, a copy of which I now have.

After I came to Detroit in 1918, my mother sent me the Chronicle each week; then after I was married, I subscribed to it.

Most of the Cass City people are now new to me, but many times I read about people I knew when I attended high school there. The pictures of the depot which is being torn down was kind of sad. I remember that four of us girls from the Deford area who attended school and went home week ends would sometimes take the train home.

I enjoy "Rabbit Tracks" by John Haire and articles by Mike Eliasohn. They are interesting, sometimes comical and always "clean" language. Also I enjoy Meredith Auten's column, but I don't like the "filthy" words that Jim Fitzgerald uses.

After I read the Chronicle, I give it to a friend. Although he doesn't know anyone there, he enjoys reading the articles and looking at the old pictures (with the exception of the above mentioned).

The English language has an abundance of words of which I'm sure Fitzgerald could rely upon instead of the extremely distasteful ones he continuously uses.

Whatever happened to censorship in this family newspaper?

Sincerely,

Goldie Martin-McLaughlin
Detroit



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