

## **SAFEGUARDING AMERICAN CATTLE INDUSTRY**

USDA banned downer cattle from entering facilities that slaughter them for human food, is keeping additional parts considered to be higher risk from the food supply, is conducting extensive studies on any infected animals, and is accelerating a national system to identify and track individual animals.

The USDA's Fiscal Year 2005 budget proposal includes \$60 million for mad cow activities.

FDA has banned a number of bovine materials from the certain human foods and cosmetics, and has banned poultry litter, restaurant plate waste and ruminant blood products from ruminant feed. The beef industry is the largest segment of U.S. agriculture.

## **FARM BILL PAYMENTS**

Authorized \$414 billion over six years for America's hard-working farmers. In fact, in the year 2003 alone, \$191 million was sent in direct payments from the USDA to Michigan farmers.

## **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FUNDING**

Secured \$2.1 million for agricultural research at Michigan State University (MSU) and at the Michigan Biotechnology Institute for fire blight, sustainable agriculture, bovine tuberculosis, cherry armillaria and improved practices for farmers who grow fruit, dry beans and sugar beets.

## **ETHANOL/BIODIESEL**

Energy bill requires the use of 3.1 billion gallons of renewable fuel in 2005, increasing to 5.0 billion gallons in 2012. This would mean more than a doubling of renewable fuel production, biodiesel and ethanol primarily, by 2012