

# Ag land trust plan halted

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Officials of the Continental Illinois Bank and Trust Co. of Chicago recently met with Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland to report that they have decided not to proceed with their plan for a proposed "ag-land" trust fund.

The proposal was to set up a \$50 million fund to invest in farmland on behalf of clients and corporate employee profit sharing and pension plan trusts.

Bergland said the meeting was amiable and added, "I was impressed with their open mindedness and willingness to discuss problems of mutual interest."

U.S. Department of Agriculture economists have stated that the potential negative aspects of such a fund appear to outweigh conceivable gains.

The Secretary said the officials told him the bank

withdrew its application on March 7 to the Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Treasury Department, requesting tax-exempt status for employee benefit plans investing in the proposed trust fund. They said they made their decision after discussing it with various members of the business and agricultural communities and government leaders.

# PFA to meet with lawmakers

CAMP HILL, Pa. - Local county officers and legislative committee members of the Pennsylvania Farmers Association will converge on Harrisburg this Monday for their annual legislative conference.

Participants will be briefed on current legislative concerns by PFA personnel during an informational meeting at 1 p.m. at the Penn Harris Motor Inn. From 3 to 6 p.m., association members will meet with their area legislators at the Capitol Building in Harrisburg. General Assembly members will join their farm constituents at 6:30 p.m. at the Penn Harris for the legislative banquet.

Several top priority issues were earmarked for possible legislative attention in 1977 by the PFA Board of Directors. Key issues include agricultural research, bargaining legislation, inheritance tax, public employee act, improvement of rural roads, economic formula for milk pricing, sunset legislation, the milk marketing law,

regulations on statewide banking, the election rather than appointment of the

state attorney general, and the exemption from licensing of extra-width agricultural equipment.

# Grafting demonstrated

DUNCANNON, Pa. - A free public nut tree grafting demonstration is being planned for April 16 in the Shermanata Grange Hall, near here. The hall is on Route 274, two miles west of town. The Pennsylvania Nut Growers Association is sponsoring the event, with Roy Snyder, county agent, informing visitors on new regulations about spray chemicals and their application.

Also featured during the day's program will be a sale of grafting bands, wax, knives, planes and literature.

Ag teachers, FFA students, 4-H'ers and other interested persons are encouraged to attend the meeting. It gets underway at 9:30 a.m. and continues through mid-afternoon. The tentative program calls for demonstrations and questions at around 10 a.m.,

followed by lunch at noon. The afternoon portion continues with demonstrations and a swap or sale of supplies.

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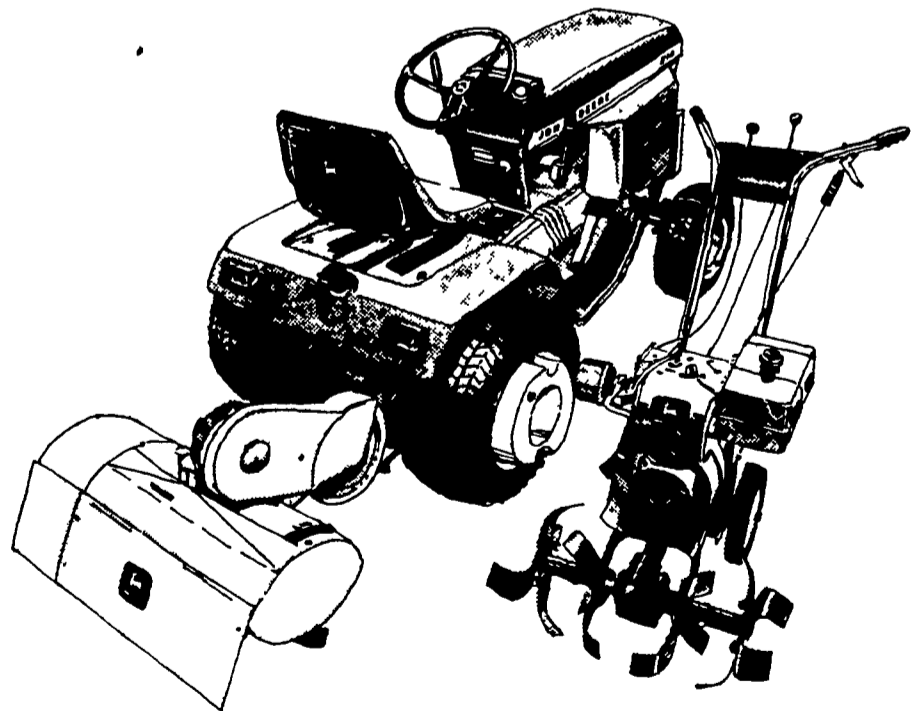
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