Group turns thumbs down on ag land protection act

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A combination of other congressional business and scheduling problems has delayed the fate of the Agricultural Land Protection Act.

Farm Bureau, in a letter to all House Agriculture committee members, said that H.R. 2551 provided nothing new or helpful to farmers without a meaningful Title I provision that would protect state plans.

For this reason, Farm Bureau said it no longer could support the legislation.

The major thrust behind the Agricultural Land Protection Act is to encourage and assist state and local governments in the development of such programs.

For over a year, Farm Bureau has stressed the importance of requiring federal agencies to conduct their activities consistent with state plans in accordance with Title I of the proposed measure.

Farm Bureau urged the bill be rejected since satisfactory language could not be achieved within Title I of the proposal.

"Without the teeth necessary to protect the integrity of a state plan, Farm Bureau cannot sup-

port his legislation," the organization said.

In testimony earlier this year, Farm Bureau reiterated its policy toward the Agricultural Land Protection Act.

During testimony before the House Subcommittee on Environment, Farm Bureau said, "We are opposed to any federal land use planning and believe that such activities can be best accomplished at the county or comparable level of

Farm Bureau said it would support HR. 2551 only if stronger language in Title I was added. It also recommended that all lands, including state and federal lands, be subject to all

government and by private provisions of local land use planning ordinance.

A vote on the measure was scheduled last week before the full House Agriculture Committee. A final vote on the measure is expected to come as early as next week.

Maryland offers Christmas tree directory

ANNAPOLIS, Md. - The Marketing Division of the Maryland Department of Agriculture again will offer the popular "Choose And Christmas Tree Directory of Farms where their Yule tree fresh from Baltimore, the growing fields.

George Roche, marketing specialist for MDA who compiles the directory in cooperation with the Maryland Christmas Tree Association, says the 1979 listing will feature about two tree buyers can go to secure dozen tree Farms in Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil,

Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, **Prince Georges and Talbot** counties.

The directories are free to any one wishing a copy. All requests must be by mail and reach MDA by Thanksgiving.

Requests (a postcard will do) should be sent to: "Christmas Tree" c/o Maryland Department of Agriculture, Annapolis, Maryland, 21401. Be sure to give your complete mailing address with ZIP CODE when requesting a directory.

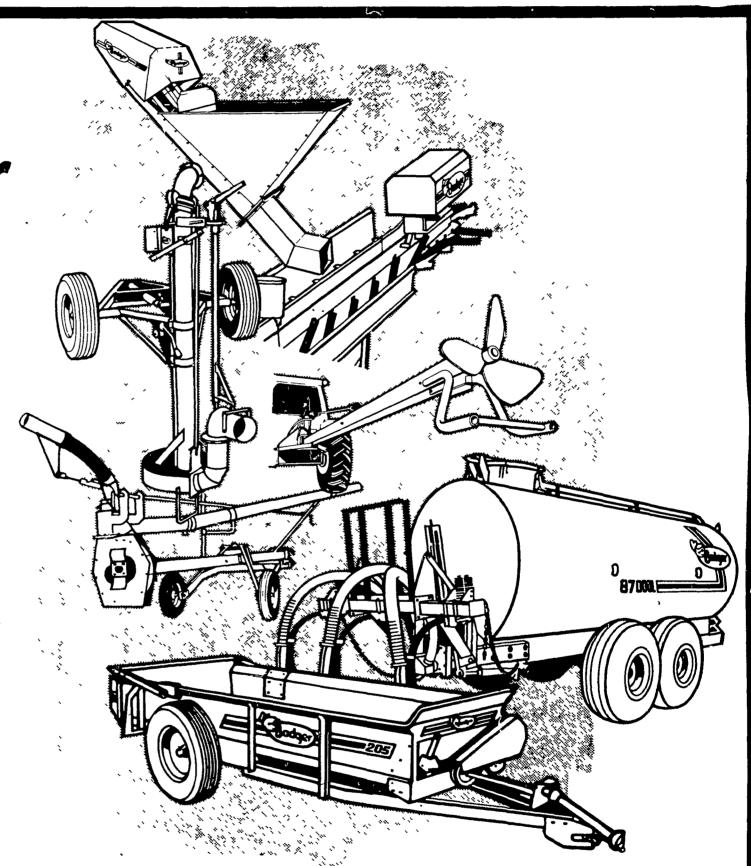
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