

Final ag structure hearings set for April 29-30

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The last of a series of public meetings on the structure of American agriculture and rural communities will be held in Washington, D.C., April 29 and 30, Acting Secretary of Agriculture Jim Williams announced Monday.

The sessions will begin at 9 a.m. in the Jefferson Auditorium of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

Secretary of agriculture Bob Bergland will chair the meeting and question invited representatives of national organizations and experts

concerned about future farm and food policy.

Ten public meetings held in November and December in different regions of the United States drew 575 speakers and about 7000 spectators, primarily state and regional group representatives and individual producers.

The meetings were the opening phase of a national dialogue on the present and future of American agriculture that Bergland called for in March, 1979, speech in Kansas City, Mo.

"Farmers and other concerned citizens provided

us with a wealth of information about their experiences, their insights, their frustrations and hopes during the regional meetings," Bergland said. "Our goal at this final meeting will be to advance the dialogue to the national perspective.

"We need to begin concentrating on major issues raised during those meetings, so we can better

identify the basic questions that must be answered before policies are developed for the future," he said.

The invited panelists, drawn from a broad spectrum of interested groups, will present up to five minutes of oral testimony. In addition, written statements may be left for the hearing record

Written comments from

organizations and individuals not scheduled to testify may be submitted for the public record until May 31. Such testimony should be mailed to: Structure of Agriculture Project, room 509-A, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. The telephone number is 202 426-3964.

Summaries of the 10,000 page record from the 10 regional meetings will be

available on request after April 1. Requests for this publication should be mailed to the same address.

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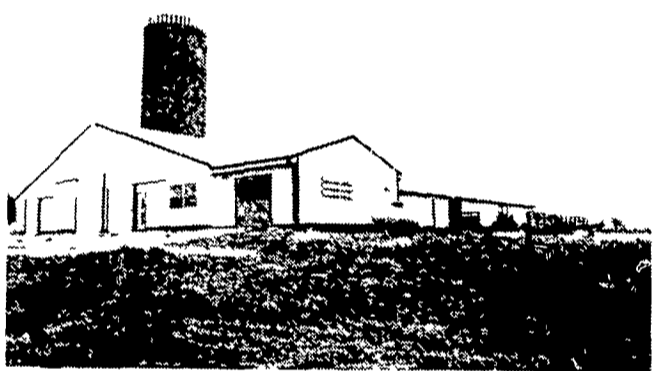
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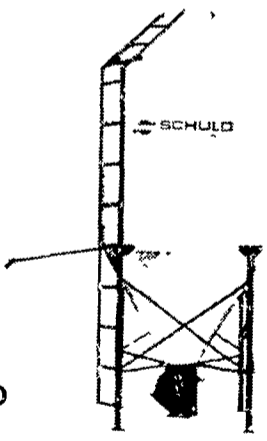
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