

## OUR READERS WRITE, AND OTHER OPINIONS

Editor, Lancaster Farming:

Jerry Webb's article in Lancaster Farming Oct. 12, 1985 needed some important information that was not included in his farmland-food-people study. The following added statistics will give a better perspective of the situation:

- According to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, one million acres of prime farmland are lost each year to an irreversible process called development. This is equivalent to a strip of land one-half mile wide stretching from New York to California.

- Another strip of land (two million acres per year) consisting of marginal farmland and land that has steeper slopes, rocks, poor drainage, needs irrigation, etc. is lost to urbanization every year.

- Every day the U.S. population increases by 5,000 people. To feed them, approximately 10,000 acres of new farmland should be added

to the U.S. every day.

- For every new development in agriculture that increases food production per acre, there is something negative to counter that efficiency. Development on prime farmland and soil erosion are the two main destructive forces. Others are high salinity on irrigated land, aquifer dry-up in the high plains area, irrigation becoming too expensive, plant and animal diseases that don't respond to treatment, drought conditions, floods, commercial fertilizers becoming too expensive, acid rain and air pollution. The list appears endless.

- The new land brought into farming is basically marginal land which is susceptible to many problems and doesn't come close to replacing the prime farmland acreage lost to development.

Reuben W. Weaver, III  
Ephrata, PA

## PFA urges review of tax notices

**HARRISBURG** — "The Philadelphia Office of the Internal Revenue Service is generating an excessive number of unwarranted notices of tax deficiencies which are totally invalid," according to a statement made here today by Donald Hummel, Director of Training of the PFA Farm Management Services, which prepared more than 8,000 tax returns this year.

"Most of these (IRS) notices are the result of programming errors or keypunch errors," Hummel said at a hearing in the Capitol Annex Building. The public meeting was called by U.S. Senators, H. John Heinz and Arlen Specter, to examine the operation of the Philadelphia IRS office.

"We have 40 financial advisors around the state who have investigated more than 500 such notices and none of the notices from IRS were correct," Hummel said.

"We have advised our farmer clients not to automatically pay any bill generated by IRS," Hummel said. "Every notice should be checked first by a tax professional."

"Because of the horrendous

processing problems at Philadelphia, taxpayers are being dunned for taxes they've already paid; liens are being placed on their property; bank accounts are being attached; other property is being seized; returns have been lost; refunds have been delayed and on the other hand refunds have been made where none are due.

"About eight years ago we had similar problems of unwarranted notices from the Philadelphia office of IRS," Hummel recalled. "At that time the district director established a phone number and a contact person for us. This helped get to the bottom of the problem. That phone number and person is no longer there." He encouraged a similar contact system should be established by IRS to resolve the problems relating to the most recent rash of complaints.

Hummel said the most common errors being experienced by farmers are: underpayment of estimated tax, carry forward of investment credit, carry forward of net operating loss, credit for co-op investment credit, Social Security underpayment and payroll deposits.

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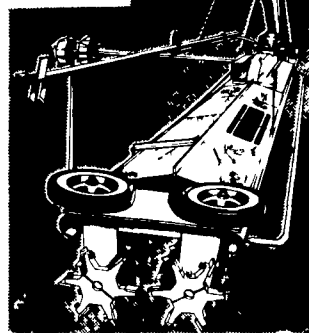
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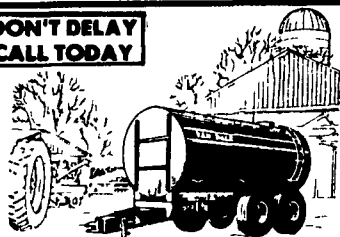
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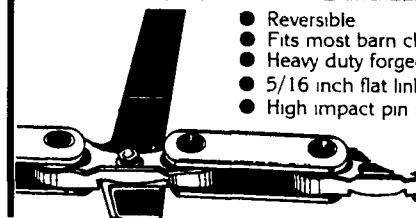
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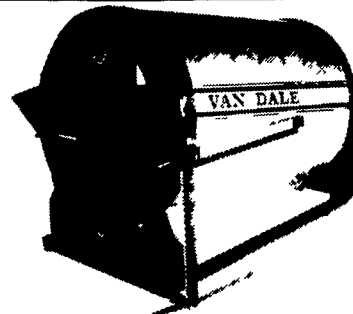
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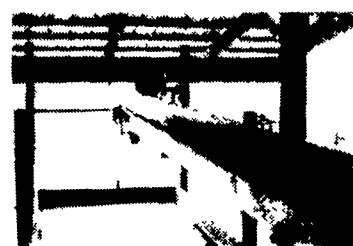
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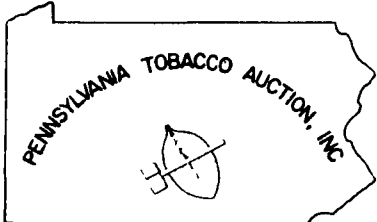
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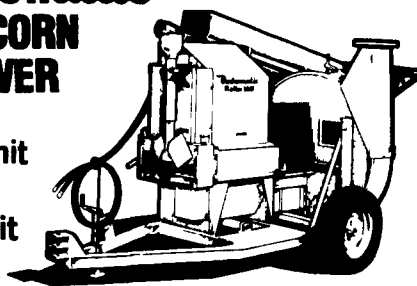
Wed., Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m. Lititz Rec. Center  
Mon., Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. Bart Fire Hall  
Wed., Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m. Washington Boro Fire Hall

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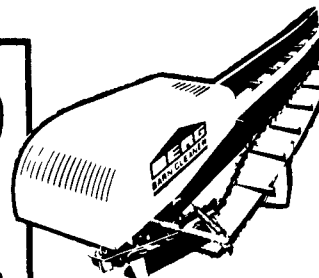
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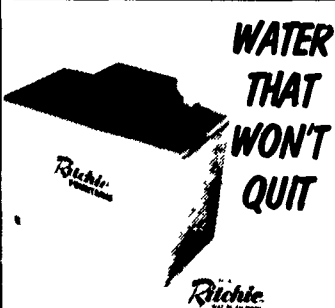


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