

Farm leader calls for tax reform

HARRISBURG — A Pennsylvania farm leader today called on legislators to include agriculture in a proposal to reform local taxes.

D. Eugene Gayman, vice president of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association (PFA), made the recommendation during testimony before the House Finance Committee considering H.B. 1415. The bill would permit public school district financing to come from a combination of flat rate income taxes and residential real estate taxes.

Gayman told the committee, "Since only residential realty tax would be eliminated under the optional tax plan, farmers would be asked to bear even greater tax burdens in districts adopting the plan." He added, "Given the present economic situation, farmers can ill afford to bear additional tax burdens on their operations."

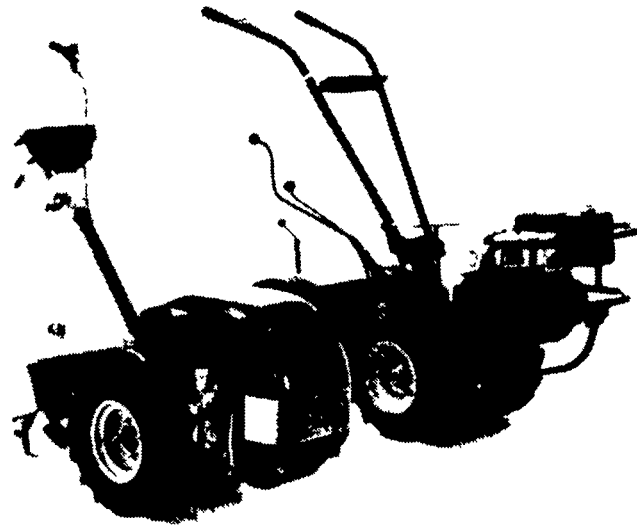
PFA urged the legislators to amend the bill to include agricultural property. "At the very least," Gayman said, "the bill should not limit the elimination of realty taxes under the optional tax plan to residential property, but should also include agricultural property." Gayman added, "We would more enthusiastically encourage this committee to report legislation which would give greater authority to local taxing bodies to determine the sources of taxation and the proportion of taxes to be raised from each source."

PFA is a voluntary, general farm organization representing over 23,000 farm families in 54 local associations.



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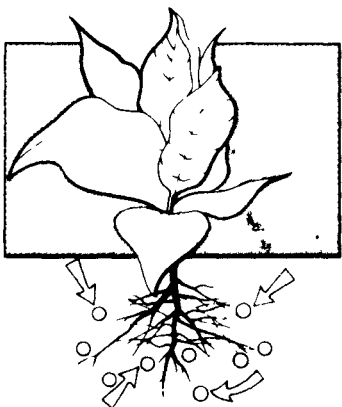
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