

# Farmers Get Lower Taxes

HARRISBURG — Two farming operations at the Northeast Philadelphia Airport apparently will receive lower tax bills as the result of correspondence between state Agriculture Secretary Boyd E. Wolff and Philadelphia Mayor W. Wilson Goode.

Wolff contacted Goode after a newspaper article related that Charles and Anna Simons had received a tax bill of \$9,613.50 on 40 acres planted in corn, while Harole Lovett received a bill for \$126,000 for current and back taxes that Philadelphia County claimed he owed. Lovett produces commercial sod on six acres of airport land.

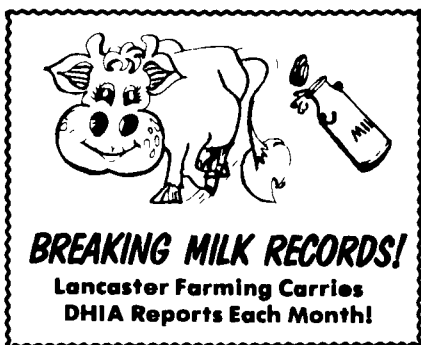
The large bills confronting the Simonses and Lovett stemmed from school district use tax and property taxes. In addition, Lovett was billed for a larger number of acres than he actually farmed. Both operations had been classified for tax purposes as commer-

cial, the rate applied to other tenants, including flight schools and Pan Am Express.

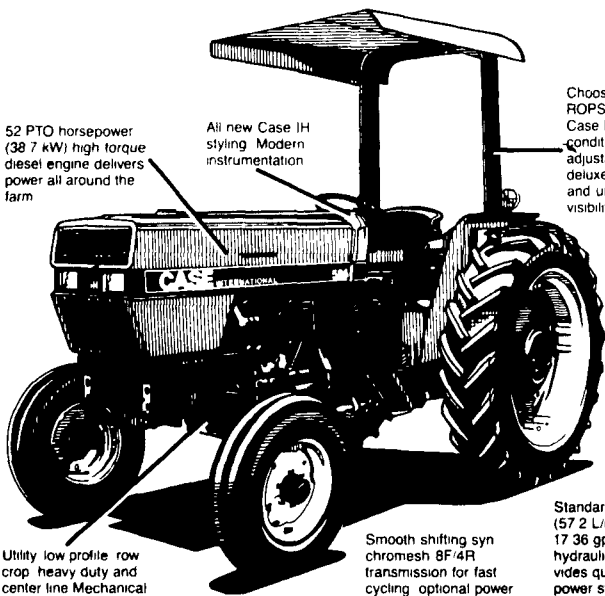
In a letter asking the mayor to intercede, Wolff wrote that the "economics of farming do not permit farmers — as landowners or tenants — to pay taxes in such high amounts. It is this kind of policy that has driven many farmers out of business and has led to total development of all available land in some municipalities."

Goode replied that the city's Board of Revision of Taxes had reviewed the value of the land "and we are confident that the new determination will result in a lower assessment."

The Simonses and Lovett had pointed out that it would be impossible for farmers to realize enough profit to pay the taxes levied under the commercial rate. Airport officials said that no other use could be found for the land, which is located alongside the airport's runway.



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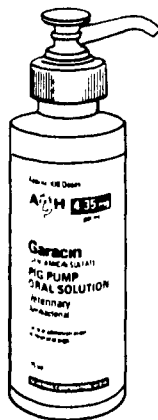
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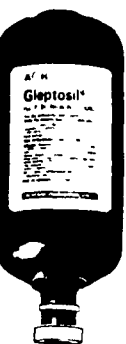
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