

Conference Set

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by the Honorable Boyd Wolff, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture.

More than forty commercial exhibitors will make up the Trade

Show. A variety of topics relating to corn production and marketing will be addressed by speakers from Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Included will be: Varel

Bailey, Past President of the National Corn Growers' Association (from Iowa); Herman Warsaw, Illinois grower who has consistently produced more than 300 bushels of corn per acre; John Sut-

ton, Lovatt Company gain buyer; Dr. Gary Smith, University of Maryland agricultural engineer; Dr. Robert Hartzler, Penn State weed scientist; and a "panel" of top-notch Pennsylvania corn

growers. "Late registrations" may be made at the conference site between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 1. The Conference/Trade Show is open to all interested persons.

Adams Farmers Talks About Gas Tax

ORRTANNA — "We can't afford to pay for goofs made by the federal government," John J. Hess, President, of the Adams County Farmers' Association, said today in relationship to the 15-cent a gallon excise tax which farmers are exempt, but being forced to pay and then seeking a refund.

The county leader was referring to a provision of the recently enacted Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987, which requires farmers to pay a 15-cent per gallon excise tax on diesel fuel that they are not required to pay on off-highway agricultural use. Congress switched the collection point for the diesel fuel excise tax from the retail to the wholesale level beginning April 1.

So, now the farmer is required to pay the 15-cent tax up front, and later file for a refund either on a quarterly or annual basis. The farmer qualifies for a quarterly refund if he pays at least \$1,000 in a quarter in diesel fuel taxes, otherwise he can only file annually for the refund.

"The federal government is telling us to pay the tax, let it keep it for three months to a year, and then file for a refund," said Hess. "That

might make sense in government, but it doesn't in farming.

"In the state this congressional 'goof' could cost farmers more than \$10 million annually," he explained, "which is similar to a \$10 million loan to the federal government ... interest free.

"We are urging our members to write to their U.S. congressmen and senators to support the repeal of that provision of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987," Hess said. There are presently five bills in the U.S. House or Senate that would correct the situation according to Hess. These bills include S 2003, HR 3844, HR 3850, HR 3865, HR 3866, and HR 3881.

The county farm leader explained that the law allows the U.S. Treasury secretary to exempt certain groups of users such as diesel-powered trains, commercial aviation, state and local governments from paying the tax at the time of purchase.

The Adams County Farmers' Association is affiliated with the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association and the American Farm Bureau Federation. It is a voluntary, countywide farm organization.

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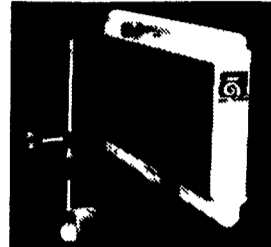
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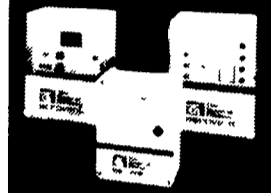
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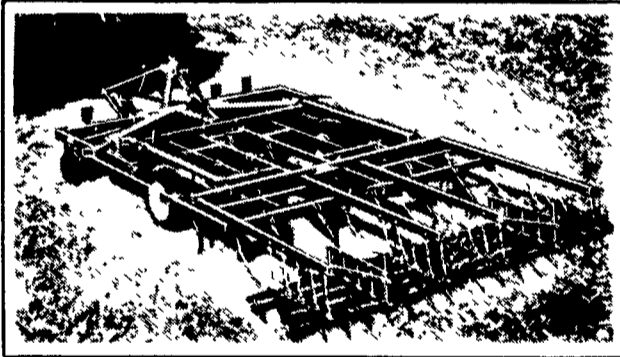
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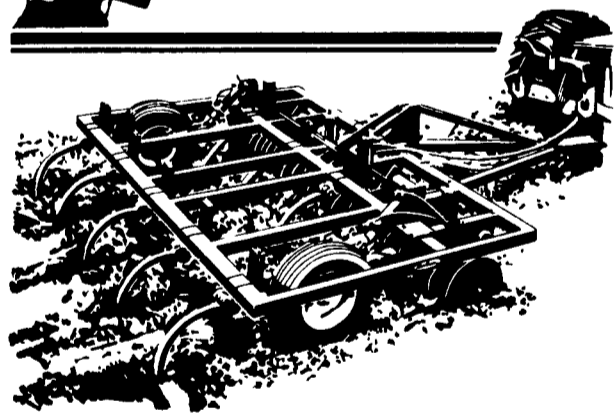
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