

Grange Wants Pest Control Tax Exemption

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Farmers are once again caught in the middle, according to the legislative director of the Pennsylvania State Grange.

This time it is the unfair taxation of pest-control services used by farmers which was not the initial intent of the record \$3.3 billion tax increase approved by legislators in August.

The Pennsylvania House and Senate have been debating about eliminating the 6 percent sales tax on certain consumer items including pest-control services for farming.

Grange Legislative Director Brenda Shambaugh said the original legislation was meant to tax pesticide use in lawn care service. But after it was passed, the lan-

guage was read on broader terms which encompassed farmers' use of pest-control services.

This tax has been repealed in the House and Senate and is going back to the House to concur with Senate amendments before going to the governor.

"The Grange urges our legislators to keep the agricultural exemption in these amendments

and encourages them to move the legislation through quickly so farmers are not financially burdened any further," Shambaugh said.

"The 6 percent sales tax would not send a family farm into financial ruin, but when combined with all the other taxes and permit fees of farmers, it adds another burden to the people who are the backbone of the Pennsylvania

economy."

The Pennsylvania State Grange represents over 35,000 people. Originally organized as the first family farm fraternity, the Grange today takes an interest in all areas of rural living including health care.

Irrigation Conference A Success

ARLINGTON, Va. — Approximately 3,500 people attended the 1991 Irrigation Association (IA) Expo and Technical Conference, which was held at the Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas recently.

The expo, which featured 420 booths and 240 exhibiting companies, is the only international exposition which is devoted exclusively to irrigation products and services.

Irrigation experts from industry, government, and academia presented the latest findings of water management research and other topics of concern to the irrigation professional in 30 different technical sessions which were held throughout the four-day event.

Featured speakers included Bill Smith, vice president and senior quality assurance manager for Motorola's Land Mobile Products sector; Dr. Don Rice, director of the Thomas A. Read Center for Distribution Research and coordinator for the industrial distribution program at Texas A & M University; David S. Hefter, manager of economic studies for DuPont in Wilmington, Del.; and Dev Ogle, a noted motivational speaker from California.

During the association's annual banquet and awards presentation, Dr. E. Dale Threadgill, professor and chairman of the division of biological and agricultural engineering, University of Georgia, was presented the Irrigation Association's 1991 Person of the Year Award. Phil Tropeano, president and founder of Larchmont Engineering and Irrigation, Co., was presented the association's 1991 Industry Achievement Award for contributions to the development of the irrigation industry and its products. Len Ring, president of Ring Irrigation Engineering in Alberta, Canada, was given the industry's prestigious Crawford Reid Memorial Award for promoting the use of proper irrigation procedures and for work which has resulted in major achievements in irrigation outside the United States.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

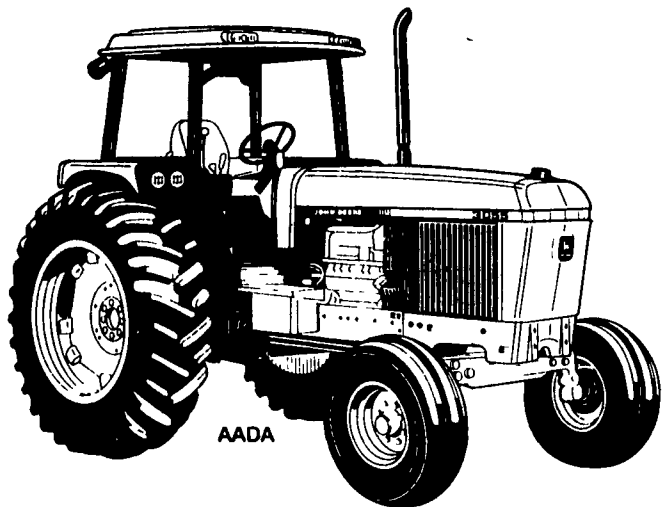
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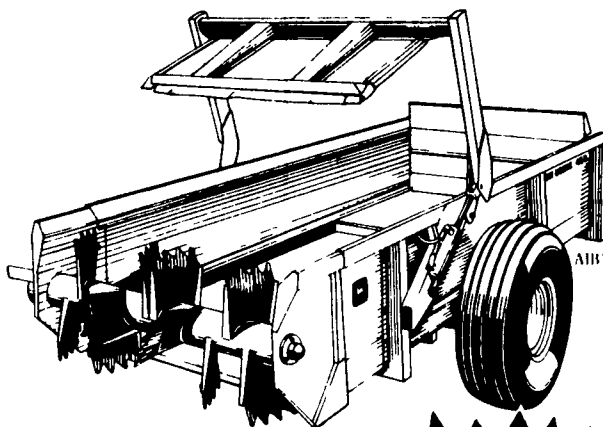
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