

# Ag Budget To Increase, While Taxes Stay Level

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Agriculture Secretary Boyd E. Wolff today told farmers that Gov. Robert P. Casey's proposed state budget increases state support for agriculture by more than 6 percent without any tax increases.

"The bottom line is this budget is good for farmers because there are no new taxes, and because it provides increased funding for programs that benefit agriculture," Wolff said.

The Governor's budget provides an increase of nearly 9 per-

cent in funding to operate the Department of Agriculture, and it provides \$289,000 for a new effort that will increase testing for pseudorabies and Johnes.

"I am also pleased that it provides additional funding to operate Pennsylvania's Farmland Preservation Program, and more for county fairs and for the equine toxicology laboratory in West Chester."

The new budget provides \$500,000 more for a program that helps needy mothers purchase

fresh fruits and vegetables at Pennsylvania farmers' markets.

"The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program expects to serve more than 33,000 pregnant and breast-feeding mothers who are clients of the Women, Infants, and Children Program in Pennsylvania this year," Wolff said.

"The increase in state funding will permit more Pennsylvania farmers to provide high quality nutrition to needy mothers and their children."

The Farmers Market Nutrition

Program (FMNP) permits clients of the Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) to purchase fruits and vegetables from 500 far-

mers who participate in direct marketing through 153 farmers' markets in Pennsylvania.

## ADC Pays

SOUTHAMPTON (Bucks Co.) — Atlantic Dairy Cooperative on Feb. 1 distributed \$2.8 million in patronage refunds to members, according to Evan L. Fineman, treasurer.

The payout to Atlantic members was based on the amount of milk each member sold during the 1987 fiscal year.

Atlantic distributes its patronage refunds on a five-year revolving schedule. This schedule is one

of the most aggressive among dairy cooperatives, according to Fineman.

"The success of Atlantic has allowed us to get money back to our members faster than other dairy cooperatives," he said.

Atlantic Dairy Cooperative represents more than 3,500 dairy farm families in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

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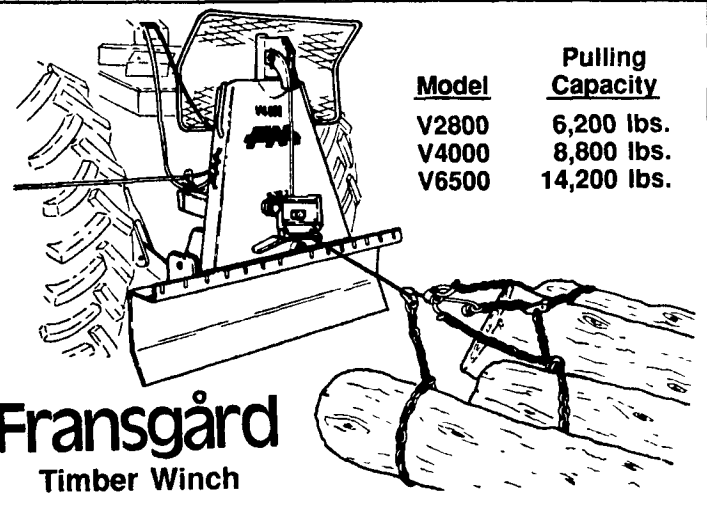
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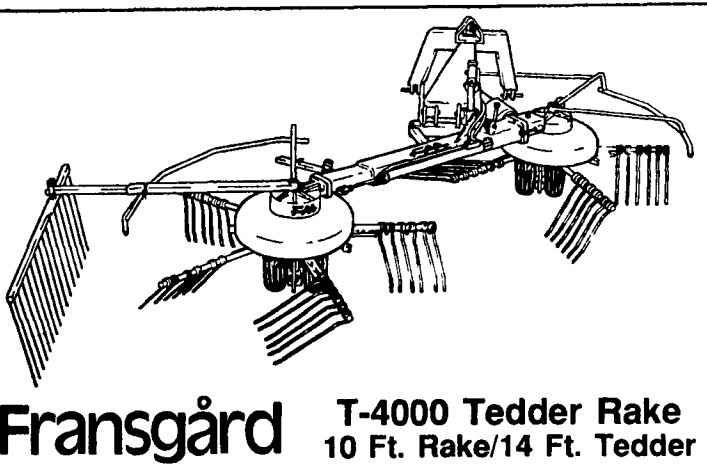
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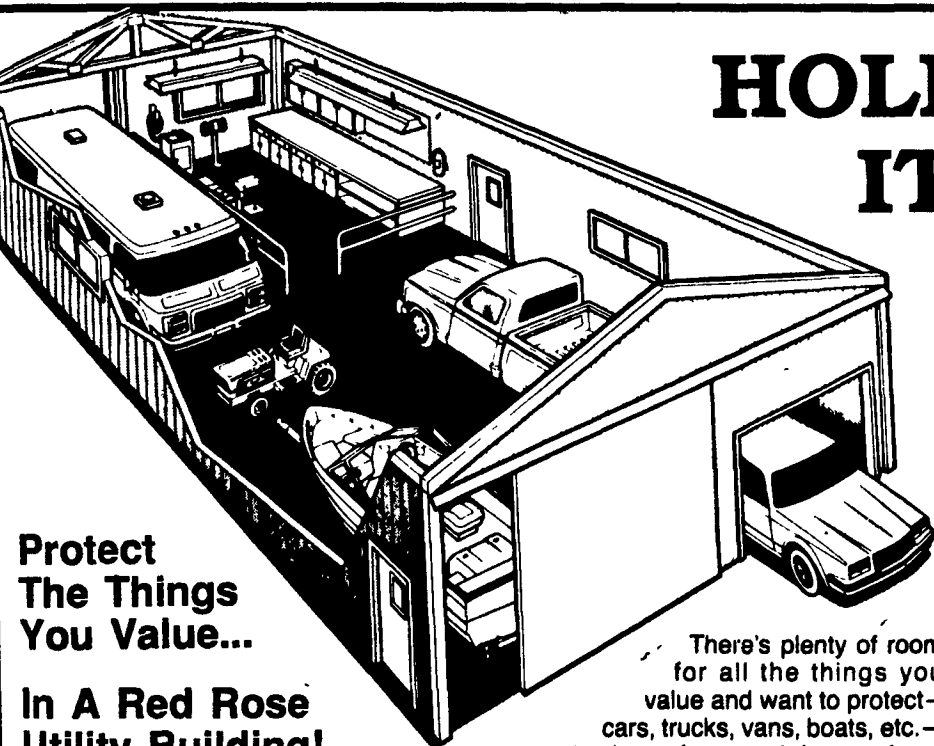
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