

State inheritance tax changes in effect

HARRISBURG (February 1) — Revenue Secretary Robert K. Bloom announced today that reorganization of the state inheritance tax system — including the introduction of a newly designed, simplified tax report — began Monday.

Revision of the program was recommended last March by the Pennsylvania Tax Commission in its report to Governor Dick Thornburgh.

Bloom, who first announced the reorganization proposal last July, said, "For years, the system has been recognized as being fragmented, cumbersome and highly duplicative. We are highly pleased that this change finally brings the process into conformance with modern, tax-collecting procedures."

"The bottom line is that this reorganization implements a system for providing taxpayers with uniform and efficient service throughout the Commonwealth. It means that executors and administrators of estates in Pennsylvania generally will be issued an assessment notice within two weeks after the return is received, instead of having to wait for several months, as they have in the past."

Full implementation of the transition is expected to be completed as soon as possible. The new system includes the following changes:

- A single, simplified return — including new self-assessment features and revised schedules to replace three different forms used in the past.

- Elimination of the initial reviews conducted by the Department's field offices, allowing immediate forwarding of the returns by the Registers of Wills to Revenue Headquarters in Harrisburg;

- Accelerated review by the Department's tax examiners;

- Increased automation and computer tracking in the processing of returns, including computerized assessments;

- More efficient use of field office personnel to provide not only

the necessary service to local areas on inheritance tax but on other taxes as well.

A program to field-test the proposal began last September in the Department's Indiana District Office. In announcing the implementation, Bloom gave special credit to the "many Revenue employees who worked with Robert Schrift, of central headquarters, and Bernard Garred, administrator of the Indiana District Office."

The Department is working closely with Registers of Wills throughout the state and will be meeting with members of the legal and banking communities to help assure a smooth transition. A special team of Department inheritance tax specialists is available to provide assistance and instruction. Anyone having questions on the inheritance tax changes may call their local Revenue District Office Administrators or Department headquarters in Harrisburg at 717/783-5474.

LANCASTER — Being physically fit is a good feeling, and it is important to good health no matter what your age.

Ingredients for physical fitness, says Dairy Council Inc., Southampton, Pa., usually fall into three broad categories: adequate rest; a balanced diet including the four food groups; and exercise.

For those not especially sports-minded, exercise is likely to be neglected, thus preventing us from enjoying its pleasures and benefits.

One form of physical activity, however, that many people tend to disregard is walking—and especially that after-dinner walk. The movement is good for your digestion—and you burn off those extra calories you may have ingested.

Walking is an activity the whole family can do together. And it is

Angus Assn. revamps itself

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Newly elected leaders of the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association are, left to right: president Diane Krause, Slatington; director Bill Wise, Spring Grove; vice president Tammy

Eisenhour, Wellsville; news reporter Julie Myers, Wellsville; director Diane Keen, Palmyra; and secretary-treasurer Christine Shive, Seven Valleys.

Walking is good exercise

particularly good for diabetics and the elderly who want to keep physically fit and vital.

If you want to burn off the largest number of calories with the least amount of strain, walking at a slow pace for long distances is beneficial. It is ideal after eating since strenuous or competitive sports should never be attempted for up to four hours after eating.

You need not walk every night.

But consistency is the key to an exercise-diet program, and exercise that is maintained for at least twenty minutes three times a week, on alternate days, can show marked improvement in vitality and physical fitness.

Experts agree that without regular movement, excess weight

will creep up on you to produce the disease of obesity.

So if it's weight you want to lose, says Dairy Council, or keep off once you have reduced, why not add walking to your regular routine? It's a nice way of looking and feeling good—and an easy way, too.

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