

Tax Week at Penn State opens Dec. 3

UNIVERSITY PARK — Penn State's Farm Income Tax Short Course is coming soon, which should be no surprise. It's come around every year since 1955.

But for the first time in 29 years, one of Pennsylvania's oldest tax courses has changed its name and the amount of learning material available.

This year's course is called "Tax Week At Penn State," and it combines both tested and new course material, farm management extension specialist Jesse G. Cooper said.

"The need for coverage of certain topics has expanded," Cooper said Tuesday. "We found we had to do more things in depth."

"Tax Week At Penn State" will uphold the tradition of the old short course in some respects. For the first two days, Dec. 3 and 4, attending taxpayers will study issues of the Tax Reform Act of 1984 as it applies to businesses and farms.

It's the rest of the week, Dec. 5 through 7, that's different.

"We had to expand the program to cover the need for tax information," farm management extension specialist Larry Jenkins said. "Some tax topics are very

tricky."

The program bill for Dec. 5 is split. Reb. Manfred Holck, Jr., a CPA and Lutheran minister, will address taxpayers on clergy-related tax and Social Security topics. In another room, Washington, D.C. lawyer Marjorie O'Connell will speak on domestic relations (divorce) tax law.

Michigan State University's Myron Kelsey will hold a farm partnership tax workshop on Dec. 6 and 7. Kelsey has coordinated income tax schools for Michigan farms and businesses for 13 years, and has taught partnership workshops for three years.

Taxpayers interested in the package can choose from five options: Dec. 3 through 5 (\$145); Dec. 5 only (\$65); Dec. 6 and 7 (\$75); Dec. 5 through 7 (\$140), or the entire course, Dec. 3 through 7 (\$200). Taxpayers choosing any option that includes Dec. 5 can choose two among four morning and afternoon classes.

Changes in the short course are due to its success, Cooper said. The short course began when farmers united at Penn State in 1955 to discuss Social Security.

"Over the years, the course gradually moved into income

taxes," Cooper explained.

"Tax Week At Penn State" is designed to be more than a classroom refresher course for farmers and rural business people, Cooper said. He cited the case of one former student who claimed her confidence was boosted when an IRS agent complimented her in an audit.

"For some participants, the course is not as instructional as much as a chance to get together and compare notes," he said.

"Some participants pick up viable information here."

Jenkins pointed out, however, that the course is not entirely a social event.

"People come here for professional development, not purely for social reasons," he said. "Some people have come to the short course for 25 years."

"About two-thirds of the people come back," Cooper said.

Registration will be closed Nov. 23. Participants are asked to make

their own lodging arrangements. All people interested must send a check payable to "The Pennsylvania State University" along with an application to the Agricultural Conference Coordinator, The Pennsylvania State University, 409 J.O. Keller Building, University Park, PA 16802.

Course applications are available at all county extension offices. For further program information, call (814) 865-7656. To register, call (814) 865-9547.

Lancaster Pomona cites resolutions

ELIZABETHTOWN — Lancaster Co. Pomona Grange No. 71 held its fall meeting on Oct. 13 in The Commonwealth National Bank Building, Elizabethtown, as guests of Elizabethtown Area Grange No. 2076.

The Master, Clifford Holloway Jr., conducted the business session. In resolutions adopted, the Pomona Grange went on record to urge the Pa. State Grange and the National Grange to work with

various agencies associated with the deaf and hearing impaired on a national level to develop a standard and uniform color code on all lighted devices such as the doorbell, telephone, timer etc. and then to urge Congress for its passage.

The Grange asked that the Public Utility Commission deny Pa. Power & Light Co.'s request for a \$300 million rate increase. And finally, since the cost of many devices and parts, particularly electronic devices, to aid the handicapped are prohibitive and trained personnel often unavailable, they asked the State and National Granges to work with Congress to write a new bill that would allow companies who develop, market and supply

replacement parts and repair services be granted special tax credits to offer incentives to keep costs down for the handicapped.

It was reported that 16 candidates received the Fifth Degree Oct. 6th in the Fulton Grange Hall, Oakryn.

In other action, Richard Maule was elected to the Executive committee and Ronald Shaffer to the Finance committee, both for 3-year terms, and will be installed at the next meeting which will be held Jan. 19, 1985.

Lecturer Dorothy Berry introduced Richard Hann, Agribusiness Director of The Milton Hershey School in Hershey, who showed colored slides and very ably told about the 1983 Friendship Tour of Russia.

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