

Schuylkill Extension agent named



Brockett's Ag Advice

By John E. Brockett
Farm Management Agent
Lewistown Extension Office

GOOD NEWS-1985 TAXES

There is some good news in the 1985 tax situation. First the brackets went up which in effect reduces your tax on the same income as you had in 1984. A \$29,900 income for a married couple filing jointly had a tax of \$4790 in 1984. The same income in 1985, due to indexing and a 4% change in brackets, would result in a \$4544 tax. There is some sentiment in Congress to eliminate indexing but this is one time the President is on our side.

A second good news item is that personal exemptions will go from \$1000 to \$1040, again due to indexing. That doesn't help me like it did at one time (most of my dependents are on their own—a couple even have their own dependents now). Third is the increase in the standard deduction from 3400 to 3540 for marrieds filing jointly and 2300 to 2390 for singles.

Fourth item is the increase from \$10,000 to \$11,000 for people eligible for earned income credits. Along

with the increase in the maximum is the increase in the maximum credit from \$500 to \$550. Unfortunately, a chunk of this increase is eaten up in the increased social security tax.

ESTIMATED TAXES

There has been no basic change made for farmers or fisherman. However if your tax due is less than \$500, you could delay filing until April 15 without penalty.

Two other ways to avoid penalty or underpayment of estimated taxes are: (1) prepay an amount equal to 100% of 1984 taxes or (2) pay thru the year an amount equal to 80% of taxes due in 1985 (or 66-2/3% if you are a farmer).

Of course full time (over 2/3 of gross income from farming) farmers can file their final return by March 1 and avoid estimates entirely.

CHARITY DEDUCTIONS

Volunteer mileage increases from 9 to 12 cents for 1985. Non-itemizers will be able to deduct 50% of all charitable gifts without filing a Schedule A for the 1985 tax year. That coupled with the in-

creased standard deduction will probably result in fewer itemizers for 1985.

DIVORCE LAW CHANGES

The change in tax implications for divorcing and divorced people will be dramatic. The new law will probably result in some judges and attorneys causing real tax headaches for divorced people. A lot of old rules that judges and divorce attorneys operated under for over 30 years have been eliminated. The replacement rules are complex and will need some digesting by a legal sector as well as some help from knowledgeable accountants.

POTTSVILLE — Donald E. Tanner has been named Schuylkill County assistant Extension agent by the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service. His position became effective January 15.

Tanner's responsibilities include coordinating all county 4-H activities in cooperation with other staff who are assigned 4-H duties. He will plan, initiate and evaluate a broad 4-H program to improve economic, social and cultural aspects of community and family

life. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Tanner holds a bachelor's degree in social science. Before accepting his current position, he was a 4-H worker with the McKean County Extension office.

Tanner is a member of the Pennsylvania 4-H Agents Association and the McKean County Historical Society.

He is a native of Turtlepoint, McKean County.

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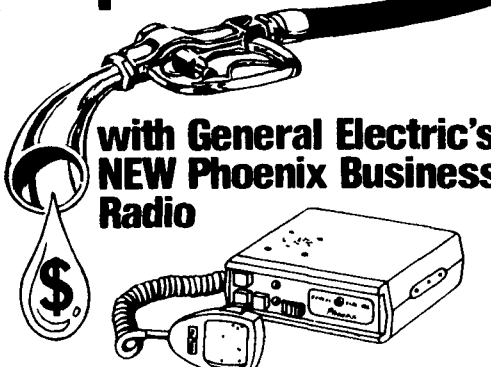
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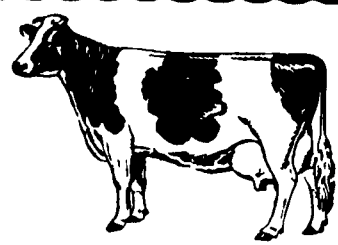
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