

Get Back Fuel Tax

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The refund claim forms for liquid fuel taxes paid by farmers have been sent out to all registered claimants, according to a news release by the Pennsylvania Board of Finance and Revenue in Harrisburg.

Anyone who has paid the 12 cents per gallon tax on liquid fuels used in the actual production of agricultural products may receive a refund of those taxes, as long as a claim is filed on or before Sept. 30.

Farmers are exempt from the tax, however, as the system works, the tax is paid first and then returned after the end of the fiscal year in which the tax was paid.

Filing for a refund is to be done for fuel taxes paid between July 1, 1995 and June 30, 1996, the state's fiscal year.

To make a claim, a form avail-

able from the Board of Finance and Revenue must be completed and submitted with a record of the fuel purchase and tax paid. The record can either be the actual paid receipts, copies of the same, or a statement from the fuel dealer showing the claimant's name, dates, the number of gallons purchased and verification that the state tax has been paid.

Those requesting forms should either write to Lynne Vergot, supervisor, Board of Finance and Revenue, Room 500C Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120; or call her at (717) 787-6534.

The sooner the claim is submitted, the earlier the refund will be received.

After two years of submitting claims, the forms will automatically be sent to the claimant in the years following.

Law Protects Farmers From Nuisance Suits

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Gov. Tom Ridge recently signed into law a bill designed to protect farmers and agricultural operations from nuisance suits and ordinances.

Agriculture Secretary Charles C. Brosius applauded Gov. Ridge for signing Senate Bill 1371 and Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Chairman Roger A. Madigan (R-Bradford) for sponsoring the bill.

"The new law protects farmers from nuisance suits by expanding the definition of normal agricultural operations and permitting the use of equipment necessary to the daily operation of these businesses," Brosius said. He noted that the law also prohibits municipalities from enacting local ordinances which seek to outlaw generally-accepted agricultural operations.

"With the disappearance of

Pennsylvania's farmland, comes new development and new homeowners moving to the country," he added. "Sometimes the new neighbors forget that our 50,000 farm families provide us with a bountiful supply of nutritious food, along with nearly \$44 billion annually in related economic activity.

"The Ridge Administration believes that farmers must have the freedom to conduct their operations without the threat of burdensome ordinances and unnecessary lawsuits."

Brosius noted that the new law applies to those farmers with at least 10 contiguous acres of land or gross income exceeding \$10,000.

Under the new law, the definition of "customary equipment" includes crop dryers, feed grinders, saw mills, hammer mills and refrigeration equipment.

Pa. Ayrshire Association To Hold Picnic

TROY (Bradford Co.) — The Pennsylvania Ayrshire Breeders Association has announced an open invitation to all interested to attend its annual summer picnic, scheduled to be held June 29 at the Shade Hill Farm in Troy.

The Mark and Mayme Carter family, owners of Shade Hill Farm, are serving as host of the picnic and field day event, and promise a day full of family fun and fellowship.

Starting at 10 a.m. with coffee and donuts, events are to kick off at 10:30 a.m.

While complete plans were not yet finished, according to a news

release this week, activities already scheduled include a demonstration of a new classification program being performed by a well-known artificial insemination company, a brief association business meeting, lunch, news from the national association, updates on artificial insemination opportunities for Ayrshire breeders, grazing information, and other related topics.

The farm is located north of Troy along Porter Road. For more information, contact Bonnie Wentworth, promotion coordinator for the association at (717) 548-3896.

Grain Sign-Up At Halfway

YORK (York Co.) — York County crop producers have enrolled farms in record numbers for the Agricultural Marketing Transition Act (AMTA) Program.

This program provides for Production Flexibility Contracts (PFC). The PFC reflects a farm's 5-year planting history from acreage reports voluntarily filed in the county FSA office.

Producers eligible to enroll in the program are those who have a risk in producing a crop, and the farm has a crop acreage base (CAB) established.

Benefits include guaranteed cash payments and eligibility for commodity loans.

Participants must sign-up prior to July 12, 1996 for a seven-year contract.

Cropland under contract may be planted to any crop with some exceptions on fruit and vegetables. Acreage reports are optional, as is crop insurance coverage. Conservation plans are required

on all farms whether or not all farms participate. Advance payments are available upon request with final payments issued by Sept. 30, 1996.

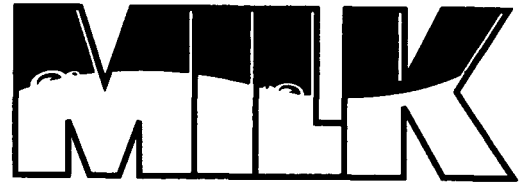
Once again, county farmers are reminded that this is the only sign-up period for seven years and ends July 12, 1996.

Interested producers can contact the York County FSA Office at 120 Pleasant Acres Rd., Monday through Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at phone number (717) 755-2801.

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To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC, 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

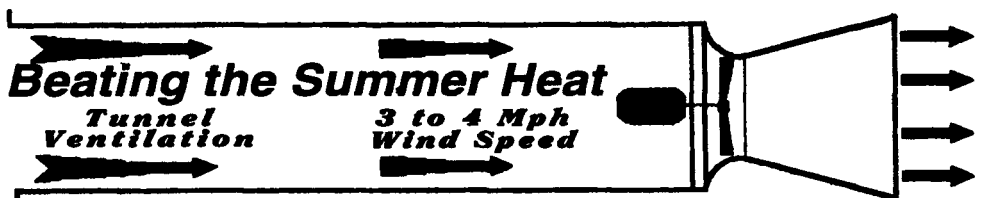
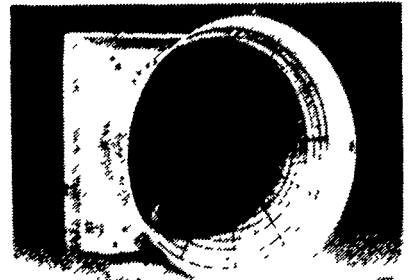


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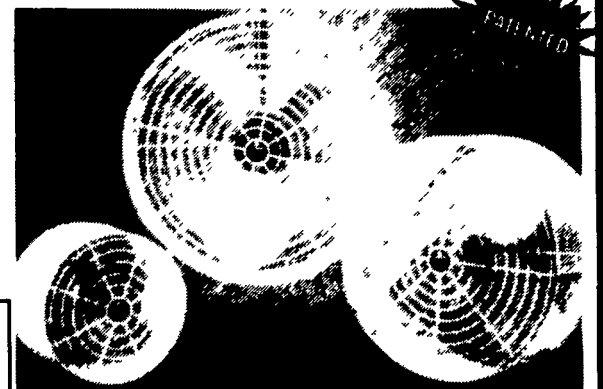
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