

## Pa. Horse Forum Upcoming

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania State 4-H Horse Forum will be conducted on March 7-9 at the Days Inn, State College and the Ag Arena on the Penn State campus.

The conference is designed for 4-H members, 14 years of age and older, parents, volunteer leaders and extension agents involved with 4-H horse projects in Pennsylvania.

Forum activities will help strengthen communication and leadership skills as well as provide current information on the 4-H horse program, horsemanship and equine management techniques. Seminars, educational displays and horse demonstrations by state and national

specialists will be held throughout the weekend.

Additionally, several activities are planned for youth and adult leaders to network and share ideas for county, district and state activities.

Featured presenters include Dr. Jeff Goodwin, 4-H & Youth Development Specialist, University of Idaho; Mr. Lew Sterrett of Miracle Mountain Ranch; and Ms. Liz Rogers, American Quarter Horse Association.

Additional information is on the website at: <http://www.das.psu.edu/> and will also be sent to county extension offices in late December. Please plan to join us at the Forum for fun, fellowship, and new ideas for your horse program.

# Uncle Sam May Owe You Money

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.)—How many times have you heard that if something sounds too good to be true it probably is...? Well, here's an exception to the rule.

"Believe it or not, if you are a low-income worker, the federal government wants to give you money," says Debra Bryant, Penn State Cooperative Extension Agent. This is the case whether you worked full-time, part-time, or even only part of the year. This money—the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) provides income to workers and their families whether they owe income taxes or not! This tax credit can provide up to \$4,140 in added income.

Who's eligible?

•Families with two or more qualifying children and an adjusted

gross income of up to \$33,178 (or \$34,178 if married filing jointly) may be eligible for up to \$4,140. This maximum amount is paid to those with incomes between \$10,350 and \$13,550 (or \$14,550 if filing jointly). Lesser amounts are paid to those with incomes on either side of this range.

•Families with only one qualifying child and an adjusted gross income of up to \$29,201 (or \$30,201 if married filing jointly) may be eligible for up to \$2,506. This maximum amount is paid to those with incomes between \$7,350 and \$13,550 (or \$14,550 if filing jointly). Lesser amounts are paid to those with incomes on either side of the range.

•Workers between the ages of 25 and 64 with no qualifying children but with an adjusted gross income of up to \$11,060 (or \$12,060 if married filing jointly) may be eligible for up to \$376. This maximum amount is paid to those with incomes between \$4,900 and \$6,150 (or \$7,150 if filing jointly). Lesser amounts are paid to the rest.

Requirements?

•Must have earned income from wages, salaries, tips, or self-employment.

•Must file a 2002 income tax return to receive the money.

•Must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien for the entire year.

•You and any qualifying children must have a valid Social Security Number.

•Cannot file your income tax return in the 'married filing separately' filing status.

•Investment income cannot exceed \$2,550.

•Cannot file Form 2555 or

2555 EZ, Foreign Earned Income.

What else should I know?

•Non-taxable income +(such as that contributed to qualified retirement plans+) is not included in adjusted gross income.

•Qualifying child may be your natural child, grandchild, stepchild, adopted child, foster child, or sibling if cared for as your child.

•Qualifying child must be under age 19 (age 24 if a full-time student or can be any age if totally and permanently disabled).

•Qualifying child does not have to be your dependent but must have lived with you in the U.S. for more than half of 2002.

•If divorced, either parent can claim a qualifying child (but only one of them can). Several qualifying children of two parents could be divided between them by agreement.

•In cases of joint custody when the parents can't agree, the parent with whom the child lived the longest during the year (or if that is equal, the parent with the highest adjusted gross income) can claim the child.

•Filing for and receiving the earned income tax credit has no effect on certain welfare benefits (including food stamps, low-income housing, supplemental security income, and Medicaid). Temporary assistance to needy families (TANF) benefits may be affected.

To get this credit, you must file a tax return even if you owe no income tax or would not have to file an income tax return otherwise. For more information call (800) TAX-1040 and ask for help with the EIC.

## Selfridge Assumes WIFE Reins

TRENTON, Neb.—Ina Selfridge, Burdett, Kansas farmer, recently assumed the number one leadership position in Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE). As National WIFE president, Selfridge will hold the reins of this energetic and effective farm organization known for the promotion of legislation and policies friendly to family farmers.

Known for her willingness to discuss the importance of agriculture with anyone who will listen, Selfridge is especially dedicated to representing agriculture's viewpoint in ways that will influence legislation beneficial to agriculture. Fiercely patriotic and family oriented, Selfridge will pursue an agenda for WIFE that promotes agricultural profitability for rural America.

Selfridge and her husband, Elmer, have four sons, Randy, Brad, Wade, and Tyler, and nine grandchildren, five of whom are in college. The Selfridges and three of their sons are partners on a farm and ranch in eastern Hodgeman County, Kansas. The family corporation owns a grade herd of 125 cows and a feedlot where they finish approximately 1,000 head each year. Their land produces corn for silage and grain, milo and other forages for

their cattle operation plus dryland and irrigated wheat for pasture and as a cash crop.

Selfridge's present home has been in the family since 1873. Their sons are the fifth generation to till the land and produce livestock there.

Selfridge has been a member of Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) since 1991 and has served in leadership positions on chapter, state, and national levels. Previous national positions include: beef chairman, national recording secretary and first vice president. She is also a past president of Kansas WIFE.

Selfridge is a life-time resident of Hodgeman County and has attended Barton County Community College taking writers classes, ground school, flight school, and Emergency Medical Technician training. She served the Burdett

Emergency Medical Service as an EMT for 10 years and is a licensed pilot. She is also a licensed CPR instructor, teaches a Sunday School class of fourth through sixth graders, and is active in her church in Hanston.

Also assuming leadership positions are First Vice President Marlene Kouba, Regent, North Dakota; Second Vice President Pam Potthoff, Trenton, Nebraska; Secretary Norma Hall, Elmwood, Nebraska; and Treasurer Barb Bonhorst, Pierre, South Dakota.

### Special Section

Saturday,  
March 15

Lancaster Farming



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and Trainer

2003

Publication Date

March 15

Advertising Deadline

March 6

Focus On  
SHOW HORSE SUCCESS

- Horse training by Brian Egan.
- Improving show horse health using a new treadmill developed at the Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center, Leesburg, VA
- Highlights of the Steeplechase in Leesburg, VA.
- The work of farriers.

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