PENNSTATE

College of
Agricultural Sciences

Cooperative Extension
Berks County

(610) 378-1327
FAX: (610) 378-7961
E-mail: BerksExt@psu.edu

Berks County Agricultural Center
1238 County Welfare Road
Suite 110
Leesport, PA 19533-0520

July 8, 2009

Dear Municipal Official:

Enclosed is detailed information regarding an educational program being hosted by the Penn State Cooperative Extension in Berks County and the Berks County Commissioners, Monday, July 28, 2008, 7:00-9:15 p.m. in the Berks County Agricultural Center.

The focus of the program is to involve citizens in the process of tax fairness and reform in Pennsylvania. As we all know, change starts at the local level and this is structured to inform participants of the challenges and struggles of tax issues at all levels.

As the leader of your municipality, we would welcome your attendance and would especially like you to help spread the word to the remainder of your board and to your local residents as well, in your upcoming meetings or newsletters.

Thank you for your interest and assistance and if you have questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Kauffman,
County Extension Director

RSK:dlh

Enclosures



Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences research, extension, and resident education programs are funded in part by Pennsylvania counties, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Penn State encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing special accommodations or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Richard Kauffman at 610-378-1327 in advance of your participation or visit.

This publication is available in alternative media upon request.

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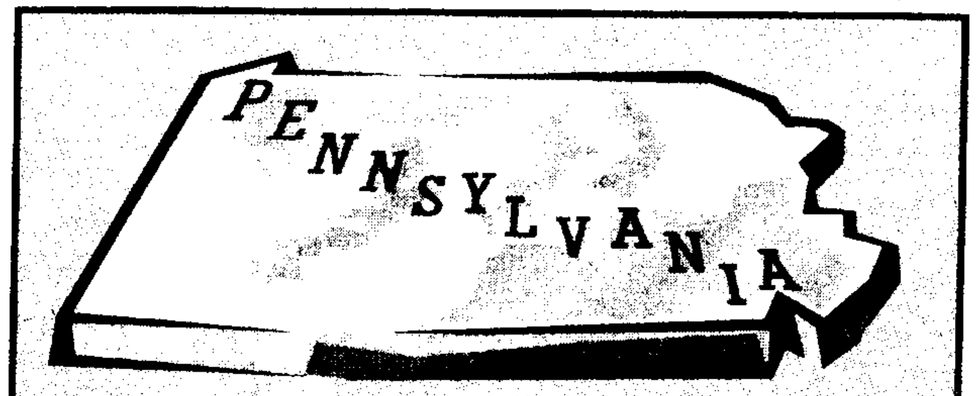
DIRECTIONS TO THE BERKS COUNTY AG CENTER

From Harrisburg or Allentown:

- Take I-78 to Exit 19 (Old Exit 7) Strausstown/Route 183.
- Go south on Route 183 to Bern Church (11.6 miles).
- Turn right onto Palisades Drive. Travel 1.9 miles and turn left onto County Road. Travel 1/2 mile and the Berks County Agricultural Center is on the right (near Berks Heim County Nursing Home and the Berks County Prison).

From Points South of Reading:

- Take I-176 to Route 422 West (not Business Route 422).
- Take Route 422 West to Route 222 North (not Business Route 222) and travel to the Route 183 North exit (Reading Airport exit). At the end of the ramp, turn left onto Route 183 North.
- Follow Route 183 North 0.8 miles to the traffic light at West Leesport Road. Turn left onto West Leesport Road.
- Proceed 1/10 mile to the stop sign (right turn keep moving) and turn right onto County Road.
- Travel 1.1 miles on County Road. The Berks County Agricultural Center is on the left (near Berks Heim County Nursing Home and the Berks County Prison).

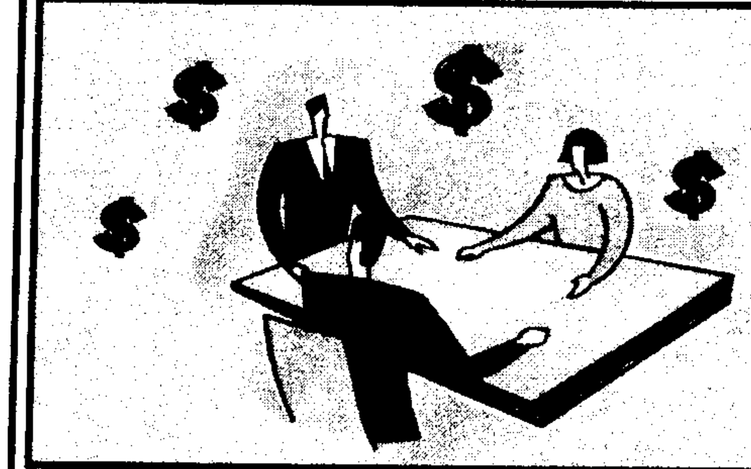


Sponsored by the Berks County Commissioners, Penn State Cooperative Extension in Berks County and County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania

Penn State **EXTENSION**

AGRICULTURE | COMMUNITY & FAMILY | ENVIRONMENT

Berks County Tax Forum



July 28, 2008

7:00—9:15 p.m.

Penn State Extension--Berks County Ag Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533

Civil Dialogue About Local Taxation and Tax Fairness

- Which local taxes are used in Pennsylvania?
- What do you think about local taxes?
- How do you think local taxes could be made fairer?
- How do local officials view taxes and tax reform?

CCAP County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
Serving Counties Since 1886

PENNSTATE

an OUTREACH Program of the **College of Agricultural Sciences**, and Berks **Cooperative Extension**

Berks County Tax Forum

Civil Dialogue about Local Taxation and Tax Fairness

Sponsored by the Berks County Commissioners, Penn State Cooperative Extension in Berks County and County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania

There have been few opportunities for the public to learn about and civilly discuss taxation, tax fairness, and tax reform in Pennsylvania. Most events over the past ten years have been a result of specific legislation passed by the General Assembly (e.g. Act 50 of 1998, or Act 1 of 2005/2006), so their focus has been primarily about that specific act and its implications. There have been very few local tax discussions engaging the general public about how local taxes could be made fairer.

This Local Tax Forum is NOT advocating any specific tax reform proposal, but is intended to create civil local dialogue and discussion about local tax fairness, and to increase public awareness of local tax issues. Participants will be encouraged to share their thoughts and concerns, and similarly to listen thoughtfully to others' comments. At the end of the Forum, participants will be encouraged to share their individual perspectives with legislators and others.

FORUM AGENDA

How do Pennsylvania Local Taxes Measure Up?

Overview of which taxes are available and used by local jurisdictions

Taxation From Local Perspectives—Panel Discussion

Christian Leinbach, County Commissioner
Ken Grimes, Upper Tulpehocken Township Supervisor
Don Raifsnider, Muhlenberg Township School Board

Small Group Discussion and Report Out

Participants discuss tax fairness and what they think needs to be done to reform local taxation in Pennsylvania

Your Next Steps?

What are your options – how to contact your local legislators, local officials, and others with your concerns

Pre-registration preferred through completing the attached form or calling the extension office.

REGISTRATION FORM

Berks County Tax Forum

July 28, 2008
Berks County Ag Center

Registration Preferred

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

Evening Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please return registration form to:

Berks County Cooperative Extension
1238 County Welfare Road, Suite 110
Leesport, PA 19533-9709

OR

Register by contacting the extension office

Phone: 610-378-1327
Fax: 610-378-7961

Any questions please contact Richard S. Kauffman at 610-378-1327 or email Richard at rsk5@psu.edu

Berks County Tax Forum

Civil Dialogue About Local Taxation and Tax Fairness

Which local taxes are used in Pennsylvania?
What do you think about local taxes?
How do you think local taxes could be made fairer?
How do local officials view taxes and tax reform?

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Ken Grimes, Upper Tulpehocken Township Supervisor
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For more information and to register, call the Penn State Cooperative Extension in Berks County at 610-378-1327.