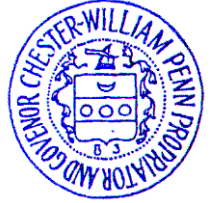




THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



COMMISSIONERS

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AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 14, 2014

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Trends in Chester County Agriculture: Census Data and Industry Perspectives, September 17

West Chester, PA – The Chester County Agricultural Development Council (Ag Council) and Chester County Economic Development Council's AgConnect are cohosting a panel discussion on the recent release of the 2012 Ag Census data and what it means for the county. The event will be held on Wednesday, September 17 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. at the Chester County Economic Development Council office, 737 Constitution Drive, Exton, PA.

Panelists include:

- **King Whetstone II**, USDA-National Agricultural Statistics Service Director for the Northeastern Region
- **Duane Hershey**, dairy producer and owner of Ar-Joy Farms LLC
- **Chris Alonzo**, mushroom grower and owner of Pietro Industries.

The event includes a presentation on how the 2012 Census of Agriculture data was collected and what the numbers show for Chester County and the surrounding region. Farmers from the dairy and mushroom industries will also give their on the data and what challenges and opportunities they anticipate for their commodities in the years ahead.


Tickets are \$25 (early bird ticket price of \$20 until September 1st) and can be ordered online at www.chesco.org/agdev/events. Light refreshments will be provided beginning at 8:00 a.m. This forum is part of an on-going series. Future topics include advances in farming technology and the challenges and opportunities of setting up a secondary ag business.

For information about the forum, call Ann Lane at 610-344-6512. For assistance with registration or directions, call Jodi Gauker at 610-321-8226.

About the Chester County Agricultural Development Council

The Chester County Agricultural Development Council promotes agriculture in Chester County by raising awareness on issues regarding the viability of local agriculture and promoting agricultural excellence and farming. For more information, visit the website at www.chesco.org/agdev and find us on .

About AgConnect

AgConnect is a vibrant network of farmers, business owners, and service providers connecting farmers to business resources, training, and financing to grow business and promoting smart agricultural economic development. AgConnect, a regional private-public partnership, is an initiative of the Chester County Economic Development Council and serves Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties. Visit the website at www.agconnectpa.org or on .