



COUNTY OF BERKS, PENNSYLVANIA

Office of Agricultural Coordinator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sheila Miller, Agricultural Coordinator

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Subject: Secretary George Greig to speak to B.A.R.N. for National Ag Day

LEESPORT --- Secretary George Greig will be the featured speaker at this year's National Ag Day celebration in Berks County, announces Sheila Miller, agricultural coordinator. Greig heads the Department of Agriculture in Pennsylvania --- the leading industry of the Commonwealth. He will be part of the Berks Agricultural Resource Network's (B.A.R.N.) annual meeting on Thursday, March 21st. The meeting will be held at the Agricultural Center from 9 to 11 a.m. and is open to the public.

"We are pleased to have Secretary Greig join us as we celebrate Berks County's agriculture and food industries and the start of Spring," commented Miller. "National Ag Day is a time dedicated to recognizing where food comes from. We are proud of our Bountiful Berks™ program that features locally grown and processed food, and the farmers and countless employees in the food and fiber industry who help to create the essential ingredients for our meals and clothing."

Started in 1973 by the Agriculture Council of America, National Ag Day was created to increase public awareness of agriculture's role in society. This 40-year-old tradition is even more important today with fewer people making their livelihoods on farms. "In the past, people either had been raised on a farm or had relatives who farmed," said Miller. "Today, 98 percent of the population is at least three or four generations removed from farming and raising food."

Keeping farms in the family will be another topic covered at this year's B.A.R.N. annual meeting. Darlene Livingston, executive director of PA Farm Link, will be sharing information on how farms can be transitioned from one generation to the next, or how new farmers can enter the business --- no matter what their ages.

For more information, contact Sheila Miller, Berks Agricultural Coordinator, at 610-898-5482.

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