

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

New rules for agriculture production

Dear Editor,

During the past legislative session, important tax reform passed which focuses on updating and modernizing our tax code in order to make us more competitive with the surrounding southern states. As part of this legislation, not only are the previous agriculture exemptions defined and re-branded, but new exemptions are established for farmers and producers. Sales tax exemptions for agricultural inputs are broadened through including equipment parts, energy used in production of an agricultural product and other inputs which were previously not exempt. I want thank the Governor, the Lt. Governor, the Speaker and the General Assembly for passing this meaningful piece of legislation that will help agricultural producers during these trying economic times.

As part of this legislation, all agricultural producers must register with the Georgia Department of Agriculture under the Georgia Agriculture Tax Exemption program which goes into effect January 1, 2013. At this time, all other agriculture exemptions will be repealed. If you are an agricultural producer and would like to receive this tax exemption, you must qualify as Qualified Agriculture Producer in Georgia through the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

There are two ways you can apply; the first one is visit our website at www.agr.georgia.gov with the online application, or you print off the application and mail it into the Department. You can also pick up your applications at your local Farm Bureau office.

If you have any questions regarding this new program, I would like to encourage you to visit our website at www.agr.georgia.gov, or call (855) FARM TAX. My staff and I are available to make this process as seamless as possible.

Thank you for supporting the agricultural community in Georgia. I hope you and your family have a truly blessed holiday season.

Gary W. Black
Commissioner of Agriculture

Brinksmanship on Obama Medicaid expansion for poor

Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar
Associated Press

others for similar deals that could run up the tab by tens

Before:



After:



KEVIN SIERS CHARLOTTE CBS/REUTERS 2012

Republicans and M

The incomparable Walter Russell Mead, writing in the American Interest, offered a glimpse into the coming dystopia:

"Things are getting worse in San Bernardino. The city filed for bankruptcy earlier this year, but its financial situation has continued to deteriorate. And now with what promises to be a heated court battle over payments to the state pension fund in the offing, further cuts are likely.

"Things are getting so bad that at a recent city council meeting, the city attorney advised residents

clothes, according to witnesses. A bodyguard managed to bustle her out of the room, but another group caught her just outside the hotel and gave her a second beating. She spent the night in hospital.

"It was a brutal sign of the fury many Greeks feel at the way the country's debt crisis has dashed hopes of a comfortable old age. Greece's pension funds - patchily run in the first place, say unionists and some politicians - have been savaged by austerity and the terms of the

protecting their w

friends?
In point of fact, Republicans have bowed to the elect and agreed to raise the top 2 percent. But the president is for much more. Far

proposing cuts, Obama new stimulating and "inv in infrastruc wants to limit discretion the federal. He may be to provoke Republicans



Mona Charen
Contributing