

April 7, 2008

EDITORS: The following information is for immediate release. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Milshaw, Agricultural Program Manager of the Chester County Economic Development Council, at 610 458-5700.

**Agriculture, Food Processing and Energy
and
The Economic Impact of the Mushroom Industry
are the subjects of a breakfast briefing
at the Chester County Economic Development Council**

Event takes place on Wednesday, April 30, 2008

EXTON _ The Chester County Economic Development Council is hosting a breakfast briefing on Agriculture, Food Processing and Energy Related Opportunities in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

The briefing will be given by John M. Rhodes of Moran, Stahl and Boyer and John Whims of Informa Economics on their recent research as part of a PPL initiative in these areas. The Agriculture_Food_Energy Study was a cooperative regional initiative led by PPL Corporation in partnership with the Chester County Economic Development Council, Berks Economic Partnership, Lebanon Valley EDC and EDC of Lancaster County. The study was a follow-up to early findings of the IBM Global Competitiveness Study commissioned by DCED.

Dr. Spiro E. Stefanou, Professor of Agricultural Economics at Pennsylvania State University, will talk on his research on the mushroom industry in Chester County.

Agriculture and food processing have been staple industries in Southeastern Pennsylvania for more than a century. Subjects will include the growth potential for these industries, how alternative fuels fit into this picture and the economic impact of the mushroom industry in Chester County.

The program is being sponsored by the Economic Development Council, the American Mushroom Institute and PPL Corporation.

The program is from 7:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 30, 2008. The event takes place at the Chester County Economic Development Council at 737 Constitution Drive, Exton. The cost is \$15 for CCEDC members and \$25 for non-members. To register, please contact Kathleen Nader at knader@cceconomicdevelopment.com.

The Chester County Economic Development Council is a private, non-profit economic development organization that has been nurturing economic growth in Chester County and the surrounding region for more than 45 years. The Council's portfolio of business growth services includes: low-interest financing, small business lending, workforce training, retention and expansion, customized international business assistance, land and building site selection, brownfields consultation and remediation, urban redevelopment, and agricultural economic development. The Council also offers state-of-the art conference and training facilities at its brand new facility in Eagleview. For more information, see www.cceconomicdevelopment.com.