

BACKGROUND

Effective January 1, 2010, the Goochland County Code was changed by the Board of Supervisors to permit proration of personal property tax on motor vehicles and trailers and semitrailers. Under the new procedures, motor vehicles and trailers will be taxed for the portion of the year that the personal property is legally located in Goochland County. The legal location, or “situs,” of a motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer is defined as the place where property is normally kept or garaged.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following questions and answers provide information to assist taxpayers in understanding the proration of personal property tax.

Q. What personal property is prorated?

The proration of personal property tax applies to motor vehicles, trailers and semitrailers only. This includes automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, motorized recreational vehicles (RV), trailers (including boat trailers) and semitrailers. Mobile homes, boats and boat motors, business equipment and machinery and tools **will not be prorated.**

Q. Who has to pay the prorated personal property tax?

Anyone owning a motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer normally located in Goochland County.

Q. How is personal property assessed?

The Commissioner of the Revenue of Goochland County is required to determine the assessed value of automobiles and all trucks less than 14,000 lbs by the means of a recognized pricing guide. The pricing guide used by Goochland is the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Official Used Car Guide and the Official Older Used Car Guide. The value taken from these books is the average loan value as determined by this guide. If the vehicle is not listed

in this guide, then a percentage of the original cost is used. All trucks in excess of 14,000 lbs, trailers and other personal property are assessed by a percentage of the cost according to the date acquired.

Q. How is the tax rate established?

The Goochland County Board of Supervisors establishes a personal property tax rate by April of each year after public hearings.

Q. What does proration of personal property tax mean? What is my taxable date?

The personal property tax will be prorated based upon the number of months that the vehicle or trailer is owned by the taxpayer and legally located in Goochland County. Periods of ownership beginning the 1st through the 15th of a month are counted as a whole month when calculating the prorated tax. Periods of ownership beginning the 16th through the end of a month are not counted when calculating the prorated tax because the taxable date is the first day of the following month.

For Example: If you move into Goochland or purchase a vehicle or trailer on January 15th of the tax year, your taxable date is January 1st and you must pay the personal property for the month of January and all following months that you own the vehicle or trailer. If you move to Goochland or purchase a new vehicle on January 16th of the tax year, your taxable date is February 1st and you must pay the personal property tax for February and all following months that you own the vehicle or trailer.

If you move out of Goochland or dispose of a vehicle or trailer on or before January 15th of the tax year, you will not pay any personal property tax on that vehicle or trailer for that year. If you move out of Goochland or dispose of a vehicle or trailer on January 16th, you must pay personal property tax on that vehicle or trailer for the one month of January.

Q. If I move out of Goochland or sell my vehicle or trailer during the tax year, am I eligible for a refund of the personal property tax I paid?

Yes, in most situations. If you move out of Goochland or sell a motor vehicle or trailer, your personal property tax for that vehicle or trailer will be prorated and you will receive a credit or refund of taxes paid for that portion of the remaining year provided all other taxes and debts due the County are paid. You will be required to show the Goochland Commissioner of the Revenue proof that the vehicle is no longer legally located in Goochland.

Credits or refunds are NOT permitted taxpayers who move from Goochland to a non-prorating locality in Virginia.

A temporary absence from the County will not make the vehicle owner eligible for a refund.

Q. If I am a new resident of Virginia, living in Goochland, do I pay personal property tax to Goochland this year?

Yes. If you move to Goochland during the year from out of state, you must pay personal property tax for the months you are in Goochland.

Q. If I am a new resident from a locality in Virginia that does not prorate do I pay personal property tax in Goochland this year?

No. You will not pay personal property tax in Goochland for those vehicles or trailers which you owned and on which you paid tax in the non-prorating locality. A copy of the paid tax receipt may be required as proof.

Q. If I move into Goochland from a non-prorating locality and then sell my vehicle and purchase a replacement vehicle, am I taxed on the replacement vehicle?

Yes, but the tax on the replacement vehicle is prorated by the number of months you own the vehicle less the amount you paid on the original owned vehicle to the non-prorating locality for the

period of time beginning with the disposal of the original owned vehicle.

Q. If my vehicle or trailer is damaged during the tax year, will the tax be prorated?

No. The property's assessed value as of January 1 will be used as a basis for personal property tax and the full amount of tax is due for the entire year, unless the damaged vehicle is disposed of or removed from the County.

Q. When must I file a tax return on the personal property I own? Is there a penalty for late filing?

A personal property tax return for motor vehicles and trailers located in Goochland on January 1 of the tax year or for those purchased or entering the County after January 1 of the tax year shall be filed with the commissioner of the revenue on or before September 1 of each year. Taxpayers purchasing vehicles or locating to Goochland after September 1st of each year shall file a return by the 1st day of the next month following location here. There is no late filing penalty, but a 10% late payment penalty will be imposed after the due date.

Q. Where may I obtain the necessary forms for reporting personal property for assessment? And where do I file my return?

You should call the Goochland Commissioner of the Revenue's Office to obtain personal property forms and to receive filing information. The forms should be sent to: Commissioner of the Revenue, PO Box 60, Goochland VA 23063 or brought in person to The Goochland Administration Bldg at 1800 Sandy Hook Road, Goochland VA 23063 Room 230.

Q. When is my personal property tax payment due?

Taxes on all personal property in Goochland County as of January 1 of the tax year are billed once a year and are due December 5th. Supplemental assessments billed after December 5th will have the due date indicated on the tax bill.

The information listed in this flyer is intended to be a ready reference and to answer some of the frequently asked questions pertaining to the proration of personal property taxes in Goochland County. Additional information about personal property assessment and taxes may be obtained by contacting:

Assessments: (804) 556-5807

Tax Payments: (804) 556-5806

www.co.goochland.va.us

PRORATION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX ON MOTOR VEHICLES, TRAILERS AND SEMITRAILERS IN

GOOCHLAND COUNTY VIRGINIA

Effective 01-01-2010

