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### Duck Dynasty Tax Tips

Some say it's a real head scratcher. A&E logged nearly 12 million bird watchers (birds of a feather) who spied the fourth-season premiere of the hit TV series "Duck Dynasty." See [11 Shows 'Duck Dynasty' Beat In The Ratings](#). Set in real

Louisiana bayou country, "Duck Dynasty" follows a brood of real-life brothers who manufacture duck calls and love to go bird hunting.



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A&E said the episode vaulted to the No. 1 non-fiction series in cable TV history in total viewers. That's a lot of duck watchers. And yet the famously bearded brothers may still not yet be recognized everywhere, not even when they are in New York City doing a guest spot on [LIVE with Kelly and Michael](#). See ["Duck Dynasty" Comes Calling on "LIVE with Kelly and Michael"](#).

That's right, star Jase Robertson was escorted out of his hotel after he asked for the location of the bathroom. See ['Duck Dynasty' star kicked out of NYC hotel, confused for homeless man](#). And while the famously bearded clan isn't yet dispensing tax advice along with their homespun charm, perhaps they should start. After all, ducks have already gotten into the tax act in a big way.

Our **beloved** income tax has been with us since 1913. Yet few Americans actually had to pay income tax until the crushing financial burden of World War II. In fact, in 1939, only five percent of Americans, mostly the rich, paid income tax. But then, in 1942, Congress started reshaping the tax laws. They haven't stopped since.

With the war, the Revenue Act of 1942—also called the [Victory Tax](#)—ramped up the income tax to make a whopping 75% of Americans “eligible”—and that means you—to pay federal income tax. Sure, tax forms were easy then compared to the huge complexity we face today. It's complexity that makes even Congress unable to do their own taxes.

But in 1942, millions of people had never filled out a tax form or dealt with taxes were about to start. To ease that transition, where do you begin? There was significant concern that regular old ordinary Americans might not know how to pay their taxes, and in any case needed some goosing. And who better than a household duck?

Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., wanted to educate people how to pay. He also hoped to lessen the significant public resentment for the income tax. Let's sell this fowl tax, he thought. So he turned to Walt Disney. Disney cast the popular Donald Duck as the star of his animated 1943 film, “The New Spirit.” See [Pay Your Income Tax: 1943 Disney Propaganda](#).

Current Treasury Secretary Jack Lew—and even President Obama—could probably use some help from Hollywood to sell the current income tax. After all, there are IRS scandals left and right. Add to that the fact that the IRS is poised to **blunder into** administer ObamaCare. Perhaps Congress and the IRS could learn from [Wag the Dog](#). Duck Dynasty Tax Tips doesn't sound too far fetched after all.

*You can reach me at [Wood@WoodLLP.com](mailto:Wood@WoodLLP.com). This discussion is not intended as legal advice, and cannot be relied upon for any purpose without the services of a qualified professional.*