

Child care deserves good pay

STATE COLLEGE — Are you among the increasing number of working mothers who has small children? If so, you probably have been faced with hiring good child care. Dr. James Van Horn, Extension family sociologist at Penn State, feels it is important to be aware of the laws that apply to the employment of child care-givers.

How much are you willing to pay for quality child care? Our children are extremely important to us, says Van Horn, yet the wages paid to care-givers either in our home or in another's home or center are often extremely low.

If you hire a babysitter to care for your children in your home on a regular basis, you may be required to pay that person the minimum wage (\$3.35/hour). If your babysitter works for you and other parents more than 20 hours per week, if income from babysitting is your sitter's main source of support, or if the sitter spends more than 20 percent of her time in your home doing household chores as well as watching children, you are required by law to pay minimum wage.

This does not apply to teenagers working as sitters temporarily until they enter some other job, or to elderly persons who do not depend on sitting for their main income. But, if you employ someone who uses babysitting as a career, he or she is entitled to the minimum wage. The U.S. Department of Labor publishes a booklet that explains these rules: *Handy Reference Guide to the Fair Labor Standard Act* (WH Publication 1282).

If you pay more than \$50 in 3 months to a sitter in your home you are considered an "employer". Therefore, you must pay Social Security taxes for your sitter. The booklet, *Child and Disabled Dependent Care* (Publication No. 503) from the IRS explains how to do this. Both you and your sitter need to contribute 6.65 percent of the wages. You do not need to pay Social Security for teenage children who sit for you, or, in most cases, for your mother and father. Your IRS office can give you more information on how to do this.

You may be entitled to a deduction on your federal income

tax for child care expenses. If you pay someone to care for your child under 15 in your own home, in the provider's home, or in a day center or preschool, you may be able to deduct up to \$400 of these expenses (\$800 if you have more than one child under 15) from your income tax each year. You must be using child care in order to work or actively look for work. The IRS publication, *Child and Disabled*

Dependent Care (No. 503) explains who is eligible for this deduction and how to claim it.

If you suspect that you may have been entitled to a deduction on your federal income tax during the 1977, 1978, or 1978 tax year you may file an amended tax return. Obtain more information on this from your IRS office or by calling their toll free number in your area: 800-

242-0250 in Pittsburgh - for telephones with area codes 412 and 814 and 800-462-4000 in Philadelphia for telephones with area codes 215 and 717.

If you employ a person in your home to give child care regularly, you should consult your insurance carrier. Your standard liability insurance may not be adequate to cover such a person in case of injury or accident.

July milk price set at \$15.39

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Middle Atlantic Order Market Administrator Joseph D. Shine today announced a Class I milk price of \$15.39 per hundredweight for July, 1981.

This price is down three cents from the June price but is 95 cents above the July, 1980 price. Order No. 4 prices are announced for milk testing 3.5 percent butterfat, f.o.b. plants located within 55 miles of Philadelphia, and also within 75 miles from the nearer of

Washington or Baltimore. There is also a 6-cent direct-delivery differential applicable to producer milk received at plants located within 55 miles of Philadelphia.

Shine announced a Class II milk price of \$12.51 per hundredweight for May, 1981 and a butterfat differential of 16.9 cents for the month. The Class II milk price is down six cents from the previous month while the butterfat differential is unchanged.

These class prices are based on

the May, 1981 Minnesota-Wisconsin manufacturing milk price of \$12.61 per hundredweight adjusted to a 3.5 percent butterfat content.

The USDA reported that the wholesale price of Grade A Butter at Chicago for May was \$1.4731 per pound and the nonfat dry milk price was \$3.362 per pound, f.o.b. plants in the Chicago area.



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