

New Jersey Farmland Assessment Filing Date

We are reminded each year by the Secretary of Agriculture that filing deadline for farmland assessment applications is August 1, and that it is indeed a deadline! There is no grace period for late filing.

Landowners who have been in the program are well aware of this annual requirement, but to be sure that everyone gets the word, Secretary Arthur Brown issues his statement this time of year.

"Farmers who do not apply their local assessors before August 1 will lose the tax benefits of farmland assessment for the 1987 tax year," the Agriculture Secretary warns.

He urges people who qualify for the program to apply now, not wait for July 31 or August 1. "This state program is absolutely critical to the survival of agriculture in the Garden State," he said.

Farmers in New Jersey, even with the lower assessment, still pay the second highest real property taxes in the nation.

The farmland assessment law became effective in 1965. It allows land in agricultural and horticultural production to be taxed on their ability to produce rather than on market value. The key word is land. It is the land that is farm assessed.

The farmhouse, lawn and garden areas, barns and sheds, are not assessed at reduced value, but

taxed on full value, the same as other property owners.

TO QUALIFY

In order to qualify for farmland assessment, the land must encompass at least five acres, and this land must have been actively devoted to agriculture for two consecutive years immediately prior to the request.

The five acre minimum does not include the land occupied by the home and its immediate surroundings (lawns, flower and vegetable gardens for home use).

The land must produce at least \$500 in gross sales of agricultural, horticultural, or forestry crops for the first five acres. For land over five acres, sales per acre must average at least \$5 per acre for all cropland, or 50 cents per acre for all woodland or wetland.

There is now an "unattached woodland" category. It is land that is devoted 100% to forestry practices.

Owners who have been on the farmland assessment program in 1986 will receive the 1987 forms directly from the tax assessor. New applicants, and this is important, must initiate the request for forms from the local tax assessor. They won't come automatically.

WORKSHOPS SET

Elaine Barbour, Hunterdon County Agricultural Agent, will be scheduling workshops for lan-

downers on farmland assessment. Provisions and requirements will be discussed with lots of time for questions.

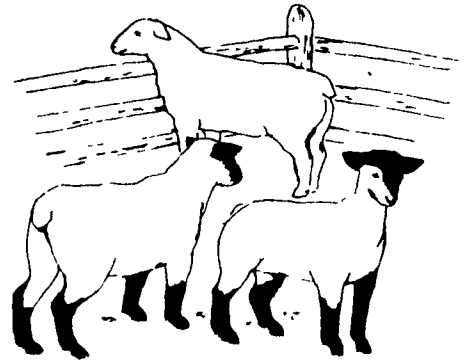
Watch for notices of these sessions, or call the Cooperative Extension office for information and to register.

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Delegate Meeting Scheduled

STRONGSVILLE, Ohio — the 1986 mid-year delegate meeting of Milk Marketing Inc. is July 9, at The Fawcett Center for Tomorrow, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Keynote speaker for the event will be Congressman Jim Jeffords, (R-Vermont), agriculture committee member and ranking minority member for the House of Representatives Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Subcommittee.

MMI President Herman M. Brubaker will update delegates on MMI activities, the national dairy promotion campaign, and the

legislative battles surrounding the 1985 Farm Bill and the whole herd buyout.

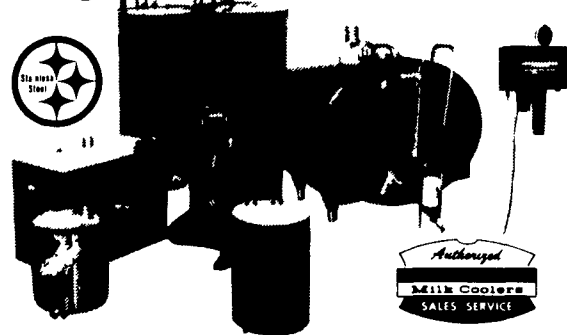
Dr. Robert Jacobson, ag economist, The Ohio State University will present the pros and cons of supply management system to control milk production. MMI General Manager Gordon Riehl will present the management report.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. in The Fawcett Center for Tomorrow. The meeting begins at 10:30 a.m. The facility is located just north of The Ohio State University stadium, at 2400 Oletangy River Road.

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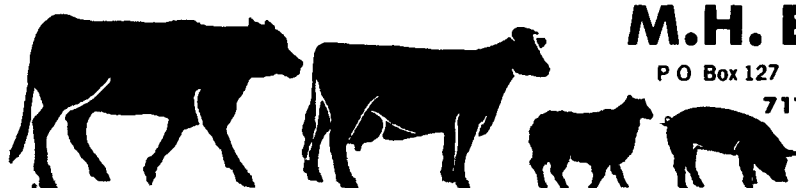
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