#### 1991 Dairy Assessment Returns Available Now

STEVE FORD **BOB YONKERS PSU Extension Specialists** 

STATE COLLAGE (Centre Co.)—Dairy farmers have paid an assessment of 5 cents per hundredweight of milk sold in 1991 as part of the Budget Deficit Reduc-

tion Act. All dairy farmers have the opportunity to obtain a refund of that assessment if they meet each of the following criteria: they marketed less milk in 1991 than they did in 1990, they have filed a conservation plan with their local ASCS office, and they apply for the refund at their local ASCS office between Jan. 1 and March 15, 1992.

In most cases the refund will not be very large; a 60 cow herd marketing 15,000 pounds of milk per cow (9000 cwt.) will have paid \$450 in assessments.

However, in cases where the dairy farm is going to produce only slightly more than its 1990 production level, it may pay to reduce the amount of milk sold through early drying off of cows, culling or even milk dumping.

The following worksheet can be used if 1991 marketings will be close to 1990's.

Enter the expected assessment refund. The refund should be equal to five cents times the total hundredweights of milk marketed on the farm. In the example below, 9000 cwt is the expected 1991 farm marketings, which cannot exceed 1990 marketings.

LINE B:

Enter your expected December farm gate milk price (\$/cwt), net of all marketing charges: hauling, coop dues, check-offs, and assessments. Make sure that the fivecent assessment charge is also deducted.

LINE C:

There may be cost savings when less milk is marketed. If a cow is dried off early and culled, there are savings in the feed and supplies that would have gone into that cow and her milk production. Those savings should be entered on line C. If, however, the cow is kept in milk production and the milk is not marketed but is fed to livestock on the farm, for example, then the feed value of the milk should be entered on line C. There would be no other feed cost savings since the cow is still in production. If the milk is simply dumped, then there would be no

cost savings and the value entered on line C should be zero.

LINE D:

Subtract line C from line B and enter the result on line D. This value is the net return per hundredweight of milk that would be given up by reducing marketings. LINE E:

Reducing marketings in 1991 to receive an assessment refund also affects the base production level for 1992 assessments. Increasing 1991 production beyond that of 1990 means losing the five-cent assessment in 1991. However, more milk marketed in 1991 means that more milk can be marketed in 1992 while still qualifying for the 1992 assessment refund. 1992 assessments will be refunded if 1992 marketings are not greater than 1991 marketings. The marketing base is determined

by only the previous year's marketing level. The 1992 assessment refund will be at least 11.25 cents per hundredweight of milk marketed (the minimum set in the Budget Deficit Reduction Act) and probably will be more. Enter the expected 1992 assessment on line E to evaluate the effect of reducing 1991 marketings on the potential 1992 assessment fund. (Turn to Page A30)

1991 DAIRY ASSESSMENT REFUND WORKSHEET

		CULL	"DUMP"	YOUR FARM
A. Expected Assessment Refund		\$450	\$450	<del></del>
B. Expected Price (\$	December Net Milk /cwt)	\$13.50	\$13.50	<del></del>
	ings from Reduced irketing (\$/cwt)	\$6.00	\$0.00	-
D. Net Milk 1	Price (B-C)	\$7.50	\$13.50	<del></del>
E. Expected (\$/cwt)	1992 Assessment	\$0.12	\$0.12	
	rtunity Cost of Reducing ilk (D+E)	\$7.62	\$13.62	
G. Breakeve	n Milk Reduction (A/F)	59 cwt.	33 cwt.	

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