

U.S. Self-Employment Tax Return Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), or Puerto Rico For the year Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1994, or other tax year beginning , 1994, and ending , 19

1994

Form header section with fields for name, address, and social security number.

Part I Self-Employment Tax

Note: If your only income subject to self-employment tax is church employee income, skip lines 1 through 4b. Enter -0- on line 4c, and go to line 5a. Income from services you performed as a minister or a member of a religious order is not church employee income. See page 4.

Main calculation table with rows 1 through 17, including instructions and a grid for numerical entries.

Please Sign Here Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return and accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, and complete.

Preparer's section with fields for signature, date, and social security number.

**Part II Optional Methods To Figure Net Earnings** (See page 6 for limitations.)

<b>Farm Optional Method</b>				
1	Maximum income for optional methods . . . . .	1	\$1,600	00
2	Enter the <b>smaller</b> of: two-thirds (2/3) of gross farm income from Part III, line 11, and your distributive share from farm partnerships (not less than zero), <b>or</b> \$1,600. Include this amount on page 1, line 4b.	2		
<b>Nonfarm Optional Method</b>				
3	Subtract line 2 from line 1 . . . . .	3		
4	Enter the <b>smaller</b> of: two-thirds (2/3) of gross income from Part IV, line 5, and your distributive share from nonfarm partnerships (not less than zero), <b>or</b> the amount on line 3 above. Also include this amount on page 1, line 4b . . . . .	4		

**Part III Profit or Loss From Farming**

**Section A.—Farm Income—Cash Method—Complete Sections A and B**  
 (If accrual method taxpayer, complete Sections B and C, and line 11 of Section A.)  
**Do not include sales of livestock held for draft, breeding, sport, or dairy purposes.**

1	Sales of livestock and other items you bought for resale . . . . .	1			
2	Cost or other basis of livestock and other items reported on line 1 . . . . .	2			
3	Subtract line 2 from line 1 . . . . .	3			
4	Sales of livestock, produce, grains, and other products you raised . . . . .	4			
5a	Total cooperative distributions (Form(s) 1099-PATR). . . . .	5a			5b Taxable amount
6	Agricultural program payments received . . . . .	6			
7	Commodity credit loans reported under election (or forfeited) . . . . .	7			
8	Crop insurance proceeds . . . . .	8			
9	Custom hire (machine work) income . . . . .	9			
10	Other income . . . . .	10			
11	<b>Gross farm income.</b> Add amounts in the right column for lines 3 through 10. If accrual method taxpayer, enter the amount from Section C, line 49 . . . . . ▶	11			

**Section B.—Farm Expenses—Cash and Accrual Method**

**Do not include personal or living expenses (such as taxes, insurance, repairs, etc., on your home) that did not produce farm income. Reduce the amount of your farm expenses by any reimbursements before entering the expenses below.**

12	Car and truck expenses (attach <b>Form 4562</b> ) . . . . .	12			24	Labor hired . . . . .	24		
13	Chemicals . . . . .	13			25	Pension and profit-sharing plans . . . . .	25		
14	Conservation expenses (attach <b>Form 8645</b> ) . . . . .	14			26	Rent or lease:			
15	Custom hire (machine work) . . . . .	15			a	Vehicles, machinery, and equipment . . . . .	26a		
16	Depreciation and section 179 expense deduction not claimed elsewhere (attach <b>Form 4562</b> if required) . . . . .	16			b	Other (land, animals, etc.) . . . . .	26b		
17	Employee benefit programs other than on line 25 . . . . .	17			27	Repairs and maintenance. . . . .	27		
18	Feed purchased . . . . .	18			28	Seeds and plants purchased. . . . .	28		
19	Fertilizers and lime . . . . .	19			29	Storage and warehousing. . . . .	29		
20	Freight and trucking . . . . .	20			30	Supplies purchased . . . . .	30		
21	Gasoline, fuel, and oil . . . . .	21			31	Taxes . . . . .	31		
22	Insurance (other than health) . . . . .	22			32	Utilities . . . . .	32		
23	Interest:				33	Veterinary, breeding, and medicine . . . . .	33		
a	Mortgage (paid to banks, etc.) . . . . .	23a			34	Other expenses (specify):			
b	Other. . . . .	23b			a	.....	34a		
24					b	.....	34b		
25					c	.....	34c		
26					d	.....	34d		
27					e	.....	34e		
28					35	<b>Total expenses.</b> Add lines 12 through 34e . . . . . ▶	35		
29					36	<b>Net farm profit or (loss).</b> Subtract line 35 from line 11. Enter the result here and on page 1, line 1.	36		

**Section C.—Farm Income—Accrual Method**

**Do not include sales of livestock held for draft, breeding, sport, or dairy purposes on any of the lines below.**

<b>37</b>	Sales of livestock, produce, grains, and other products during the year			<b>37</b>		
<b>38a</b>	Total cooperative distributions (Form(s) 1099-PATR) <b>38a</b>			<b>38b</b>	38b	Taxable amount
<b>39</b>	Agricultural program payments received			<b>39</b>		
<b>40</b>	Commodity credit loans reported under election (or forfeited)			<b>40</b>		
<b>41</b>	Custom hire (machine work) income			<b>41</b>		
<b>42</b>	Other farm income (specify) .....			<b>42</b>		
<b>43</b>	Add the amounts in the right column for lines 37 through 42			<b>43</b>		
<b>44</b>	Inventory of livestock, produce, grains, and other products at the beginning of the year	<b>44</b>				
<b>45</b>	Cost of livestock, produce, grains, and other products purchased during the year	<b>45</b>				
<b>46</b>	Add lines 44 and 45	<b>46</b>				
<b>47</b>	Inventory of livestock, produce, grains, and other products at the end of the year	<b>47</b>				
<b>48</b>	Cost of livestock, produce, grains, and other products sold. Subtract line 47 from line 46*			<b>48</b>		
<b>49</b>	<b>Gross farm income.</b> Subtract line 48 from line 43. Enter the result here and on page 2, Part III, line 11			<b>49</b>		

\*If you use the unit-livestock-price method or the farm-price method of valuing inventory and the amount on line 47 is larger than the amount on line 46, subtract line 46 from line 47. Enter the result on line 48. Add lines 43 and 48. Enter the total on line 49.

**Part IV Profit or Loss From Business (Sole Proprietorship)**

**Section A.—Income**

<b>1</b>	Gross receipts \$	Less returns and allowances \$	Balance	<b>1</b>		
<b>2a</b>	Inventory at beginning of year			<b>2a</b>		
<b>b</b>	Purchases less cost of items withdrawn for personal use			<b>2b</b>		
<b>c</b>	Cost of labor (do not include salary paid to yourself)			<b>2c</b>		
<b>d</b>	Materials and supplies			<b>2d</b>		
<b>e</b>	Other costs (attach statement)			<b>2e</b>		
<b>f</b>	Add lines 2a through 2e			<b>2f</b>		
<b>g</b>	Inventory at end of year			<b>2g</b>		
<b>h</b>	Cost of goods sold. Subtract line 2g from line 2f			<b>2h</b>		
<b>3</b>	<b>Gross profit.</b> Subtract line 2h from line 1			<b>3</b>		
<b>4</b>	Other income			<b>4</b>		
<b>5</b>	<b>Gross income.</b> Add lines 3 and 4			<b>5</b>		

**Section B.—Expenses**

<b>6</b>	Advertising	<b>6</b>		<b>19</b>	Repairs and maintenance	<b>19</b>	
<b>7</b>	Bad debts from sales or services	<b>7</b>		<b>20</b>	Supplies (not included in Section A)	<b>20</b>	
<b>8</b>	Car and truck expenses (attach <b>Form 4562</b> )	<b>8</b>		<b>21</b>	Taxes and licenses	<b>21</b>	
<b>9</b>	Commissions and fees	<b>9</b>		<b>22</b>	Travel, meals, and entertainment:		
<b>10</b>	Depletion	<b>10</b>		<b>a</b>	Travel	<b>22a</b>	
<b>11</b>	Depreciation and section 179 expense deduction (not included in Section A). (Attach <b>Form 4562</b> if required.)	<b>11</b>		<b>b</b>	Meals and entertainment		
<b>12</b>	Employee benefit programs (other than line 17)	<b>12</b>		<b>c</b>	Enter 50% of line 22b subject to limitations.		
<b>13</b>	Insurance (other than health)	<b>13</b>		<b>d</b>	Subtract line 22c from line 22b	<b>22d</b>	
<b>14</b>	Interest on business indebtedness	<b>14</b>		<b>23</b>	Utilities	<b>23</b>	
<b>15</b>	Legal and professional services	<b>15</b>		<b>24</b>	Wages not included on line 2c.	<b>24</b>	
<b>16</b>	Office expense	<b>16</b>		<b>25a</b>	Other expenses (list type and amount):		
<b>17</b>	Pension and profit-sharing plans	<b>17</b>			.....		
<b>18</b>	Rent or lease:				.....		
<b>a</b>	Vehicles, machinery, and equipment	<b>18a</b>			.....		
<b>b</b>	Other business property	<b>18b</b>		<b>25b</b>	Total other expenses	<b>25b</b>	
<b>26</b>	<b>Total expenses.</b> Add lines 6 through 25b			<b>26</b>			
<b>27</b>	<b>Net profit or (loss).</b> Subtract line 26 from line 5. Enter the result here and on page 1, line 2			<b>27</b>			

**Paperwork Reduction Act Notice.**—We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. You are required to give us the information. We need it to ensure that you are complying with these laws and to allow us to figure and collect the right amount of tax.

The time needed to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average time is:

<b>Recordkeeping</b> . . . . .	7 hr., 19 min.
<b>Learning about the law or the form</b> . . . . .	23 min.
<b>Preparing the form</b> . . . . .	2 hr., 32 min.
<b>Copying, assembling, and sending the form to the IRS</b> . . . . .	49 min.

If you have comments concerning the accuracy of these time estimates or suggestions for making this form simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. You can write to both the **Internal Revenue Service**, Attention: Tax Forms Committee, PC:FP, Washington, DC 20224; and the **Office of Management and Budget**, Paperwork Reduction Project (1545-0090), Washington, DC 20503. **DO NOT** send this form to either of these offices. Instead, see **Where To File** below.

## General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code.

### Changes To Note

- Beginning in 1994, the limit on the amount of self-employment income subject to the 2.9% Medicare tax has been repealed. You now must pay the Medicare tax on the entire amount of your net earnings from self-employment of at least \$400 (\$108.28 if church employee income).
- For 1994, the maximum amount of self-employment income subject to social security tax is \$60,600.

### Purpose of Form

Use Form 1040-SS to report net earnings from self-employment and pay self-employment tax. The Social Security Administration uses this information to figure your benefits under the social security program. Self-employment tax applies regardless of your age and even if you are already receiving social security or Medicare benefits.

You may also be required to file an income tax return with the government of Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or Puerto Rico. Check with your local tax office for more details.

### Additional Information

For more details, get **Pub. 533**, Self-Employment Tax, available from most IRS offices. See the Instructions for Form 1040 for information on business and farm income and expenses.

For information on tax law changes for 1994, get **Pub. 553**, Highlights of 1994 Tax Changes.

If you expect to owe self-employment tax of \$500 or more for 1995, you may have to make estimated tax payments. Use **Form 1040-ES**, Estimated Tax for Individuals, to make estimated tax payments.

### Who Must File

You **MUST** file Form 1040-SS if:

—You were self-employed and your net earnings from self-employment (from other than church employee income) were \$400 or more (or you had church employee income of \$108.28 or more—see **Employees of Churches and Church Organizations** below); **and**

—You do not have to file Form 1040 with the United States; **and**

—You are a resident of:

- Guam,
- American Samoa,
- The Virgin Islands,
- The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), or
- Puerto Rico. (You may file either Form 1040-PR or Form 1040-SS.)

You must also file Form 1040-SS to pay any employee social security and Medicare tax on unreported tips or uncollected employee social security and Medicare tax on tips or group-term life insurance (see the instructions for Part I, lines 8b and 12).

**Note:** *Even if you have a loss or a small amount of income from self-employment, it may be to your benefit to file Form 1040-SS and use either "optional method" in Part II. See page 6.*

### When To File

If you file on a calendar year basis, file by April 17, 1995. If you file on a fiscal year basis, file this form by the 15th day of the 4th month after the close of your fiscal year.

### Where To File

Internal Revenue Service Center, Philadelphia, PA 19255

### Amount You Owe

Enclose your check or money order for the full amount with Form 1040-SS. Make it payable to the "U.S. Internal Revenue Service." Include your name, address, social security number, and "1994 Form 1040-SS" on it.

### Signature and Date

Sign and date your return. It is not a valid return unless you sign it.

Generally, anyone you pay to prepare your return must sign it and fill in the Paid Preparer's Use Only area of your return. Someone who prepares your return but **does not charge you should not sign**.

If you have questions about whether a preparer is required to sign your return, you may contact an Internal Revenue Service office.

The preparer required to sign your return **MUST**:

- Sign it, by hand, in the space provided for the preparer's signature. (Signature stamps or labels are not acceptable.)

- Give you a copy of your return in addition to the copy to be filed with the Internal Revenue Service.

### Where To Get Forms

**Puerto Rico.**—Director's Representative, U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Edificio Mercantil Plaza, Parada 27½, Avenida Ponce de León, Hato Rey, PR 00917; or you may send your order to Eastern Area Distribution Center, P.O. Box 25866, Richmond, VA 23286-8107.

**Virgin Islands.**—Federal Building, Room 216, 5500 Veterans Drive, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, VI 00802; V.I. Bureau of Internal Revenue, Lockhart Gardens No. 1-A, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, VI 00802; or V.I. Bureau of Internal Revenue, 4001 Estate Diamond, Christiansted, St. Croix, VI 00820.

**Guam.**—Internal Revenue Service, Pacific Daily News Bldg., 230 O'Hara St., Suite 902, Agana, GU 96910.

**American Samoa.**—American Samoa Government, Tax Division, Suite 111, Pago Plaza, Pago Pago, AS 96799; or Tax Office, EOB Building, Utulei, AS 96799.

**CNMI.**—Division of Revenue and Taxation, CNMI, Central Office, Civic Center, Saipan, MP 96950.

### Name and Social Security Number

To ensure proper credit to your social security account, enter your name and social security number exactly as they are shown on your social security card. If you don't have a social security number, get **Form SS-5** from a Social Security Administration District Office.

### Who Must Pay Self-Employment Tax?

#### Self-Employed Persons

You must pay self-employment tax if you had net earnings as a self-employed person of \$400 or more. If you are in business for yourself, or you are a farmer, for example, you are self-employed.

You must also pay self-employment tax on your share of certain partnership income and your guaranteed payments. See **Partnership Income or Loss** on page 5.

#### Employees of Churches and Church Organizations

If you had church employee income of \$108.28 or more, you must pay self-employment tax. "Church employee income" is wages you received as an employee (other than as a minister or member of a religious order) from a church or a qualified church-controlled organization that has a certificate in effect electing exemption from employer social security and Medicare taxes.

#### Ministers and Members of Religious Orders

You must pay self-employment tax on salaries and other income for services you performed as a minister or member of a religious order, unless you received approval from the IRS for an exemption from

self-employment tax. See **Who Is Exempt From Self-Employment Tax?** on page 5. If you must pay self-employment tax, include this income on line 1 of Part IV. But **do not** report it on line 5a of Part I; it is not considered church employee income. Also, include on line 1 of Part IV:

- The rental value of a home or an allowance for a home furnished to you (including payments for utilities), and
- The value of meals and lodging provided to you, your spouse, and your dependents for your employer's convenience.

If you were a duly ordained minister who was an employee of a church and you must pay self-employment tax, report in Part IV your income and expenses from performing services as a minister. Enter the net amount in Part I, line 2.

For more details, get **Pub. 517**, Social Security and Other Information for Members of the Clergy and Religious Workers.

### Employees of Foreign Governments or International Organizations

You must pay self-employment tax on income you earned as a U.S. citizen or a resident of Puerto Rico employed by a foreign government (or, in certain cases, by an agency wholly owned by a foreign government or an international organization under the International Organizations Immunities Act) in the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the CNMI, or the Virgin Islands. Report income from this employment on line 1 of Part IV. If you are employed elsewhere by a foreign government or an international organization, those earnings are exempt from self-employment tax.

### Who Is Exempt From Self-Employment Tax?

In most cases, you must pay self-employment tax on net earnings you received as a minister, a member of a religious order who has not taken a vow of poverty, or a Christian Science practitioner. But you will be exempt from self-employment tax on those net earnings if you filed **Form 4361**, Application for Exemption From Self-Employment Tax for Use by Ministers, Members of Religious Orders and Christian Science Practitioners, and you received approval from the IRS for an exemption from paying self-employment tax. In this case, if you have no other income subject to self-employment tax, then you are not required to file Form 1040-SS. However, if you have \$400 or more of other earnings subject to self-employment tax, you must check the box on line A of page 1 and continue with Part I.

**Note:** If you have ever filed **Form 2031** to elect social security coverage, you cannot revoke that election now.

If you have conscientious objections to social security insurance because of your membership in and belief in the teachings of a religious sect recognized as being in existence at all times since December 31, 1950, and which has provided a reasonable level of living for its dependent members, you

can request exemption from self-employment tax by filing **Form 4029**, Application for Exemption From Social Security and Medicare Taxes and Waiver of Benefits. If you filed Form 4029 and have received IRS approval, do not file Form 1040-SS.

See Pub. 517 for more details.

### More Than One Business

If you were a farmer and had at least one other business or you had two or more businesses, your net earnings from self-employment are the combined net earnings from all of your businesses. If you had a loss in one business, it reduces the income from another. Complete and file only one Form 1040-SS for any 1 year. Attach a profit and loss statement for each trade or business, and include the net earnings in Part I.

### Community Income

If any of the income from a business, including farming, is community income, all of the income from that business is considered self-employment earnings of the spouse who carried on the trade or business unless there is a husband and wife partnership. The identity of the spouse who carried on the trade or business is determined by the facts in each situation.

### Fiscal Year Filers

If your tax year is a fiscal year, use the tax rate and earnings base that apply at the time the fiscal year begins. Do not prorate the tax or earnings base for a fiscal year that overlaps the date of a rate or earnings base change.

### Specific Instructions

We have provided specific instructions for some of the lines on the form. Lines that do not appear in the instructions are self-explanatory.

The accounting method you used to record your farm income determines whether you complete Section A or C of Part III.

**Cash Method.**—Include all of your income in the year you actually get it. Generally, you deduct your expenses when you pay them.

**Accrual Method.**—Include your income in the year you earned it. It does not matter when you get it. You deduct your expenses when you incur them.

### Part I—Self-Employment Tax

Generally, net earnings from self-employment are your net profits from a farm or nonfarm business operated by you and your share of certain partnership income and your guaranteed payments. See the instructions below to figure the income or losses from a partnership that you must include in net earnings from self-employment.

#### Partnership Income or Loss

When figuring your total net earnings from self-employment, include your share of partnership income or loss attributable to a trade or business and any guaranteed payments for services or for the use of capital. However, if you were a limited partner, include only guaranteed payments for

services you actually rendered to or on behalf of the partnership.

If you were a general partner, reduce lines 1 and 2 for any section 179 expense deduction, oil or gas depletion, and unreimbursed partnership expenses.

If your partnership was engaged solely in the operation of a group investment program, earnings from the operation are not self-employment earnings for either the general or limited partners.

If a partner died and the partnership continued, include in self-employment income the deceased partner's distributive share of the partnership's ordinary income or loss through the end of the month in which he or she died. See section 1402(f).

#### Share Farming

If you produced crops or livestock on someone else's land for a share of the crops or livestock produced, or the proceeds from the sale of them, you are considered a self-employed person rather than an employee.

### Other Income and Losses Included in Net Earnings From Self-Employment

- Rental income from a farm if, as landlord, you materially participated in the production or management of the production of farm products on this land. This income is farm earnings. To determine if you materially participated in farm management or production, do not consider the activities of any agent who acted for you.
- Cash or a payment-in-kind received from the Department of Agriculture for participating in a land diversion program.
- Payments for the use of rooms or other space when you also provided substantial services. Examples are hotel rooms, boarding houses, tourist camps or homes, parking lots, warehouses, and storage garages.
- Income from the retail sale of newspapers and magazines if you were age 18 or older and kept the profits.
- Amounts received by current or former self-employed insurance agents that are:
  1. Paid after retirement but calculated as a percentage of commissions received from the paying company before retirement;
  2. Renewal commissions; or
  3. Deferred commissions paid after retirement for sales made before retirement.
- Income as a crew member of a fishing vessel with a crew of normally fewer than 10 individuals. See **Pub. 595**, Tax Guide for Commercial Fishermen, for more information.
- Fees as a state or local government employee if you were paid only on a fee basis and the job was not covered under a Federal-state social security coverage agreement.
- Interest received in the course of any trade or business, such as interest on notes or accounts receivable.
- Fees and other payments received by you for services as a director of a corporation.

(Continued on page 6)

- Recapture amounts under sections 179 and 280F that you included in gross income because the business use of the property dropped to 50% or less. Do not include amounts recaptured on the disposition of property.

- Fees you received as a professional fiduciary. This may also apply to fees paid to you as a nonprofessional fiduciary if the fees relate to active participation in the operation of the estate's trade or business or the management of an estate that required extensive management activities over a long period of time.

- Gain or loss from section 1256 contracts or related property by an options or commodities dealer in the normal course of dealing in or trading section 1256 contracts.

### Income and Losses Not Included in Net Earnings From Self-Employment

- Salaries, fees, etc., subject to social security or Medicare tax that you received for performing services as an employee, including services performed as a public official (except as a fee basis government employee as explained under **Other Income and Losses Included in Net Earnings From Self-Employment** on page 5).

- Income you received as a retired partner under a written partnership plan that provides for lifelong periodic retirement payment if you had no other interest in the partnership and did not perform services for it during the year.

- Income from real estate rentals (including rentals paid in crop shares) unless received in the course of a trade or business as a real estate dealer.

- Dividends on shares of stock and interest on bonds, notes, etc., unless received in the course of your trade or business as a dealer in stocks or securities.

- Gain or loss from:

- The sale or exchange of a capital asset,
- The sale, exchange, involuntary conversion, or other disposition of property, unless the property is stock in trade or other property that would be includible in inventory, or held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of the business, or
- Certain transactions in timber, coal, or domestic iron ore.

- Net operating losses from other years.

### Unreported Tips Subject to Social Security and Medicare Tax

**Line 8b.**—If you received tips of \$20 or more in any month and did not report all of those tips to your employer, **you must file Form 4137, Social Security and Medicare Tax on Unreported Tip Income.** Disregard the references to Form 1040 shown on Form 4137. Also see the instructions for line 12 below.

Enter on line 8b the amount from Form 4137, line 9.

### Self-Employment Tax

**Line 12—Employee Social Security and Medicare Tax on Tips Not Reported to Employer.**—Complete Form 4137 if you received cash or charge tips of \$20 or more in any month and you did not report all of those tips to your employer.

Write the amount of tax due (from line 12 of Form 4137) on the dotted line next to line 12 on page 1 of Form 1040-SS and label the amount "Tax on Tips." Include it in the total on line 12 and attach Form 4137 to Form 1040-SS. Be sure to complete **Schedule U (Form 1040)** on Form 4137.

**Uncollected Employee Social Security and Medicare Tax on Tips.**—If you did not have enough wages to cover the social security and Medicare tax due on tips you reported to your employer, the amount of tax due should be identified with codes **A** and **B** in box 13 of your Form W-2AS, W-2CM, W-2GU, or W-2VI. Include this tax in the total for line 12. Enter the amount of this tax and the words "Uncollected Tax" on the dotted line next to line 12.

**Uncollected Employee Social Security and Medicare Tax on Group-Term Life Insurance.**—If you had group-term life insurance through a former employer, you may have to pay social security and Medicare tax on part of the cost of the life insurance. The amount of tax due should be identified with codes **M** and **N** in box 13 of your Form W-2AS, W-2CM, W-2GU, or W-2VI. Include this tax in the total for line 12. Enter the amount of this tax and the words "Uncollected Tax" on the dotted line next to line 12.

### Part II—Optional Methods To Figure Net Earnings

Use of the optional methods gives you credit toward your social security coverage even though you have a loss or low income from self-employment. But the optional methods may require you to pay self-employment tax when none would otherwise be required to be paid.

#### Farm Optional Method

You may use this method to figure your net earnings from farm self-employment if your gross farm income was \$2,400 or less OR your gross farm income was more than \$2,400 but your net farm profits (defined below) were less than \$1,733. There is no limit on how many years you can use this method.

Under this method, you report on line 2, Part II, two-thirds of your gross farm income, up to \$1,600, as your net earnings. This method can increase or decrease your net self-employment farm earnings even if the farming business has a loss.

You may change the method after you file your return. For example, you can change from the regular to the optional method or from the optional to the regular method.

For a farm partnership, figure your share of gross income based on the partnership agreement. With guaranteed payments, your share of the partnership's gross income is your guaranteed payments plus your share of the gross income after it is reduced by all guaranteed payments made by the partnership. If you were a limited partner, include only guaranteed payments for services you actually rendered to or on behalf of the partnership.

"Net farm profits" is the total of the amounts from Part III, line 36, and your distributive share from farm partnerships.

#### Nonfarm Optional Method

You may be able to use this method to figure your net earnings from nonfarm self-employment if your net nonfarm profits (defined below) were less than \$1,733, and also less than 72.189% of your gross nonfarm income. To use this method, you also must be regularly self-employed. You meet this requirement if your actual net earnings from self-employment were \$400 or more in 2 of the 3 years preceding the year you use the nonfarm method. The net earnings of \$400 or more could be from either farm or nonfarm earnings or both. The net earnings include your distributive share of partnership income or loss subject to self-employment tax. Use of the nonfarm optional method from nonfarm self-employment is limited to 5 years. The 5 years do not have to be consecutive.

Under this method, you report on line 4 of Part II, two-thirds of your gross nonfarm income, up to \$1,600, as your net earnings from self-employment. **But you may not report less than your actual net earnings from nonfarm self-employment.**

You may change the method after you file your return. For example, you can change from the regular to the optional method or from the optional to the regular method.

Figure your share of gross income from a nonfarm partnership in the same manner as for a farm partnership. See **Farm Optional Method** above for details.

"Net nonfarm profits" is the total of the amounts from Part IV, line 27, and your distributive share from other than farm partnerships.

#### Using Both Optional Methods

If you can use both methods, you may report less than your total actual net earnings from farm and nonfarm self-employment, but you **cannot** report less than your actual net earnings from nonfarm self-employment alone.

If you use both methods to figure net earnings from self-employment, you **cannot** report more than \$1,600 of net earnings from self-employment.

