### Form **1040-SS**

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, 1995,
or other tax year beginning , 1995, and ending

OMB No. 1545-0090

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

, 19

print	Your first name and initial		Last name			Your social security number		
Please type or	Present home address (number, street, and apt. no., or rural route)					Nature of business		
Please	City, to	wn or post office, and ZIP code						
Pai	rt I	Total Tax						
	and g See p	If your only income subject to self-employmen o to line 5a. Income from services you performe age 4.	d as a minister or a r	nember of a	religious order <b>is r</b>	ot churc	ch employee ind	come.
Α		are a minister, member of a religious order, or or or or other net earnings from self-employment						
1		arm profit or (loss) from Part III, line 36, and Skip this line if you use the farm optional meth	m partnerships.	1				
2 3 4a	Minist this lin Comb	onfarm profit or (loss) from Part IV, line 27, and years and members of religious orders see page the if you use the nonfarm optional method. See ine lines 1 and 2	line. <b>Note:</b> <i>Skip</i>	2 3 4a				
ча b		elected one or both of the optional methods,				4b		
С	Comb	ine lines 4a and 4b. If less than \$400, <b>do not xception:</b> If less than \$400 and you had churd- term life insurance, enter -0- and continue.	self-employment ve tax on tips or	4c				
5a b	W-2G	your church employee income from Form(s) W U, W-2VI, or 499R-2/W-2PR lly line 5a by 92.35% (.9235). If less than \$100,		5a				
6		arnings from self-employment. Add lines 4c a		6				
7	Maxin	num amount of combined wages and self-emp				7	\$61,200	00
8a		social security wages and tips from Form(s) W-U, W-2VI, or 499R-2/W-2PR	2, W-2AS, W-2CM,	_				
b	page			8b				
		nes 8a and 8b	8c 9					
9		Subtract line 8c from line 7. If zero or less, enter -0- here and on line 10 and go to line 11						
10 11		Multiply the <b>smaller</b> of line 6 or line 9 by 12.4% (.124)				10		
	Solf o	Multiply line 6 by 2.9% (.029)				12		
12 13		chold employment taxes. Attach Schedule H (F				13		
14		tax. Add lines 12 and 13	•			14		
15		estimated tax payments		15				
16		15 is larger than line 14, enter amount <b>OVERP</b>				16		
17		nt of line 16 to be <b>REFUNDED TO YOU</b>				17		
18		nt of line 16 to be <b>APPLIED TO 1996 ESTIMA</b>		18				
19	If line	14 is larger than line 15, enter AMOUNT YOU	OWE. See page 4			19		
Ple Sig He		Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examine belief, they are true, correct, and complete. Declaration of Your signature		payer) is based		hich prepa		
Paid		Preparer's signature	Date		Check if self-employed	Prepare	er's social security	no.
	arer's	Firm's name (or yours if self-employed)						
O26	Only	and address			ZIP code			

Form 1040-SS (1995)

	1040-33 (1773)			(			aye Z
Par	t    Optional Methods To	Figure Net Earnin	gs (See pa	age 6 for limitations.)			
	Farm Optional Method						
1	Maximum income for optional n	1	\$1,600	00			
2	Enter the smaller of: two-thirds (						
	share from farm partnerships (not	2					
	Nonfarm Optional Method						
3		3					
4	Enter the <b>smaller</b> of: two-thirds						
	share from nonfarm partnerships						
Б	this amount on page 1, line 4b  rofit or Loss From	4					
Par							
				I—Complete Sections A and B			
				B and C, and line 11 of Section			
	Do not include	sales of livestock he	ld for draft	t, breeding, sport, or dairy pur	poses.		
1	Sales of livestock and other iter						
2	Cost or other basis of livestock						
3	Subtract line 2 from line 1	3					
4	Sales of livestock, produce, gra				4		
			-				
5a	Total cooperative distribution 1099-PATR)	ns (Form(s)		Fly Tavalida anagyust	5b		
					6		<del>                                     </del>
6	Agricultural program payments				7		_
7	Commodity credit loans reported	•	•				
8	Crop insurance proceeds				8		
9	Custom hire (machine work) inc	ome			9		
10	Other income				10		
11	Gross farm income. Add amou	ints in the right columr	n for lines 3	through 10. If accrual method			
	taxpayer, enter the amount from	Section C, line 49 .		<u> </u>	11		
	o not include personal or living arm income. Reduce the amour Car and truck expenses						
12	(attach <b>Form 4562</b> )	12	25	Pension and profit-sharing			
	(attach 1 01111 4302)		25	plans	25		
12	Chemicals	13		piaris			
13		10		Dont or loose.			
14	Conservation expenses (attach	14	26	Rent or lease:			
	Form 8645)	14	а	Vehicles, machinery, and	260		
		45		equipment	26a		
15	Custom hire (machine work) .	15	b	Other (land, animals, etc.)	26b		
16	Depreciation and section 179		27	Repairs and maintenance	27		<u> </u>
	expense deduction not						
	claimed elsewhere (attach		28	Seeds and plants purchased.	28		<u> </u>
	Form 4562 if required)	16					
17	Employee benefit programs		29	Storage and warehousing	29		
••	other than on line 25	17		5			
			30	Supplies purchased	30		
18	Feed purchased	18		cappines paremassa ; ; ;			
.0	reca parenasca , , , , , ,		31	Taxes	31		
10	Fortilizors and lima	19	31	idaes			
19	Fertilizers and lime	17		Liver	32		
		20	32	Utilities	32		-
20	Freight and trucking	20	33	Veterinary, breeding, and			
				medicine	33		
21	Gasoline, fuel, and oil	21	34	Other expenses (specify):			
			a		34a		<u> </u>
22	Insurance (other than health).	22	b		34b		
23	Interest:		С		34c		
а	Mortgage (paid to banks, etc.)	23a	d		34d		
b	Other	23b	e		34e		
35		35					
24	Total expenses. Add lines 12 t	at line OF frame line 11	 Fasters the same		0.		$\overline{}$

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. 37 37 Sales of livestock, produce, grains, and other products during the year . . . . . . . . Total cooperative distributions (Form(s) 1099-PATR) 38a 38b Taxable amount 38b 38a 39 39 40 40 Commodity credit loans reported under election (or forfeited) . . . . . . 41 41 42 Other farm income (specify) 42 43 Add the amounts in the right column for lines 37 through 42 . . . . 43 44 Inventory of livestock, produce, grains, and other products at the 44 45 Cost of livestock, produce, grains, and other products purchased 45 46 46 Inventory of livestock, produce, grains, and other products at the end 47 47 48 48 Cost of livestock, produce, grains, and other products sold. Subtract line 47 from line 46\*. Gross farm income. Subtract line 48 from line 43. Enter the result here and on page 2, Part III, line 11 ▶ 49 \*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. Énter the total on line 49. Profit or Loss From Business (Sole Proprietorship) Section A—Income 1 Gross receipts \$ ..... Less returns and allowances \$ ..... Balance ▶ 2a 2b **b** Purchases less cost of items withdrawn for personal use . 2c **c** Cost of labor (do not include salary paid to yourself) . . . 2d **d** Materials and supplies . . . . . . . . . . . . 2e e Other costs (attach statement) . . . . . . 2f f Add lines 2a through 2e . . . . . . . . . . . . 2g g Inventory at end of year . . . . . . . . . . . . . 2h **h** Cost of goods sold. Subtract line 2g from line 2f . . . . . . 3 3 4 4 Gross income. Add lines 3 and 4 5 Section B—Expenses 19 6 Advertising . . . . . . **19** Repairs and maintenance . . . 6 7 20 7 Bad debts from sales or services **20** Supplies (not included in Section A) 21 8 21 Taxes and licenses . . . . Car and truck expenses 8 22 Travel, meals, and entertainment: (attach Form 4562) . . . . 9 22a Commissions and fees . . . **a** Travel . . . . . . . 10 10 Depletion . . . **b** Meals and Depreciation and section 179 entertainment expense deduction (not included in Section A). (Attach c Enter 50% 11 Form 4562 if required.). . . of line 22b Employee benefit programs subject to 12 (other than line 17) . . . . limitations, 22d 13 13 Insurance (other than health). d Subtract line 22c from line 22b 23 23 Utilities . . . . . . . . 14 Interest on business indebted-14 24 24 Wages not included on line 2c. ness . . . . . . . . . 15 15 Legal and professional services 25a Other expenses (list type and amount): 16 Office expense . . . . . 16 17 17 Pension and profit-sharing plans 18 Rent or lease: Vehicles, machinery, equipment . . . . . . . 18a **b** Other business property . . | 18b 25b 26 26 **Total expenses.** Add lines 6 through 25b

Net profit or (loss). Subtract line 26 from line 5. Enter the result here and on page 1, line 2

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:

Recordkeeping . . . 7 hr., 19 min.

Learning about the law or the form . . . . 23 min.

Preparing the form . . . . 2 hr., 34 min.

Copying, assembling, and sending the form to the IRS . . . . . . . 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 the Tax Forms Committee, Western Area Distribution Center, Rancho Cordova, CA 95743-0001. **DO NOT** send the form to this address. Instead, see **Where To File** below

#### **General Instructions**

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code.

#### Changes To Note

- For 1995, the maximum amount of self-employment income subject to social security tax is \$61,200.
- Employment taxes on wages paid to household employees are now reported on Form 1040-SS, line 13, using new **Schedule H (Form 1040)**, Household Employment Taxes. If you paid someone to work in or around your home, you may owe employment taxes. See the instructions for line 13 on page 6.

#### **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. If you are otherwise required to file Form 1040-SS, also use it to pay your household employment taxes.

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 1995, get **Pub. 553**, Highlights of 1995 Tax Changes.

If you expect to owe self-employment tax of \$500 or more for 1996, 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 15, 1996. 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, daytime phone number, and "1995 Form 1040-SS" on it.

#### Signature and Date

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

Generally, anyone you pay to prepare your return must sign it by hand in the space provided. Signature stamps or labels cannot be used. The preparer must give you a copy of the return for your records. Someone who prepares your return but does not charge you should not sign your return.

#### Where To Get Forms

Puerto Rico.—Director's Representative, U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Edificio Mercantil Plaza, Parada 271/2, 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, 9601 Estate Thomas, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, VI 00802; or V.I. Bureau of Internal Revenue, 4008 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 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 a wholly owned instrumentality of a foreign government or an international organization under the International Organizations Immunities Act) for services performed 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 performed services elsewhere as an employee of 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 selfemployment 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 on your earnings as a minister, 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 had two or more businesses or you were a farmer and had at least one other business, 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.

#### 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 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 decedent'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 or the proceeds from their sale, you are considered a self-employed person rather than an employee. For more details, get **Pub. 225**, Farmer's Tax Guide.

#### 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. The material participation tests are explained in Pub. 225.
- 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.
- 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. See Form 4797, Sales of Business
  Property. (Continued on page 6)

- 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).
- Fees received for services performed as a notary public. If you have other earnings of \$400 or more subject to self-employment tax, write "Exempt-Notary" and, in parentheses, the amount of your net profit as a notary public from line 2 on the dotted line to the left of line 3. Subtract that amount from the total of lines 1 and 2 and enter the result on line 3.
- 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:
  - 1. The sale or exchange of a capital asset;
- 2. 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
- **3.** 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 the full amount 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 "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 "Uncollected Tax" on the dotted line next to line 12.

#### **Household Employment Taxes**

Line 13.—If either if the following applies, get Schedule H (Form 1040), Household Employment Taxes, and its instructions, to see if you owe these taxes.

- 1. You paid any one household employee cash wages of \$1,000 or more in 1995.
- 2. You paid total cash wages of \$1,000 or more in any calendar quarter of 1994 or 1995 to household employees.

# Part II—Optional Methods To Figure Net Earnings

The optional methods may give you credit toward your social security coverage even though you have a loss or a small amount of 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 selfemployment 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.