

**CORNELL**  
**Farm Account Book**

Additional copies of this publication may be purchased from Cornell University, Media and Technology Services Resource Center, 7 Cornell Business & Technology Park, Ithaca, NY 14850. Phone: 607-255-2080. Fax: 607-255-9946. E-mail: [Dist\\_Center@cce.cornell.edu](mailto:Dist_Center@cce.cornell.edu)

A free catalog of Cornell Cooperative Extension publications and audiovisuals is available from the same address, or from any Cornell Cooperative Extension office. The catalog also can be accessed at the following World Wide Web site: <http://www.cce.cornell.edu/publications/catalog.html>

# FARM ACCOUNT BOOK

## CONTENTS

Farm operating expenses and other cash outflow .....	4-65	Cash flow budget worksheet .....	86
Labor record .....	66-71	Summary of cash receipts and cash flow reconciliation .....	87
Farm interest and debt payments .....	72-74	Livestock inventory worksheet .....	88
Capital purchases and improvements .....	75	Feed and supply inventory worksheet .....	89
Summary of farm operating expenses .....	76-77	Summary of farm inventory and farm net worth .....	90
Milk sales .....	78-79	Summary of farm receipts and expenses .....	91
Crop sales .....	80	Crop production record and land and labor inventories .....	92
Livestock sales .....	81-83		
Miscellaneous receipts .....	84-85		

## FARM RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES

This book provides for recording the following:

1. Farm expenses
2. Farm receipts
3. Summary of farm inventories
4. Tillable acreages and production

If used with the *Farm Inventory Book*, the necessary figures are provided to give a financial picture of the entire farm business and an analysis of its strong and weak points. It does not go into the details necessary to give costs for different enterprises. If such detailed costs for individual enterprises or complete accounts are desired, other books should be used.

The book is so planned as to make easy the summarization of the results at the end of the year, without making the record too difficult to keep. The receipts and expenses are classified only to the extent necessary to permit a fair study of the results.

The financial results of the year's business are summarized in terms of income to the farmer—called labor and management income. It is the return farmers receive for their labor and management after paying all business expenses of the farm and after deducting a charge for the capital used. In addition, the farm family usually has the use of a house and some farm products.

The purpose of the account book is more, however, than just determining the labor and management income. The primary object of the book is to provide the facts to study the physical as well as the financial organization and operation of the farm. Hence, it is important to record the physical quantities as well as the dollar amounts in the book. Such an analysis helps farmers improve their income by locating the strong and weak points in their farm business.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR KEEPING THIS BOOK

**Cash Flow Accounting.** The *Cornell Farm Account Book* has been revised to allow and encourage cash flow accounting and planning. All farm expenditures and other payments flowing out of the farm business can be recorded in the front of the book (pp. 4-65). All farm receipts should be entered on pages 78 through 85 and summarized with other cash inflow on page 87. Monthly and quarterly cash-flow planning can be implemented by using the worksheet on page 86 and completed by filling out the summary on page 87.

**Labor Accounting.** All cash expenses associated with hired labor are to be entered in column 2, pages 4 through 65. Cash labor expenses include social security and workers' compensation insurance payments as well as wages paid. Detailed labor records showing hours worked, withholdings, and employee allowances should be kept on pages 66 through 71.

**Farm Business Expenses.** Most farm operating expenses are recorded on pages 4 through 65. These entries can be totaled each month and the monthly totals entered on pages 76-77, or totals can be determined quarterly or annually. The full amount of expenditures that are partly business and partly personal, such as auto expenses, electricity, and telephone, should be entered when paid. The personal share should be deducted on pages 76 and 77 at the end of the year. Farm expenses incurred through the milk plant must be recorded on page 78 and added in at the end of the year. Please read the instructions on pages 4 and 5 explaining how to enter expenses.

**Farm Receipts and Business Summary.** All farm receipts should be entered on pages 78 through 85. Use pages 88 through 92 to summarize the financial growth and profitability of the business at year's end.

**Farm Records and Income Tax Reporting.** A complete and accurate set of financial records makes the job of preparing income tax returns easier. This account book was prepared with the knowledge that tax reporting is a major use of farm records. Farmers have other important uses for records. Most important of these are—

- for determining the strong and weak points of the business;
- for the purpose of obtaining and using credit;
- as a basis for partnership operation;
- for estate settlement;
- for adjusting claims in case of fire or other casualty.

Only minor changes need to be made in the expense headings on Federal Income Tax Schedule F so that expense classifications in this book will fit. It is neither necessary nor practical to regroup expenses from this book to follow exactly the same headings as Schedule F. Only the Farm Operating Expenses summarized on pages 76 and 77 are entered on Part II of Schedule F.

The following farm receipts should be entered on Part I of Schedule F: gross value of milk sales (p. 78), other milk receipts (p. 79) crop sales (p. 80), calves sold (pp. 82-83), income from sales of livestock held for sale (p. 83), and non-capital miscellaneous receipts (p. 84).

Income from the sale of raised livestock held for dairy purposes (p. 81) is entered on Form 4797. The gain on purchased livestock held for dairy or breeding purposes and on machinery and farm real estate sold must be calculated and entered on Form 4797.













































# Addendum—Classification of Expenses and Income

The *Cornell Farm Account Book* will be revised during 2002 to include recommended expense and receipt categories. This insert provides a minimum list of accounts to have for management purposes and will meet most needs for analysis, the IRS, and banking. Perhaps you would like to use this list to alter the attached account book so that you can keep records for some or all of these categories for 2002. If you want to keep some other information, or include more detail, please add more categories. It is easier to add categories together at the end of the year than it is to break out the various items from a single category. The new *Cornell Farm Account Book* will be available by January 2003.

Items indented under account titles are suggested subcategories.

## Expenses

Account Title	Items to Be Included	Account Title	Items to Be Included	Account Title	Items to Be Included
Auto/Truck	Farm auto/truck repair, vehicle insurance expenses	Freight and Truck	Freight and trucking for livestock	Milking Supplies	Milking supplies, towels, dips, soaps, acids, vacuum pump oil, things that are used daily
Breeding Costs	Breeding fees and supplies	Gas, Fuel, Oil	Gas, fuel, and oil; grease for nonmilking equipment	Other Livestock Expenses	Other livestock expenses
Breeding Fees	Breeding fees	Insurance	Farm insurance, fire, liability	BST	BST expenses
Breeding Supplies	Semen and supplies	Interest	Total interest <sup>3</sup>	DHIA	Milk production records expenses
Capital Purchases	Capital purchases	Interest, Capital	Bank and farm credit interest, family note interest	Bedding	Purchased bedding expenses
Dairy Cattle Replacements	Dairy cows and heifers purchased	Interest, Other	Interest expenses on open accounts	Dairy Supplies	Dairy supplies, ear tags, boots, nonvet items
Dairy Cattle Expansion	Cattle purchases that increase herd size	Labor Expenses	Total labor expenses	Heifer Boarding	Heifer boarding expense
Machinery/Equipment	Machinery and equipment	Gross Wages, Employee FICA	Expenses from payroll	Registration Costs	Registration papers for breed associations
Land/Buildings	Land and building improvement	Education and Training	Company share FICA	Livestock Professional Fees	Consulting fees
Co-op Equity	Equity purchase	Worker's Compensation	Employee training costs	Principal Paid	Principal paid on all loans <sup>5</sup>
Crop Expenses	Total crop expenses <sup>1</sup>	Health Insurance	Worker's compensation insurance	Rent	Total rent expenses
Spray and Chemicals	Spray and chemicals	Unemployment Insurance	Employee health insurance expense	Land Rent	Rent for land
Fertilizer and Lime	Fertilizer and lime	Benefits	Unemployment insurance expense	Building Rent	Rent for buildings
Seeds and Plants	Seeds and plants	Lease Payments	Other labor costs, housing, fuel, car, uniforms, etc.	Repairs	Repairs and maintenance
Crops, Professional Fees	Soil testing, crop consulting	Buildings	Total lease payments <sup>4</sup>	Building	Land and building repairs, ag bags, plastic for covering silos
Custom Machinery Hire	Machinery rent and hire, tillage hire, backhoe work, combining, chopping	Machinery	Lease payments for buildings	Machinery	Repairs—machinery and equipment <sup>6</sup>
Extraordinary Expense	Large one-time expenses such as legal fees, settlement expenses, or other expenses that are never expected to be paid again.	Miscellaneous Expenses	Lease payments for equipment	Parlor	Milking parlor maintenance, hoses, preventive maintenance, all repairs, things that last longer than a year
Family Expenditures	All family expenses	Other Professional Fees	All other expenses	Shop Supplies	Bolts, welding rod, etc.
Insurance, Health	Family health insurance	Legal	Business consulting fees		
Insurance, Life	Family life insurance	Accounting	Legal fees (if large amount, see Extraordinary Expense)		Expenses continued on other side
Household	Family household expenses	Education and Training, Owner	Accountant fees, tax planning		
Utilities	Family portion of utility expenses	Travel	Meetings and conferences		
Feed Purchased	Feeds purchased <sup>2</sup>	Publications	Travel costs for owner		
Dairy Grain	Dairy grain and concentrate for all animals, minerals, and silage inoculates	Office Supplies	Trade journals and newsletters		
Forage	Hay and silage bought	Disposal	Computer and paper supplies, etc.		
Minerals	Purchased minerals	Maple Production Expenses	Garbage disposal costs		
Professional Nutritional Services	Consulting fee for nutritionist	Clothing	Maple syrup supplies		
Non-Dairy Feed	Feed for non-dairy livestock	Milk Marketing Expenses	Work clothes and boots		
		ADA	Milk marketing expenses		
		CCC Assessment	Milk promotion fee		
		Co-op Dues	CCC assessment on milk		
		Hauling	Milk co-op dues		
		Commission	Milk hauling		
			Futures market expenses/net		

<sup>1</sup> May also break crop categories between crops, i.e., hay and corn.

<sup>2</sup> May split purchases between commodity and/or milk cow/dry cow/heifer.

<sup>3</sup> May record interest by each lender/vendor.

<sup>4</sup> May record lease payment by vendor.

<sup>5</sup> Please use this category to track how much in principal you have paid to all lenders by lender.

<sup>6</sup> Can tag individual equipment if desired.



# Addendum—continued

## Expenses—continued

Account Title	Items to Be Included
<b>Taxes</b>	Farm taxes, school and property
<b>Utilities</b>	Total utilities
Telephone	Farm telephone
Electric	Farm electric expense
Water	Farm water expense
Gas	Gas for heat, water heater
<b>Veterinary and Medicine</b>	Veterinary and medicine expenses
Vet Service	Vet services, stop charges, hourly fees, routine fees,
Vet Consulting	Vet consulting, nonroutine vet work
Medicine	Medicine expenses and supplies, foot bath supplies
Hoof Trimming	Hoof trimming expense

## Income

Account Title	Items to Be Included	Account Title	Items to Be Included <sup>1</sup>
<b>Ag Program Payments</b>	ISA payments, cost sharing, etc.	<b>Non-Farm Income</b>	Non-farm income, spouse's job
<b>Calf Sales</b>	Sale of bull and heifer calves <sup>1</sup>	<b>Other Farm Income</b>	Various other farm income
<b>Capital Sales</b>	Capital assets sold	Custom Work	Income from custom work
Real Estate	Gravel, lumber, land	Insurance Income	Insurance receipts
Machinery	Machinery and equipment	Miscellaneous Farm Income	Maple syrup sales, director fees, gas and oil royalties
Co-op Equity	Equity redeemed for cash	Patronage Refunds	Patronage refunds from co-ops, not including milk patronage
<b>Cull Cows</b>	Cull cow sales <sup>ii</sup>		
Purchased Animals Sold	Purchased animals sold		
Homegrown Animals Sold	Homegrown animals sold		
<b>Other Livestock Sales</b>	Sale of any non-dairy livestock		
<b>Crop Sales</b>	Sales of standing and harvested farm crops, grains, forages		
<b>Custom Machine Work</b>	Custom machine work		
<b>Refunds</b>	All refunds		
Worker's Compensation	Worker's compensation refund		
Gas Tax Refunds	State and federal gas tax refunds		
<b>Milk Sold<sup>iii</sup></b>	Milk—gross sales, or sum of all the subcategories		
Butterfat	Butterfat, total amount		
Protein	Protein, total amount		
Other Solids	Other solids, total amount		
Producer Price Differential (PPD)	PPD, total amount		
Quality	Quality, total amount		
Volume	Volume, total amount		
Compact Payment	Total compact payment		
Patronage Dividend	Earnings paid to the farm from the milk co-op, cash and noncash		
<b>Other</b>	Other milk payments, total amount		

<sup>1</sup> Make note of the number of calves sold each transaction.

<sup>ii</sup> Make note of the number of animals for each transaction.

<sup>iii</sup> Record the pounds of butterfat, protein, and other solids sold with the total pounds of milk for the pay period. Please keep these amounts so that they can be totaled at the end of the year.

## SUGGESTED CLASSIFICATION OF FARM EXPENSES

This classification of farm expenses can help you in two ways: (1) it suggests groupings that you can use from year to year and thus make valid annual comparisons, and (2) it is a checklist of items to prevent overlooking some expenses before closing your book for the year.

<p><b>Column 2</b>      <b>Labor: Wages paid, insurance other payments.</b></p> <p>Cash wages              Cash cost of board Employee health ins.      Tenant house expenses Social Security paid      Workers' compensation</p>	<p><b>Column 9</b>      <b>Veterinary and medicine</b></p> <p>Medicines                      Veterinary fees Vaccines                      Veterinary supplies</p>	<p><b>Column 22</b>      <b>Rent</b></p> <p>Cash rent of land and buildings. Enter machine rent and lease in col. 4 and cow rent in col. 12.</p>	
<p><b>Column 2</b>      <b>Feed: Dairy grains and concentrate</b></p> <p>Grains                      Processing Minerals                      Starters Mixed feed                      Supplements Molasses                      Vitamins</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Other feed</b></p> <p>Hay                      Silage Feed purchased for nondairy enterprises</p>	<p><b>Columns 10-15</b>      <b>Other livestock expense</b></p> <p>Bedding                      Milkhouse supplies Breeding assoc. dues      Milkhouse fuel bST                      Registration and Custom boarding              transfers Cattle lease and rent      Washing materials Dairy supplies              Whitewash DHIC dues and fees</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Other</b></p> <p>Accounting fees              General advertising Consultant fees              Office supplies Dues                      Travel expenses Farm account books      Enter all milk marketing Farm magazines              expenses on page 76</p>	
<p><b>Column 4</b>      <b>Machine hire, rent, and lease</b></p> <p>Custom work              Spreading lime Grain drying              and fertilizer Machine rental              Tiling Pesticide application      Trucking</p>	<p><b>Column 16</b>      <b>Lime and fertilizer</b></p> <p>Include cost of materials only; enter spreading under machine hire.</p>	<p><b>Column 24</b>      <b>Family living, nonfarm draws</b></p> <p>Contributions              Life insurance Education expenses      Partners' salaries Family draws              Personal health ins. Family expenses              Medical expenses Household expenses      Retirement, fund pymts. Income taxes              Stocks, bonds, and                                          savings plans</p>	
<p><b>Column 5</b>      <b>Truck, tractor, and other machine expense</b></p> <p>Antifreeze                      Tires Chains                      Tractor repairs Equipment repairs              Truck insurance Parts                      Truck repairs Small tools                      Truck registration</p>	<p><b>Column 17</b>      <b>Seeds and plants</b></p> <p>Inoculation                      Seeds Plants                      Seed treatment</p>	<p><b>Column 25</b>      <b>Payments on liabilities and capital purchases</b></p> <p>Cash purchases of machinery, real estate, and cattle Down payments              Installment payments Loan payments              Mortgage payments</p>	
<p><b>Column 6</b>      <b>Auto expense</b></p> <p>Gasoline and oil              Repairs Insurance                      Service Registration                      Tires</p>	<p><b>Column 18</b>      <b>Spray and other crop expense</b></p> <p>Bees expense                      Harvest supplies Certification                      Planting supplies Crop containers              Maple enterprise sup. Fungicides                      Twine and wire Herbicides                      Storage Insecticides</p>	<p><b>Pages 66 - 71</b>      <b>Labor record</b></p> <p>Gross wages, Social Security withheld, all other deductions, net wage, and allowances</p>	
<p><b>Column 7</b>      <b>Gasoline and oil</b></p> <p>Diesel fuel                      Grease Gasoline                      Oil</p>	<p><b>Column 19</b>      <b>Land, buildings, and fence expense</b></p> <p>Building repairs              Ground maintenance Drainage repair              Roofing Electrical repair              Water systems rep.</p>	<p><b>Pages 72 - 74</b></p> <p>Beginning balances, interest payments, principal payments</p>	
<p><b>Column 8</b>      <b>Breeding fees</b></p> <p>Breeding fees                      Semen Breeding supplies</p>	<p><b>Column 20</b>      <b>Taxes</b></p> <p>Farm real estate taxes, town, county, and school</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Insurance</b></p> <p>Crop insurance                      Fire insurance Farm liability ins.              Livestock ins.</p>	<p><b>Page 75</b>      <b>Capital purchases and improvements</b></p> <p>Machinery and equipment purchases Major overhaul of machines Buildings and land purchased Major remodeling of farm buildings New fences, tile drains, wells, roads Dairy or breeding cattle, horses, and other livestock</p>	
	<p><b>Column 21</b>      <b>Electricity, telephone</b></p>	<p><b>Pages 78 - 79</b>      <b>Deductions from milk check</b></p>	