

Who Blinked? The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012

Winter 2013

A 45,000 foot view of Recent Tax Law Changes affecting Agriculture

NC State University
A&T State University
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Federal Income Tax Changes Affecting Agriculture

- Individual Income Tax Rates
 - 10%, 15%, 25%, 28%, 33%, 35% **AND**
**39.6% for \$400,000 MFS; \$450,000 MFJ;
\$425,000 for HoH**
 - The bill permanently keeps the 10 percent bracket



Federal Income Tax Changes Affecting Agriculture

- Capital Gain Income Tax rates
 - 0% for taxpayers in the 10 and 15% income tax brackets
 - 15% for taxpayers in the 25, 28, 33, and 35% income tax brackets



Federal Income Tax Changes Affecting Agriculture

- Capital Gain Income Tax rates
 - 20% for taxpayers in the 39.6% income tax bracket
 - >\$400,000 taxable income for singles
 - >\$450,000 taxable income for MFJ
 - However, a 3.8% Medicare surtax hits folks with AGI over \$200,000 and \$250,000 on capital gains: 18.8% or 23.8% rates may apply.



Federal Income Tax Changes Affecting Agriculture

- Alternative Minimum Tax
 - The AMT patch is now permanently in place with automatic inflation adjustments
 - Begin with 2012
 - Prevents ~30 million taxpayers from being subject to the AMT.



Federal Income Tax Changes Affecting Agriculture

- Alternative Minimum Tax
 - Exemption amount permanently indexed for inflation, begin with 2012 amounts:
 - \$78,750 for MFJ (\$80,750 in 2013)
 - \$50,600 for single filers (\$51,900 in 2013)
 - AMT relief from nonrefundable credits was retained, e.g. energy credits



Depreciation Changes

- Bonus Depreciation
 - 50% direct write off for assets with useful lives of 20 years or less
 - **NC does not conform to this depreciation allowance**
- \$500,000 for 2012 and 2013
 - **North Carolina does not conform** to the \$500,000 amount, NC allows \$250,000



Depreciation Changes

- 2013 Mileage allowances
 - 56.5 cents per mile for up to 5 vehicles in a business.
 - Depreciation component is 23 cents per mile
 - 24 cents per mile for medical and job moves
 - 14 cents per mile for charitable driving



Special Conservation Real Estate Donation extended

- For donations of qualifying real estate for conservation purposes special rules were extended through 2013.
 - 50% AGI deduction for non-farmers
 - 100% AGI deduction for farmers
 - 15 year carry over of unused contribution amount.



New Medicare Surtaxes for 2013

- Medicare surtax of 0.9% and 3.8% were part of the Affordable Care Act levied to provide additional revenue for Medicare
- These may affect some agricultural producers in the near term, or, more likely in retirement.



New Medicare Surtaxes for 2013

- 0.9% is applied to wages and self-employment income once total income exceeds \$200,000 for singles and head-of-households, \$250,000 for married filing jointly.
- Therefore, for earnings above these thresholds, the Medicare tax is 3.8%.



New Medicare Surtaxes for 2013

- 3.8% Medicare tax on investment income for the same AGI thresholds
 - \$200,000: singles, HoH
 - \$250,000: married file jointly
 - \$125,000: married filing separately



New Medicare Surtaxes for 2013

- 3.8% Medicare tax on investment income (Remember earlier slide)
- Interest, dividends and capital gains
- Annuities, royalty
- Rental income
 - This poses a potential trap



New Medicare Surtaxes for 2013

- Rental Potential Trap
 - Rental income now is subject to the additional Medicare surtax. The underlying asset, if sold, is now treated as an investment asset.
 - Therefore, if a farm is rented, and then sold, the capital gain on the farm is now subject to the 3.8% surtax.
 - Any planning should take this surtax into consideration.



Federal Estate Tax

- The \$5 million estate and gift tax exclusion is made permanent.
- The exclusion is inflation indexed
 - 2011 \$5 million
 - 2012 \$5.12 million
 - 2013 \$5.25 million



Federal Estate Tax

- The tax rate on taxable estates increased from 35% to 40%; which is effectively a flat tax.
- “Portability” election is permanent
 - Unused portion of deceased spouse can be used by surviving spouse
 - Election is made on a timely filed estate tax return (including extensions)



Federal Estate Tax

- Farms or business realty can receive a discounted estate tax evaluation up to \$1,070,000.
 - Must be held by qualified heirs for 10 years in continuing farm use.
- If more than 35% of an estate is a closely held business, then up to \$572,000 of estate tax can be deferred, paid in installments at 2% interest.



Gift tax issues

- Annual gift exclusion is \$14,000 for 2013
- Lifetime gifts now the same value as the estate tax exclusion, \$5.25 million for 2013
- A powerful tool for business succession



North Carolina Tax Issues

- New Business Income Deduction
 - Up to \$50,000 net business income may be deducted from NC taxable income
 - Net Schedule F, Net Schedule C, Prorated partnership, LLC and Sub-S corp
 - If husband and wife each have a business, then up to \$100,000 may be deducted
 - Deduction is applied per person





Net Business Income Deduction Scenario #1

Tax Law Update

An unmarried taxpayer is a 25% shareholder of an S Corporation. He received federal Form 1120S K-1 showing his share of nonpassive business income and a W-2.

What is his Net Business income, when he received:

- \$140,000 wages from S the Corporation
- \$ 25,000 reported on federal Schedule E/1120S K-1



Net Business Income Deduction Answer #1

Tax Law Update

Wages are not considered for net business income.

Net Business Income Deduction

<u>Income:</u>	Taxpayer
Schedule C (Nonpassive)	
Schedule E/K-1 (Passive)	
Schedule E/K-1 (Nonpassive) Pass Thru Entity	\$ 25,000.00
Net Business Income*	\$ 25,000.00

Eligible for a \$25,000 Net Business Income Deduction

* Wages paid to the shareholder from the S Corporation with federal Form W-2 are not considered business income.



Net Business Income Deduction Scenario #2

Married taxpayers Joe and Jan receive the following:

Joe...

- \$ 95,000 from Schedule C - Nonpassive income
- \$ 50,000 from rental property - Passive income

Jan...

- \$75,000 from Schedule C - Nonpassive loss
- \$80,000 from S Corporation/PTE - Nonpassive ordinary business income

What will be their Net Business income deduction?



Net Business Income Deduction Answer #2

Tax Law Update

Only include nonpassive income. IRC Section 469 defines when income or loss is considered passive.

Net Business Income Deduction (Applies to each spouse)		
<u>Income:</u>	Taxpayer	Spouse
Schedule C (Nonpassive)	\$ 95,000.00	\$ (75,000.00)
Schedule E/K-1 (Passive)	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -
Schedule E/K-1 (Nonpassive) Pass Thru Entity	\$ -	\$ 80,000.00
Net Business Income*	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 5,000.00

Eligible for a \$55,000 deduction on a joint return

NC Estate and Gift Taxes

- NC has conformed to Federal Estate and Gift taxes in the past.
 - \$5.25 million is excludable for both gift and estate taxation.
 - \$14,000 is allowable annual gift exclusion.

Caveat: Legislature may change these provisions, though unlikely.



Sources

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- The North Carolina Department of Revenue



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