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No. 79/54

March 15, 1979

TO COUNTY ASSESSORS:

OPEN-SPACE CONTRACTS MAY INCLUDE IMPROVEMENTS

As pointed out in assessors' letter 79/28, open-space contracts may now be renegotiated to include improvements which contribute to income. The purpose of this letter is to inform the assessors' business divisions, who normally process agricultural property statements, that agricultural improvements may now be covered under the restricted open-space valuation methods. Types of properties that may qualify include milking machines, pressure systems, pumps, underground irrigation pipes, and other machinery and equipment that qualify as improvements.

The business division should be notified of each contract that is renegotiated to include improvements. They should then review the taxpayer's current property statement to determine whether any of the reported equipment is classified as improvements and is, therefore, eligible for the open-space restricted valuation procedures. Where it is found that such equipment will be affected, we suggest that in appraising the equipment the responsible business division appraiser work very closely with the agricultural appraiser responsible for the taxpayer's land and building appraisal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Verne Walton".

Verne Walton, Chief  
Assessment Standards Division

VW:sk