

Appendix: Data Sources

The information presented in this report primarily relies upon Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax data. The estimates regarding contributions and other variables for the various savings account proposals were estimated from the Statistics of Income (SOI) Individual and Sole Proprietorship Tax File for 2000 by IRS based on specifications provided by ERS for the various features of the savings account proposals examined in this report.

A panel of Internal Revenue Service farm tax returns was also used for tax years 1998-2000. This panel was also drawn from the SOI tax file and contains only those farms that filed a farm tax return and reported some farm income for each of the tax years in the panel. Overall, this panel represents about 80 percent of all farm returns filed in a single year. This panel was used to simulate contributions, withdrawals, and account balances for the same farms over a 3-year period.