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Realizing Your Potential as an Agricultural Economist in Extension

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TEACHING CASH FLOW PLANNING:

USING THE MICRO COMPUTER

presented by

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In teaching cash flow planning to the adult learner, the educator is directed toward a workshop which allows the cooperators to actively participate, to use their base of knowledge and experience, to make the input to the process and leave believing they have solved their problem (for most, the ability to complete a cash flow plan). This workshop meets the criteria for teaching an adult learner primarily through in-workshop involvement in constructing portions of the case problem. The key to participant involvement is the application of a micro computer cash flow program.

The micro computer program serves three important purposes. First, it allows the individual developing the case to make the case very specific to an area of state, set of enterprises, etc. The micro computer program also permits the cooperators in the workshop, as a group, to work through a number of enterprise budgets based on their own experience. These budgets may then be incorporated into the case problem through the micro computer program. The output provides an instant key to the case problem. Finally, the micro program facilitates discussion after completion of the case problem. At this point, various "what if's" can actually be quantified rather than simply discussed.

An instructor's manual, "A Guide to Teaching Cash Flow Planning: Using the Micro Computer," O.S.U.A.E. Paper #8484, is available to assist Extension personnel and others in developing and presenting educational programs on cash flow planning. This manual uses the Oklahoma State University Extension Facts 751 format for the cash flow and the Integrated Farm Financial Statements for Micro Computers (Egbert and Mapp) as the companion software. However, many of the techniques and principles could be applied to workshops using other cash flow formats and software. (Only one micro computer is required for the workshop).