

## Frequently Asked Questions









































**58. What is Olympic averaging?**

Olympic averaging is a statistical technique used to smooth out variability in a data set. The highest and lowest values are removed and the remaining values are averaged. In determining net farm income, net farm budgets for the past seven years are used in a moving seven-year Olympic average. This means that the highest and lowest net farm budgets are dropped from the past seven years and the remaining five are averaged to give the net farm budget. For more information on Olympic averaging, please visit the SLEAC use-value website and look through the most up-to-date Procedures Manual.

**59. What is a composite farm and how is it created?**

Due to the heterogeneous nature of Virginia farming, a composite (or typical) farm must be created for each jurisdiction participating in the use-value assessment program. Jurisdiction level data is obtained from the most recent Census of Agriculture. To calculate the composite farm acreage, crop acreage for each crop is divided by the total number of farms in a jurisdiction. If the resulting value is greater than 1, the crop is included in the jurisdiction's composite farm. For more information on composite farms, please visit the SLEAC use-value website and look through the most up-to-date Procedures Manual.

**60. Why do SLEAC estimates vary between geographically similar jurisdictions?**

Jurisdictions with similar soil index values may still have different SLEAC estimates due to differences in the composite farm for each of the jurisdictions and participation in farm programs and crop insurance. For more information on this topic, please visit the SLEAC use-value website and look through the most up-to-date Procedures Manual.