

Old Age S.S. Recipients Get Extra Check

Twenty-million retired Americans covered by Social Security will get an extra check sometime during the last half of September reports Agnes Sunnell, home economics leader, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Alaska.

It will pay off the 7 percent retroactive increase in benefits for the months January through August, 1965.

Miss Sunnell said the checks represent one of the additional benefits provided by 1965 amendments to the Social Security law.

Other amendments may make it possible for several additional groups of people to share in Social Security benefits.

At the request of Social Security administrators, the home economist suggested that the following groups check with the nearest Social Security office.

Self-employed farmers whose gross earnings from agriculture are under \$2,400: Farmers in this income bracket can now report two thirds of their gross earnings toward social security benefits instead of net earnings as in the past.

Persons 72 or older not getting benefits because they or their husbands had not worked under social security long enough to qualify under previous provision of the law.

Some persons 72 or over will now qualify for benefits of \$35 a month with as little as three quarters of coverage under social security. Benefits may also be payable to the wife or widow of such persons.

Widows age 60 or 61: Beginning

September 1, widows can now choose to have their cash benefits start at age 60 instead of age 62, but at a reduced rate. Application for this purpose may be filed immediately.

Students 18 to 22 years of age whose social security benefits have been stopped; also others nearing age 18 who plan to continue in school.

Benefits can be paid — back to January 65—to those who already have been dropped from the rolls, but ONLY upon application at the social security district office.

Those nearing age 18, and planning to stay in school or return to school, should also visit a social security district office. That's to provide information about their schooling which is necessary if benefits are to be paid after age 18.

Severely disabled workers: Disabled workers may now collect disability insurance benefits if disability has lasted, or is expected to last, for 12 full months: Until now,

they could not collect disability insurance benefits unless their disability was expected to continue for a long and indefinite period of time or else cause death.

The Social Security Administration plans to search its records and get in touch with those who applied for, but were denied, disability insurance benefits during the past year because they were expected to recover.

Others who think they may qualify under this change in the law should ask about getting benefits at the nearest social security office.

Widows past 60 who have remarried, and women 62 or over who were divorced after at least 20 years of marriage: There are new provisions covering women in these categories. They should inquire at their social security office about possible benefits.