

Part Time Farming A Boon or Burden?

By H. J. Bonser and C. W. Porter, Pennsylvania State University

Will farmers continue to supplement farm income by other productive work in the next few years?

Many Americans have been part-time farmers since industrialization began in this country. In spite of the increasing specialization in the agricultural enterprises, there still will be a substantial number of part-time farmers.

This type of agriculture, long a part of the farm economic scene, has been met with varying degrees of enthusiasm over the years. Some had it as a substantial and secure way of life to others it is only a curious sociological phenomenon. As an institution, it is berated by some full-time farmers. To industry it has been used as a "safety-valve" during periods of chronic unemployment. Today many people wonder whether part-time farming can still exist in these days of greater specialization in agriculture.

FOR A GOOD many people part-time farming is a way of life—more than an economic necessity. Young families with growing children often find some open land around a home more appealing than the city or its densely settled suburbs. Also in the urban fringe, homes with some acreage frequently can be purchased for less initial investment than comparable housing in towns, thus providing some economic incentive to would-be part-time farmers.

This land often is farmed by the owner, not necessarily to its fullest capacity, but to bring some income even at low labor and capital return.

Why do people part-time farm when their labor on the farm earns about one-fourth to one-third as much per hour as other work? Studies indicate that for some families the combination of farming with outside work provides a greater total income for the family than either the farm alone or other work alone. There also is a sizeable group which feels it provides a measure of security against unemployment or for retirement.

Society has more people who desire farm living than the nation needs or can use as full-time farmers. In other words, the nation now requires barely five million farmers but has many more than this number who would prefer to farm. Some of this excess may find satisfactory adjustment on small, part-time farms.

INCREASINGLY heavy capital investments are necessary for farmers to keep production costs in line with present-day

market prices. Many operators especially the middle-aged and those on inadequate farms, find part-time working for wages a satisfactory adjustment. These swell the ranks of part-time farmers.

To a small extent, part-time farming is a means of eventually leaving the farm

Occupational histories indicate that some of this movement is true for middle-aged and upper-middle-aged farmers. Young farm people, however, are more likely to go directly from the farm to other work. A sizeable number of younger middle-aged people from towns go into part-time farming. In such cases the farm provides considerable food and also a wholesome environment for growing children.

It is common to accuse part-time farmers of contributing to the farm surplus problem, and of being in this way responsible for low price levels

for certain farm products. By use, and in this way remove themselves as customers of foods they consume. Still their total contribution to American agriculture is not such as to hold them accountable for overproduction. In more situations than not, their dual

produce heavily for their own use, and in this way remove themselves as customers of foods they consume. Still their total contribution to American agriculture is not such as to hold them accountable for overproduction. In more situations than not, their dual

Some part-time operators (Continued on Page 21)

**FARMERS AND ASSOCIATED
BUSINESSMEN**

Our services could make your operation more efficient and productive.

LANCASTER LABORATORIES, INC.
2125 NEW HOLLAND PIKE, LANCASTER, PA.
Phone Leola OL 6-9043

Specialists in Soils, Feeds, Fertilizers, Foods,
Agricultural Chemicals.

Buff

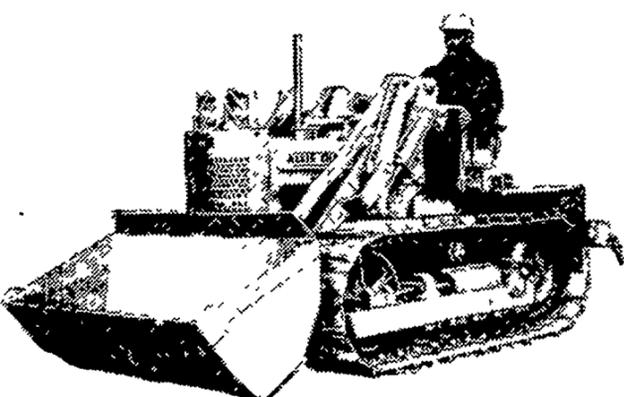
Buff is one of nine colors available in Holland Stone

Other colors available for your building include: Desert Brown, Charcoal Grey, Limestone Grey, Sandstone Brown, Terra Cotta Red, Colonial White and Yellow.

Choose your favorite color today!

New Holland Concrete Products
NEW HOLLAND, PA. Elgin 4-2114

SHUTTLE CLUTCH MAGIC MEANS EXTRA PROFIT!



Watch this Allis-Chalmers crawler and 7/8-yard loader move in fast, pick up a big bite of material, and move out fast to load the truck, cutting seconds from every work cycle.

SHUTTLE clutch magic lets you reverse direction without foot clutching or gear shifting. You simply move a lever forward and back. And the **SHUTTLE clutch** is just one of the many benefits that make the H-3 and HD-3 the most profitable compact crawlers in the 6,000-lb class.

You also get independent control of steering clutches and brakes; "live" hydraulic systems; box-type, all-steel main frame; long, rugged track assembly; and gasoline or diesel power. Let us give you the facts!

ALLIS-CHALMERS
SALES AND SERVICE

N. G. Myers & Son Rheems, Pa.	L. H. Brubaker Lititz, Pa.
Nissley Farm Service Washington Boro, Pa.	Grumelli Farm Serv. Quarryville, Pa.
L. H. Brubaker Lancaster, Pa.	Snavey's Farm Service New Holland, Pa.

UNLOCK EXTRA FEEDING VALUES IN YOUR GRAIN & ROUGHAGES and turn them into profits with **SPECIAL TANVILAC**



WHY INCREASE FEED COSTS?

Why feed 2 lbs. of high protein supplement when 1/3 lb. of Special Tanvilac, per head, daily, with grain and roughage will help give you bigger profits at less cost?

**TANVILAC'S AN
ECONOMICAL CATTLE
AND SHEEP FEEDING
PROGRAM THAT WILL
MAKE MONEY FOR YOU.**

No guesswork when you feed **SPECIAL TANVILAC** with home grown grains and roughage. Get fast, cheap gains! Get high dress-out percentages! You can— with Special Tanvilac— and at a cost below ordinary feeding methods.

MAIL COUPON

Tanvilac Co., Inc.
Box 96, Highland Pk. Sta., Des Moines 13, Ia.

Yes! I would like to try Special Tanvilac for cattle and sheep.

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
CITY..... ZONE..... STATE.....

The TANVILAC CO. Inc.

C. O. NOLT

LOCAL DISTRIBUTOR

BIRD-IN-HAND Phone Lanc. EX 7-0751

FATTEN CATTLE ECONOMICALLY



with **WAYNE BEEF BALANCER**

This economical blend of protein ingredients, including urea, helps fatten cattle on good quality roughage—economically and efficiently.

Wayne Beef Balancer's high protein content also does a good job of balancing farm grains.



**WAYNE
FEEDS**

STILBESTROL
We have Wayne Beef Balancer with or without stilbestrol.

MILLERSVILLE SUPPLY CO. Millersville	J. K. STAUFFER & SON Lawn & Bellare
ROSS C. ULRICH, JR. R. D. 2, Peach Bottom	LIME VALLEY MILLS R. D. 1, Willow Street
MOUNTVILLE FEED SERVICE R. D. 2, Columbia	I. C. WALKER & SON, Inc Gap
H. M. STAUFFER & SONS, Inc. Witmer - Ronks - Leola	C. E. SAUDER & SONS R. D. 1, East Earl
ROHRER'S MILL R. D. 1, Ronks	GRUBB SUPPLY CO. Elizabethtown
	HERSHEY BROS. Reinholds
	SUNSHINE FARM SUPPLY, INC. Lititz and Schaefferstown

LOANS

FOR ANY FARM PURPOSE
MADE THE FARMER'S
WAY

LANCASTER
PRODUCTION
CREDIT ASS'N
411 West
Roseville Rd.
Lancaster, Pa.
Ph. Lanc.
EX 3-3921