

Farm Partnerships

Why They Should Be Considered

Generally, farm partnerships involve fathers and sons.

The son usually is seeking a definite arrangement under which he can, in time, be assured of having his own farm. This can be a relatively few years or many years, depending on the wishes of the partners.

The wishes of the father can be more varied, often depending on his age, physical condition and plans for the future. A relatively young father in his 40's or early 50's may still be primarily interested in building a successful farm operation. An older father, however, may be thinking more about eventually slowing down or even retiring.

Whatever the wishes of the partner, the partnership agreement can be drawn up to fit his needs.

If the father wants to remain active in farming for many years, the partnership can accommodate him. If he wants to gradually get out of farming, the partnership can take care of that, too.

The partnership gives the father the opportunity to retire gradually, while his son develops the know-how with which to continue the farm operation successfully and at the same time earns some capital with which to acquire a larger share of the operation in the future.

Through such typical provisions in a partnership as payment by the son of rental for land and actual cash from the son for equipment and land, the father may well find that he has as good or better a retirement than if had sold to a stranger.

In addition, the father will have the satisfaction of seeing the farm he worked so hard to build remain in the family.

Besides, we think experience shows that most older farmers aren't all that happy after they have completely severed their ties to the farm and home which they spent so many years developing.

In this day when far too many older persons end up lonely and forgotten in rest homes, a welcome at the home place may ultimately prove to be the greatest partnership benefit of all for the father.

To assure success, the impact of changes in operation on the financial status of the partnership, as well as the individual members of the partnership, should be thought through in advance. If the father quits carrying part of the partnership work load, can the son pick up the addition; or will outside help be necessary and can it be obtained and financed?

A partnership does not eliminate the need for sound management decisions. It actually makes them more important, since more persons and, often, a larger operation is involved.

But the partnership also pools resources, both know-how and capital, with which to make decisions and build for the future. Because there are more persons with more resources involved, there can generally be a greater flexibility of operation.

As in the past, many problems beset farming today. To name a few, there's the price-cost squeeze on profits, higher and higher taxes, higher land prices, stricter pollution and chemical controls, and on and on. In large part, these problems stem from pressures of urbanization.

There's also tremendous change in farming practices all over the country; irrigation, for instance, is turning virtual deserts in some regions into highly productive land; how many years ago was it that almost no one had ever heard of the now nationally important soybean?

Change and problems. They're not new to farming and they're not unique to farming. Every business has them. And to be successful, every business must meet them.

To meet change and problems, the farm community must assure that young persons with energy and ideas are continually moved into responsible farm positions.

The best source of this new talent is already on the farms in the form of sons of existing farmers.

This talent must be kept on the farm. A partnership isn't the only way, but it's a good one, worth careful consideration.

The Farmer Still Has Clout

The farm vote exerted the major influence of any particular voting segment in the 1970 election.

This is the conclusion of a study by the National Educational Institute for Agriculture recently. The finding may surprise many urban and some suburban residents, but we don't think it should surprise too many farmers.

While the urban press has been emphasizing how few farmers there are anymore, the press generally has overlooked the extent to which farming has become intermingled with non-farm jobs.

For every full-time farmer, there's more than one part-time farmer or agribusinessman who makes part of his living directly from the farm or from a related or non-related off-the-farm job.

And, as farmers become more specialized with bigger operations, it takes an increasingly large agribusiness complex to

supply the farmer with services, equipment and material.

Many major companies which would, on the surface, appear to be non-farm oriented remain very sensitive to the farmer's wants and needs because they consider the farmer a reliable and valuable customer. When things go wrong down on the farm, the farmer is by no means the only one to notice it.

The farmer's vote can be likened to the part of the iceberg that's showing.

There's another factor.

For decades, the farmer has been asked year after year to produce more at less cost. He has seen the prices he receives remain relatively constant or go down, while everything else, including equipment, material, land, taxes, labor and even food, has steadily cost more.

The farmer, who has always been willing to do more than his share, is beginning to ask: why am I singled out to be almost the sole source of more things for less cost? Behind the question is the fact that many years of rising costs and relatively stable returns are increasingly hard to live with.

Consider at the same time that most farmers aren't pleased with non-farm events in recent years — riots and growing welfare rolls, to name two — and it helps explain why farmers are beginning to take a harder look at why things are the way they are and who helped make them that way.

It helps explain why the farm vote will probably be the major influence in the 1972 election and possibly the key factor for the next several elections.



NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent

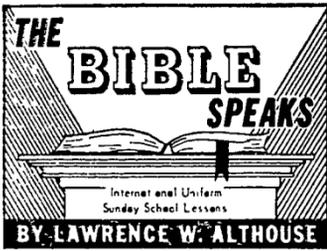
To Beware of Moldy Corn

As the weather warms up, corn that has been in storage may begin to heat and mold, not all molds are toxic to farm animals, but many are and should not be fed to breeding animals. One of the best ways to use corn of doubtful quality is to place it before fattening hogs, permit them to eat it along with good quality feeds and most of it can be utilized. When low quality grain is mixed with good grain, they are forced to consume it, and it might do some harm.

To Manage Milking Herd Carefully

Some early pastures will be making fast growth and soon be ready to graze. To prevent off-

flavored milk, all dairymen are urged to remove the cows from the grazing area at least four hours before milking time and keep them in a well ventilated barn. Garlic-infested pastures should be grazed by dry cows or young stock because of the danger of onion-flavored milk. Careful herd management is very important on lush pastures! To Evaluate Promotion Claims - The farm press is full of advertising claiming many goals for various products. For example, I have noticed the ad relating to the use of some liquid fertilizer that will resist leaf blight on corn. I am not aware of any unbiased research that will support that kind of a claim; producers should take time to evaluate these recommendations before expecting them to give the expected results.



WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

Lesson for April 11, 1971

Background Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15: Devotional Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 12-19.

Several years ago a convicted prisoner was sitting on San Quentin's "death row," waiting for his execution. The man had never had any substantial exposure to religious teaching, but it was suggested that he might allow the chaplain to come and speak with him. Finding the convict virtually uninformed about the Christian faith, the chaplain told him the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.



Rev. Althouse. While speaking of Christ's resurrection appearances to his disciples, the prisoner impatiently interrupted. "O K, O K, Padre, so this Jesus made it—good for him—but what I want to know is what's in it for me?"

Death shall be no more

It may seem a very crude question, yet still a relevant one. What does the resurrection of Jesus mean? Is it simply the success story of one man who beat both death and the grave, or is there in it something to do with my life—is there something in it for me?

The early church was convinced that the resurrection of Christ had "something in it" for anyone who would turn to Christ as Lord and Saviour. In Philippians Paul says: "All I care for is to know the power of his resurrection . . ." In Romans he speaks of being "raised" from the dead with Christ. The earliest preaching of the church in the book of Acts is a gospel of the resurrected Christ. So, to be able to sing, "I know that my Redeemer lives," means also to be

able to add: "I too, I too shall live." What's in it for me is not only the knowledge that Jesus "made it," but that by his grace I can "make it" too.

John Donne, the English preacher and poet, is best known as the man who wrote, "No man is an island . . ." and that we should never seek to know "for whom the bell tolls . . ." He also had some striking words to say about the Easter faith:

Death be not proud, though some have called thee Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so; For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow Die not, poor Death; nor yet canst thou kill me. Why swell'st thou then? One short sleep past, we wake eternally, And Death shall be no more: Death, thou shalt die.

To be able to look death in the eye and say, "Death, not I, but thou shalt die!"; that is also part of what's "in" the resurrection faith for us.

Therefore . . .

How can we explain what happens at death? Even when the writers of the four gospels tried to describe the nature of the appearance of the resurrected Christ, they ended up with accounts that were confusing and conflicting. Was he a vision or something solid? Was it his physical body they saw or something else? They could agree on having seen and spoken with Jesus, but they could not agree on the specifics of that experience. Paul describes resurrection as the survival of a "spiritual body," which also may be confusing. What he's trying to communicate here is the idea that by the power of God the spiritual essence or reality of a man survives the experience of bodily death.

If we are assured of the resurrection, if we have a promise of eternity, we can free ourselves from the fear of death and devote ourselves wholeheartedly to whatever work or challenge faces us here and now. Certain of life after death, we can begin to experience life before death. That's what's "in it" for us.

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