

The One-Man Farm: How Big?

There's much variation in the optimum size of one-man farms, but all have this in common: They're bigger than the average farm and their watchword is efficiency.

Meet the man who milks efficiency for all it's worth - he's the operator of the "technically optimum" one-man farm.

Whether a 360-acre rice farm in Louisiana or a 2,000-acre wheat and barley farm in Montana, the optimum one-man farm would seem to hold a long lease on life.

This operation can achieve most of the economies associated with size, various studies have shown. That's because up to and including the one-man size, the main incentive for farm enlargement is to fully employ the operator's time and his machinery. At that size, the cost per unit of product reaches a low point.

Beyond the one-man size, farms get bigger to achieve larger output and higher total income, even though the unit production costs may be somewhat greater than on the one-man farm.

When it comes to buying production items and to selling their products, large-scale farms do enjoy some price advantages. But the evidence suggests that these advantages, where they exist, tend to be minor. In themselves they don't provide sufficient reasons for farm enlargement.

Not run-of-the-mill. An ERS economist who analyzed optimum one-man farming operations found them to be bigger than the "average" farm in the U.S. They also require much greater capital investment and managerial skills on the operator's part.

As defined by this economist, the technically optimum one-man farm may be thought of as "the

man and his complement of machines." In the case of crop farms, it represents the maximum acreage that the man and his machinery can plant, cultivate, and harvest, seasonally and annually.

Sometimes, one cultural operation will be limiting. For example, the planting dates for spring wheat may be limited to a 10-day period. Anything later sharply reduces the eventual yield. If a man can harvest 500 acres, cultivate 400 acres, but can only plant 300 acres, then the optimum size of his farm is 300 acres.

The man with not enough time or machinery to do the critical farming operations in the allotted days - why can't he resort to custom hiring? He can. However, in theory this farmer over a year's time span would be underemploying his own labor.

Split-up farm? Hypothetically the problem of too few working days could also be resolved by having the "farm" in two parts, separated by a climatic zone so that the planting and harvesting seasons don't coincide. This way both parts of the farm could be operated by the same man and his machines, it being necessary only to transport them between the units.

Another alternative to maximize use of the farmer's time is to grow two crops whose cultural operations don't coincide, such as spring-seeded barley and fall-seeded wheat.

The drawback here is that the secondary crops usually require one or more specialized machines and are less profitable than one-crop farms. In fact the trend across the U.S. is toward greater specialization and less diversification.

No rule of thumb. The size of farm to achieve the ultimate in efficiency varies widely by the type of farming and the farm's location. For example, in regions where dryland farming predominates, wheat farms may have 1 acre of fallow to each acre in crops. These farms are twice as big as wheat operations in the humid, annual cropping regions. In cattle ranching the criterion

of size is the cow herd. Generally the optimum herd is 300 head, but the pasture to support that many ranges from 150 acres in the irrigated areas to 36,000 in the desert areas of the Southwest.

The return to operator's labor - figured at the equivalent wage rate for hired workers - is not large on specialized crop farms. This is because the work is highly

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WEST FALLOWFIELD CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL PUBLIC SALE

on
SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1973

Located at Naaman King Farm, Atglen RD No. 1, Pa.

Anyone can donate items or sell on commission. Machinery, tractor, cattle, Household items, fancy work, etc. Baked goods will also be appreciated for there will be a lunch stand.

For more information contact the following:

Naaman King	593-5004
Paul King	593-6302
Elmer Mast	593-5853
Harold Ranck	932-3309
Laurence King	593-6661

All proceeds from this sale will go to West Fallowfield Christian Day School.

PUBLIC SALE

OF
FARM MACHINERY

Location: 16 miles South of Lancaster off Route 272 at Black Bear Farm, 1 mile North of Wakefield. Follow Arrows.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 1973
12:00 NOON

Ford 4000 Selecto Speed 1300 hrs.; Ford 9N Jubilee; Oliver roll over 3 bottom trip plow 16 in.; Ford heavy duty 28 disc, 2 IHC discs 24 & 28; 2 Brillion cultipackers 9 & 10 ft.; New Holland Super 66 baler; 2 New Holland 5 ton wagons with beds; 32 ft. Little Giant elevator (new); 24 ft. elevator; A.C. forage harvester with 6 knives corn & grass head; Coby silage wagon with webbs; Ford 1 row mounted corn-picker; 2 McCurdy grain bins with running gears; Ford 2 row cornplanter 3 pt.; 3 pt. cultivator.

50 Ton Ear Corn

Massey Harris Super 26 s.p. combine; Allis Chalmers flail chopper; New Holland manure spreader; 2 Bear Cat hammermills, 1 with PTO; Ontario 16 disc drill; Cunningham crimper; Daffin PTO cornsheller; Peterson snowblower; New Idea fertilizer drill, field sprayer; mounted grass seeder; Lincoln welder; cattle holding gate; 10 ft. cast iron trough; 12 hole hog feeder; 4 hole hog feeder; extension ladder; Stewart elec. clippers with sheephead; 6 rolls snow fence; 300 locust posts; lumber and oak flooring; sheeting and heavy lumber; log chains; heavy cable; winch; forks; air compressor; paint sprayer; Ideal band castrator; bolts; other articles not mentioned.

Terms by
J. Edgar Wolgemuth

Kreider & Diller, Aucts.

Lunch finished.

PUBLIC SALE

Saturday, March 24, 1973

10:30 A.M.

Along Schoeneck Road in the Village of Schoeneck, West Cocalico Township, Lancaster Co., Pa.

Massey Harris 44 tractor; Farmall Super A tractor with plow and cultivator; Massey Ferguson 35 Deluxe tractor in extra good condition, mowers; 3 rubber tired wagons with 16 ft beds and extra sides; cultipacker; disc.; sec. harrow; Stauffer 2-row tobacco planter; New Idea 1-row corn picker; manure spreader; side rake; 3 walking plows; 5500 tobacco lathe; harness; ext. ladder; Columbian coal kitchen range; 8 foot bob sled with steering wheel and brake in good cond; pot belly stove; 2 high top dry sinks; blind corner cupboard; roll top desk; 6 legged drop leaf table; round claw foot table; H. W. Bard. Denver, jug; iron kettles and loads of other barn items and household items.

SALE BY
RALPH M. USNER

H.H. LEID, Auction Service.

LEON A. BROWN

COMPLETE DISPERSAL MONDAY, MARCH 26

WESTTOWN, N.Y.

At the farm, two miles west of Westtown, N.Y. on Co. Rte. 1. Watch for Holstein Auction Sign in center of Westtown which is on N.Y. Rte. 284. Ten miles southwest of Middletown, N.Y. Few miles north of the N.J. line and close to Penna.

70 REGISTERED HOLSTEINS

(50 Milking Age - 20 Heifers)

All tests up to date for immediate interstate shipment. Exam for Preg and Mastitis.

13 DAUGHTERS OF WHIRLHILL KINGPIN SELL!!
One with 765-20,677 M at 5 y. - Another with 722-17,572 M. at 3 yrs. - Another with 668-18,145 M at 3 yrs - Another with 626-18,327 M, 3 yrs - and others, good, young daughters of a great sire.

BLOSSOM ACRES ASTRONAUT KENDRA SELLS!!
"GP-82" at 2 yrs. with 440 fat at 2 yrs. By "Astronaut" from an "EX-92" (EX Mammary) dam with 788 fat, next dam "VG" with 793 fat. Bred to "Elevation".

GOOD PRODUCTION SELLING!!

4 sell from 722 to 773 fat (2 at 3 yrs.)

6 sell from 604 to 668 fat, (4 at 3 yrs.)

14 from 508 to 581 fat

7 from 434 to 487 fat, (all at 2 & 3 yr. olds)

17 on test with first lactation

4 DAUGHTERS - 35 BRED TO THE FAMED ROUND OAK RAG APPLE ELEVATION (EX-92-GM)!!

TOP SIRES REPRESENTED - 13 by "Kingpin" - 12 by Pinehill Galaxy - 8 by "Tidy Gent" - 3 by Tidy Burke Cricket - 5 by "Vern" - 3 by "Ideal" - 1 by Rockman and others

Nearly new "Lindy-LR-31" Semen Tank sells - Quantity of Hay sells 6 Vials of "KINGPIN" sells - Quantity of "Astronaut" and "Maple" sells.

MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND AND BUY FROM THIS COMPLETE DISPERSAL!!

Sale starts 12:00 noon
Lunch Available
Catalogs

R. AUSTIN
BACKUS INC.

Sale Mgrs. & Auctioneers
Mexico, N.Y.

LEON A. BROWN

Owner,
Westtown, N.Y.
914-726-3430

PUBLIC SALE

of Valuable
Modern Farm Machinery

Saturday, March 24, 1973

Starting time 10:00 A.M.

To be held at the Harold Kratzer Farm located 2 miles East of Richfield and 1/2 mile North of Rt. 35, Snyder County.

M F Super 92 combine with 14' cut and hump reel, 1971 Int 826 D wide front and New Hinson cab, Int 656D fast hitch, roll guard, M Farmall PS, B J D, 870 Papec grinder mixer, NH 469 Haybine 9 ft cut, 550 I-H Harvester 2-row corn head and pickup, I-H 5-16 auto reset plow, I-H 4-16 trip bottom plow with 2 ft hitch 12 1/2 ft Brady harrow (heavy duty), 12 ft MM disc, 12 ft J D harrow 10 ft J D cultipacker, Mid West plow harrow for 3-5x16 plow, J D 1240 plateless corn planter (like new), 2 boom sprayers with fiber glass 250&150 gal tanks, NH 200 bu tank spreader, J D 14T baler with thrower, NH 30 ft elevator M F 5 wheel rake, N I 5 bar roller rake, M F Super 60 flail chopper 2 gravity wagons, NH and J D 1074 wagons with bale bodies, J D 1065 wagon with dump bale body, Grove wagon with 12 ft hvd bed, tractor dual wheels with 18 4x34 tires, 4 hyd cylinders 300 gal gas tank on stand 10 ton upright feed bin (new) 4U DeLaval milker pump Misc tools and farm supplies

Corn by the ton, Extension ladders, Int Cub 102-10 hp tractor with 42 in mower with dump cart

10 ft Little Champ Camper fits any 8 ft pickup box

Terms Cash Lunch Stand.
Mr Harold K. Kratzer, Owner
Eash & Hoffman, Auctioneers