



Lancaster Farming Photo  
by Dieter Krieg

It was a bit crowded on the 1,100-acre James Willrett farm, and it wasn't just people which took up the space. Here's a few of the tractors and implements which were involved in the activities in the field. Machines were not exhibited — but demonstrated in action. The tractor in the

foreground pulled a 12-bottom plow, while the one in the middle had fourteen 18-inch bottoms behind it.



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**High costs worry farmers**

"If I had enough money to own all the resources I need for farming, I wouldn't need to farm."

This remark of one farmer reflects the thinking of many farmers, according to David L. Kantner, Schuylkill County Agricultural Extension Service. The growing capital requirements of agriculture have led an increasing number of farmers to ask whether it is feasible or even desirable to own all the assets needed to farm.

Many successful farmers no longer strive for full ownership of the land, machinery, money, and other resources they use. Instead, they rent many of their inputs; custom hire some of their services; and make full use of credit facilities. Some enter into contract farming arrangements which may reduce capital and labor requirements. Others often incorporate or form partnerships to bring in outside capital.

Used properly, these tactics can help a young man get started in farming. They allow for more flexibility in farming operations. They encourage farm growth. They make more resources available to the starting farmer than he could have available by outright purchase, according to Kantner.

But they also have their drawbacks. The farmer who now depends on others for land, equipment, and market may worry that for one reason or other they may not be available over a long period of time.

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