Limited partnership could be farmer's option

limited partner arrangement appears to be a good one for farmers who need large amounts of capital but who want to continue to run their own farm businesses. In fact, the legal requirements of

NEWARK, Del. - The limited partnerships prevent those partners from becoming active in the management process. A limited partnership provides an opportunity for the nonfarm investor because his liability is limited to the amount of his investment in

the farm business. Unlike a farm corporation, if a limited partnership operation gets in trouble each of the partners is liable only to the extent of his financial interest.

There are other advantages to limited partnerships, including some tax possibilities, but each limited partnership has its own unique circumstances. Within reason they can be designed to fit the needs of the partners.

Limited partnerships provide an ideal way for a

widowed mother to turn the farming operation over to a son. She can continue to share in the profits and can help her son financially, yet she avoids the hazard of unlimited liability. Limited partnerships also offer opportunities for heirs who live in distant locations and who have no interest in actually managing a farming unit.

partnership arrangement should be entered into very carefully among people who are fairly sure they understand the deal and can get along with each other. Certainly, limited partnerships require a lot less day-to-day shoulder rubbing and decision making, but there are still opportunities for

misunderstandings problems.

The farmer who wants to be his own man, make all of his own decisions, and be accountable to no one, may find the legal restraints and the real or imagined pressures from limited partners unbearable. On the other hand, the fellow who's looking for capital and has the ability to run a farm might find this an excellent way to get into farming or to move up into a size of farming that is profitable.

One note of caution. There are many legal and financial pitfalls involved in setting up such an arrangement. There's definitely a place for a good lawyer and a good accountant in the thinking and planning process.

Electronic scale on grinder-mixer helps make proper rations easier

NEW HOLLAND - Why should a farmer buy an electronic scale on a grindermixer?

"Because it pays," says Tim Wadsworth, product manager for grinder-mixers at Sperry New Holland. "Farmers and ranchers using grinder-mixers with scales can take advantage of lower-cost bulk delivered supplement and still be real sure of a balanced ration."

Penn State's Extension livestock specialist, Lester Burdette, points out that

ration balances for most efficient gains are different for different stages of growth. Protein quality is almost as important as the quantity for a young pig. But he's of the opinion it's probably fair to assume an unbalanced hog ration would mean consumption of an extra 3/10th of a pound of feed for each pound of gain say a 3.5 or 3.7-to-1 ratio instead of 3.2-to-1 feed/gain

That's not counting the feed rooted out of the self feeder. This means a 40pound pig would need an extra 54 pounds of feed to make the 180 pounds of gain it takes to reach the 220 pound market weight if the ration isn't well balanced. Electronic scales to help make ration balancing easier can be factoryinstalled or field-installed on grinder-mixers.

A steer on a high grain ration will need about eight pounds of feed for a pound of gain to get all the way from 500 to 1100 pounds. A little less per pound in the early part of the feed but then a little more protein is needed. An unbalanced ration can mean an extra pound of feed per pound of gain or about 600 pounds more feed per animal.

Steer supplement is a little cheaper than hog sup-plement because protein quality is less critical for ruminants. You can use some urea. But, that extra 600 pounds per animal adds up to a substantial amount of money that can be saved through balanced rations.

The grinder-mixer product

mistake in ration balancing can throw animals off feed and create health problems in addition to wasting feed and hurting conversion rates. "The farmer can mix rations properly with his grinder-mixer, but it is much easier to do a good job of proper ration balancing when a grinder-mixer is equipped with an electronic scale. Bulk purchases and proper ration balancing make electronic scales on your grinder-mixer pay off both ways," Wadsworth

manager points out that a

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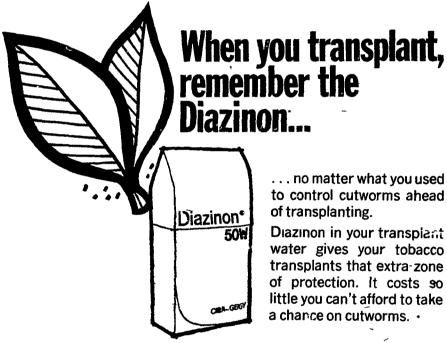
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