Review those leasing options

LITITZ — Wrong decisions which are made now on leasing deals can show up as losses on the profit sheet later.

Ira Dumont Gouge, President of Baldwin -United Leasing said that. "tight money and high interest rates are causing many farmers to consider leasing as an alternative to equipment purchase". The executive went on to point out that, "while leasing is a very good management tool for farmers, careful attention should be given to the conditions and terms which are written into contracts".

He said not all contracts are leases which will be allowed by IRS.

"Conditional Sales Contracts are often confused with leases because the terms of the contract, not the words 'lease agreement', determine what is (or is not) a 'true' lease in the opinion of the Internal Revenue Service", says Gouge.

"The result is that farmers can be denied the financial privileges which are allowed in true leasing if they unknowingly enter into an arrangement which constitutes a conditional sales contract."

Gouge and Paul F. Bachman, Vice President of the Ag Leasing Division made the announcement Monday following what they describe as "a mass consideration of leasing by the nation's farmers".

They noted inquiries directed to Baldwin-United have escalated at unprecedented rates, an indication that other sources in 'the industry are also receiving an upsurge of interest from farmers.

"We're concerned that many farmers are entering into equipment contracts which are not beneficial for them in the long run", says Bachman. He went on to point out that within the last 30 days stepped up programs for leasing arrangements, conditional sales contracts and plain rental programs have been launced by equipment manufacturers, and other credit sources.

Gouge and Bachman further point out that, the majority of these programs are not 'true' leases because they offer minimum options which are substantially below fair market value. When IRS comes calling, these sources will say 'we made a mistake'.

"Knowing who you are dealing with is more important today than it has ever been in the past. Many leasing companies are curtailing their operations, selling off their leases or not taking any leases because they do not have sufficient funds. As a result of economic conditions, many of the fast buck operators have moved into financing and leasing, while promising the moon and stars with their foreign oil or German contract.

"You'll lose that deposit or the sale if the leasing company connot perform at closing ... so when they start checking you out, you should be checking them out. Remember, it's your money," Gouge said.

He concluded that, while rate is an important factor in a lease, it is not the most important because it is not uncommon to have organizations to "low ball" the rate and then continue to return to re-negotiate.

"This is especially true in view of the current, volatile state of interest rates", concluded Gouge.

Bachman, who heads marketing operations for the firm confirmed that leasing activity through the company is currently higher than the amount which was projected year-10-date for 1980.

"We've established firm guidelines in our true leasing considerations which help to assure that our clients are

doing the right thing", said Bachman.

"While we certainly wantt leasing business'', said Bachman, "we're not willing to take it at the expense of the farmer. We would have to live with that mistake later on when difficulties arose". Thus, he indicated that all lease applications are being reviewed in light of long-term soundness. "Panic measures taken by

a farmer now, might not be right for him in a few months", says Bachman. "We're doing all we can to serve farmer's equipment needs, but we want clients who will stay ... not clients who will suffer in the future if we misguide them in leasing decisions".

their leasing obervations by

Feeder pig brochure available

DES MOINES, Ia. - The Starting of Feeder Pigs is the title of a newly published brochure being made through available cooperative efforts of National Pork Producer Council's Feeder Pig

saying that farmers should involve their CPA's, bankers and others as they consider leasing and/or conditional sales contracts. "Short range and long range implications of such decisions should be considered, regardless of current The executives concluded economic conditions", they say.

Committee, the National Feeder Pig Marketing Association and American Association of Swine Pracitioners.

The brochure, prepared with assistance of veterinarians, feeder pig dealers, feed manufacturers, university extension personnel and others, offers recommendation for feeder pig buyers and those in positions to supervise starting of feeder pigs.

Copies of the brochure, available at 10 cents each, may be ordered from NPPC. P.O. Box 10383, Des Moines, IA 50306





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