

This Extended Family Makes Partnership Farming Fun

BY LOU ANN GOOD

Friends warned Dennis and Karen Lehman, not to try a farming partnership. "It will never work," they said.

But Dennis and Karen did enter a farm partnership with Karen's parents, Joe and Betty Martin, and they are glad they did.

Why does this family partnership at Route 3, Manheim, work when so many other joint ventures

end in broken relationships, anger and disillusionment?

The parents say, "In a partnership everyone must be willing to give and take."

"Yes," Karen agreed, "communication is the big key." She added, "That means decisions must be made together. We talk it out until we agree."

The Martin's are convinced that they could not have a better son-in-

law. Still, when they first discussed the partnership, Betty said, "We realized that Dennis would have younger ideas and we must accept that."

On the other hand the Lehmans

recognize that they can benefit from the wisdom that goes with the Martin's cautiousness.

The Lehmans live on the original farmstead with its 100 acres. By renting a neighboring field, the

partnership farms a total of 160 acres. About eight years ago, the Martins built a home on the land.

Both families share in the farming responsibilities. Karen and her

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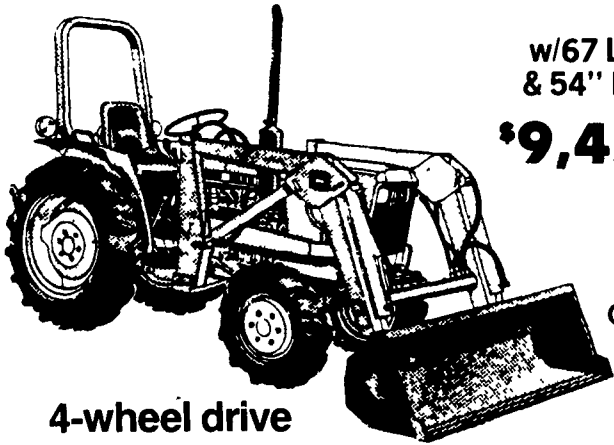


Karen blanches the corn while her mother continues cutting it off the cob.



Three generations are busy husking corn. From left, Dwight Lehman, Karen Lehman, La Vonne Lehman and Betty Martin.

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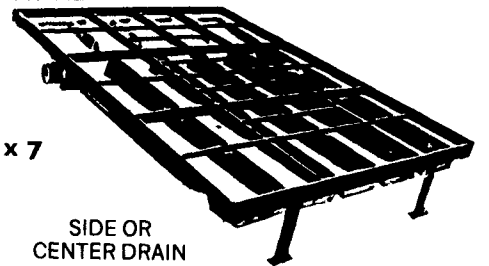
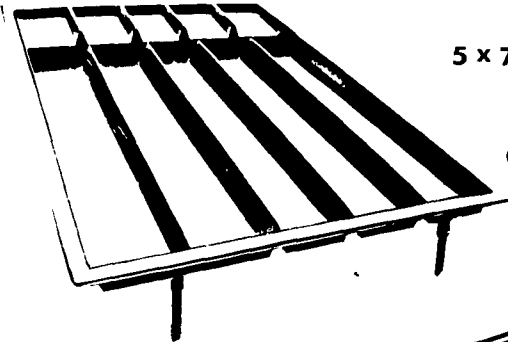
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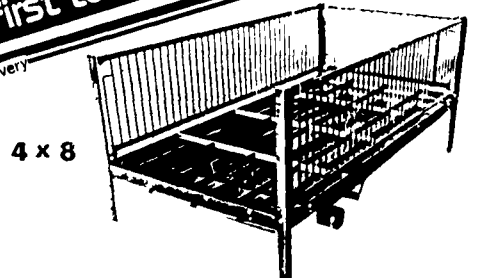
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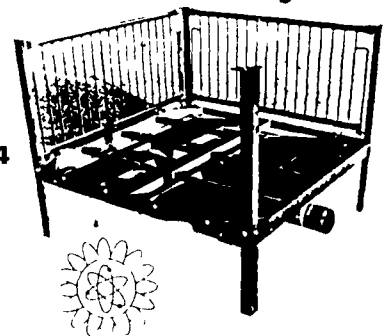
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