

Are your family and business in tune? Or are they playing from different sheets of music?

HARMONY TEST

1. We seldom feel the need to separate family life from the farm business life.

YES ___ NO ___

2. The farm owner(s) communicate(s) regularly and comfortably with his/her sons-in-law and daughters-in-law.

YES ___ NO ___

3. Farm successors regularly ask for and accept advice from the farm owner(s).

YES ___ NO ___

4. Non-family farm employees do not resent family employees.

YES ___ NO ___

5. It is unusual for us to discuss the farm business at family social gatherings.

YES ___ NO ___

6. Our family has grown closer because we can work together in a farm business.

YES ___ NO ___

7. Family members who work on the farm are comfortable with their relative position and authority in the business.

YES ___ NO ___

8. Their spouses are comfortable with their positions too.

YES ___ NO ___

9. Family farm successors have had experience in significant jobs elsewhere before permanently joining the operation.

YES ___ NO ___

10. Relative pay and “perk” levels seldom are a point of friction among the family members.
YES ____ NO ____

Score yourself by the number of “yes” answers as follows:

9-10 — in harmony

6-8 — discordant

3-5 — out of tune

0-2 — one big noise

*Adapted from Successful Farming, October 1994
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