

# PARENTS AS PARTNERS

## *Would you be a good partner? A test for parents*

Partnerships more often stumble over human relationships than over business arrangements. This test will tell you your chances of success and happiness in a parent-child partnership. Score yourself according to the following potential answers:

10 = A firm yes  
difficult

9 = Yes

8 = Yes, but barely  
improbable

7 = Maybe, with "conditions"

6 = Could live with it

5 = Possibly

4 = Very

3 = Isn't likely

2 = Highly

\_\_\_\_\_ Are you willing to work up a partnership agreement with your son, daughter, daughter-in-law or son-in-law — now — and put it in writing?

\_\_\_\_\_ Can you usually "suggest" advice to your child or in-law, as a business partner — rather than giving commands or correcting him/her as a child?

\_\_\_\_\_ Can you willingly "give in" to your child's or in-law's wishes when you see that it means a great deal to him/her and family? Even though it might cost you money?

\_\_\_\_\_ Are you willing to turn over definite areas of important responsibility to your child or in-law to make the management decisions? And then live by the decisions without grumbling?

\_\_\_\_\_ If your child or in-law makes a mistake that you might honestly have made at the same age, can you mark it up as a "useful experience" in helping him/her grow — rather than scold them, or brood over it?

\_\_\_\_\_ Are you willing to have a heart-to-heart talk with your child or in-law so that he/she knows fully now what his/her future is on the farm?

\_\_\_\_\_ Are you willing to accept the fact that your child's spouse and family — and their future — are rightfully their No. 1 concern?

\_\_\_\_\_ Are you willing to make a contract now that protects your child's or in-law's investment of time and money in the farm in case of an untimely death for you?

### \_\_\_\_\_ **YOUR TOTAL SCORE**

91-100 You're a fine partner

61-70 Barely "passable"

31-40 You

couldn't stand it

81-90 You should make it go  
don't do it

51-60 Think of another setup

21-30 Please

71-80 It may be rough  
chance in the world

41-50 You'll be very unhappy

10-20 Not a

If the combination total points reach 320 or more for the four people (two couples) in the partnership, it should succeed. If the combined total is 240 or less, the partnership will have major trouble.

*Adapted from the February 1968 issue of Farm Journal*