

# 'HE LOVES FARMING, BUT FEELS IT'S HOPELESS'

BY MIKE WILSON



## **Farm wife looks for answers to the silence between husband and son**

ONCE IN A great while we get notes from readers looking for help with difficult family business problems. That was certainly the case when we received the following letter from a farm wife, who asked us to publish her letter anonymously:

*"I am the wife of a crop and cattle farmer who is in partnership with two brothers. My 38-year-old son has worked with his dad and uncles for six-plus years now and can't seem to advance.*

*"My intentions are not to put the farm family down; I am just disappointed and need to know if I can do or say something to get their attention. I think you can gather that the wives seem to not be included in plans here. I am little informed. I've been in the family for 40 years, and never caused a riff. But I need to know the future for my son. He has no say whatsoever; he is a hired hand. He had hope, but is now depressed and ready to go somewhere*

*else. He loves farming, but feels it's hopeless.*

*"It's sad to me that my own husband, my son's dad, will not talk about this. He becomes hostile, like I'm taking something from him. I have fought this in my heart and mind for decades. We all have a good surface relationship but avoid speaking about future plans for our children. My husband is not willing to talk at all; he just becomes quiet. If I talk to my son alone or ride with him in the semi, my husband tends to be more hostile toward my son. I have decided my son needs action, and I am determined to get him support. I have made bad decisions and so has my son, but he is a great human being and deserves more. I just need to know if I am right to want resolution. What is my position as the wife and mother of the generation to help carry on the operation? There are cousins and siblings to consider, too."*

## **THE EXPERTS WEIGH IN 'I think he should leave'**

Your situation is not unique. Many very traditional



