# TAB TOOLBOX

## Farm Transition and Estate **Planning Retreat Agenda**

### Friday

4:00 pm	Introductions and Overview
4:15	Strategies for Farm Business Succession
6:00	Evening Meal
6:45	Goal Setting for Farm Transition and Estate Planning Activity: "Goals and Interests"
8:00	Family Communications and Fair versus Equal Activity: "Some Day Sue"
8:30	Wrap Up and Overview Agenda for Second Session
Saturday	
8:00 am	Continental Breakfast
8:30	Goal Setting for Farm Transition and Estate Planning, Continued Activity: "Long-Term and Short-Term Goals"
10:00	Break
10:15	
10.15	Estate Planning and Retirement
10.15	Estate Planning and Retirement Farm Business Structures (Continued after Lunch)
11:30	Farm Business Structures (Continued after Lunch)
11:30 12:00 pm	Farm Business Structures (Continued after Lunch) Lunch Strategies for Farm Business Succession Wrap Up and Review
11:30 12:00 pm 1:45	Farm Business Structures (Continued after Lunch) Lunch Strategies for Farm Business Succession Wrap Up and Review Activity: "Farm Succession To-Do List"









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# Thank you to the organizations that made this event possible.

This retreat is facilitated by the Minnesota State College and University System and University of Minnesota Extension.



MINNESOTA STATE



This retreat is sponsored by: Minnesota Department of Agriculture Minnesota State Agriculture Centers of Excellence Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council Minnesota Dairy Initiative

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE







This Farm Transition and Estate Planning Retreat and the binder materials are a partnership between Minnesota State College and Universities and University of Minnesota Extension.

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### **Retreat Objectives**

What can you expect to learn from this farm transition and estate planning retreat?

#### **Business Succession**

Identify what farm business succession means, including the concept of transfer of management, labor, income, and ownership.

Develop a written plan to begin the succession plan on your farm.

### **Goal Setting**

Develop written farm operations and family living goals that fit family's short and long term personal and farm business objectives.

Understand how specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound goals can increase likelihood of success.

### **Family Communication**

Utilize effective communication strategies to share goals and succession plan with family and/or other relevant parties.



Understand and be able to communicate the difference between fair distribution and equal distribution in the context of the farm transition process.

### **Business Structure**

Apply knowledge of business structures and asset ownership options to the farm transition process, identifying pros and cons of utilizing structures in transition.

### **Estate Planning and Retirement**

Analyze the components of estate planning, retirement planning, and healthcare planning. Develop proposal to meet with legal and/or tax professionals to create, review, and finalize estate and transfer plan.











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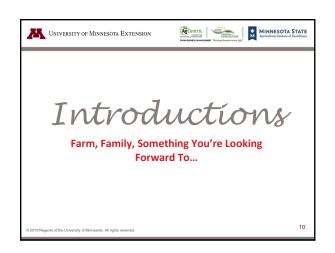


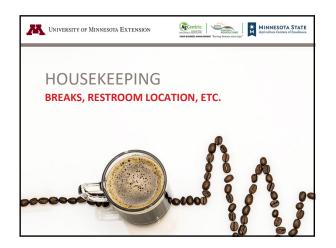














## Job Description Example Format

To begin the process of writing job descriptions for your farm, you may want to use the following format. This may be helpful for writing formal job descriptions for farm family members in management positions. After you write job descriptions for family members, if you have not already done so, you may find it helpful to write job descriptions for all jobs on your farm, including laborers or other employees.

- Job title
- Job location
- One sentence job objective (similar to a resume objective)
- One paragraph summary of the general nature and level of the job
- Detailed bullet point description the duties, tasks, and soft skills that are critical to job success
- List of qualifications (education, licenses, physical requirements)
- Explanation of job supervision and reporting (i.e. who supervises the employee)
- Overview of salary and/or benefits (e.g. insurance, vacation, sick time), if applicable
- Details on how to apply, if applicable







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### Farm Family Job Description Questions

To begin the process of writing job descriptions for your farm, particularly job descriptions for those that identify as part of the "farm family," you may want to start by answering the following quesitons. This may help you identify critical information to include.

What time of day or night does the job begin?

What time of day or night does the job end?

What are the job responsibilities?

What will the job pay? Hourly? Salary? Share of profits?

Are there any fringe benefits?

- o Insurance
- Meals
- Housing
- Vehicles
- Other 0

If a minor emergency arises, how will it be handled?

Will there be any vacation? If so, when? How much?

Will the job transition into more than just a job? Management? Ownership? If so, when?

Does this job include management responsibilities? Who has final decision making on

various aspects of the farm?

What are the expectations regarding "family time" versus "work time"?







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### Farm Transfer and Estate Planning Attorneys

By Megan Roberts, Extension Educator, meganr@umn.edu, July 2018

If you have not already identified an attorney to help you through the legal aspects of the farm transfer and estate process, you may be wondering how to find a qualified attorney. One possibility is to utilize online search tools from professional associations. Attorneys self-select into these organizations for specialized professional development. The following suggestions are <u>not</u> intended as advertising for any attorney or organization nor meant to be a referral or recommendation of any attorney.

One national professional organization associated with estate planning and elder law is the Wealth Counsel. To find members of the Wealth Council visit: <u>www.estateplanning.com</u>. Once on the site, go to the upper right of the page and click "Find a Planning Professional." On the next page, you can enter the zip code of your mailing address and select the radius of the search up to 100 miles of your location. You may also search for attorneys by individual Minnesotan cities.

Another professional association that enables online searching is the Minnesota Bar Association, <u>www.mnbar.org</u>. To search members of the Minnesota Bar Association visit: <u>www.mnbar.org/member-directory/find-a-lawyer</u>. Once on the search page, you can select to search by practice area(s). Attorney members self-identify their practice areas. Possible practice-area search terms relevant to farm transfer include "agriculture," "elder law," "estate planning-trusts, wills" and "estate/probate."

Not all Minnesotan attorneys that practice in the area of agricultural, estate planning, or elder law have self-selected into the professional organizations listed above. There are many skilled legal professionals and law firms that do not appear on the searchable lists referenced. To find additional attorneys in your area, you may wish to ask for attorney recommendations from trusted agribusiness professionals you work with or other local farmers that have recently gone through the farm transition process. Once you have created a short list of possible attorneys, you may desire to "interview" a few choices to determine if the attorney that best meets your and your farms' needs. Preparing a written list of questions and concerns before your first meeting can help you get the most out of your interaction. Often initial consultation appointments do not have a fee, but do not assume this to be the case. Ask questions (for example about fee structures and attorney backgrounds) when setting up your appointment(s) to avoid surprises later.









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## Farm Succession Plan and To-Do List

Family name:\_\_\_\_\_

### Follow up meeting plan: \_\_\_\_\_

This "To Do List" is designed to help you in planning for a farm succession/transition. The suggested "actions" are merely that. While we believe these are important steps in the planning process, remember that the success or failure of the farm succession/transition is up to you. These steps are suggestions. You are not likely to complete any of these steps – unless you want to! Please add, subtract and modify this plan to fit your own desires and goals.

	Person	Completion
	Responsible	Date
GOALS AND COMMUNICATION ACTIONS:		
Write short and long term goals		
Develop job description(s)		
Discuss viability of returning partner		
Discuss goals with non-farm heirs		
FINANCIAL TOOLBOX ACTIONS:		
Have a record keeping system in place		
Develop up-to-date balance sheet (book & market)		
Develop up-to-date cash flow plan		
Perform farm financial and trend analysis	<u> </u>	
RETIREMENT AND ESTATE PLAN:		
Identify a lawyer to advise		
Meet with a lawyer to begin our plan		
Identify a tax accountant to advise		
Meet with an accountant to begin our plan		
Confirm healthcare documents are up-to-date		
BUSINESS SUCCESSION PLAN:		
Complete Business Succession Plan Matrix		

Use back of sheet, as needed, to add customized actions to fit the transfer goals of your farm business.











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### ADDITIONAL PLANS SPECIFIC TO YOUR FARM BUSINESS

GOAL, ACTION, or PLAN:	Person Responsible	Completion Date

## TAB BUSINESS SUCCESSION







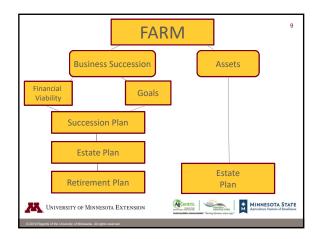




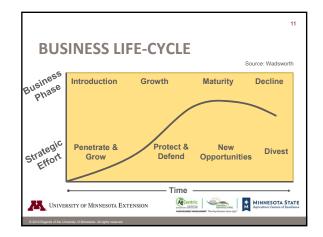


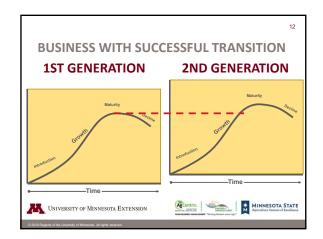


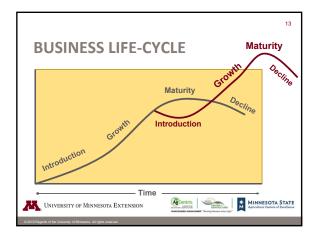






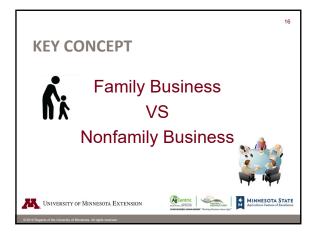


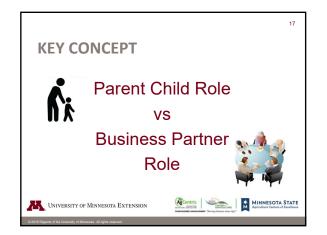
























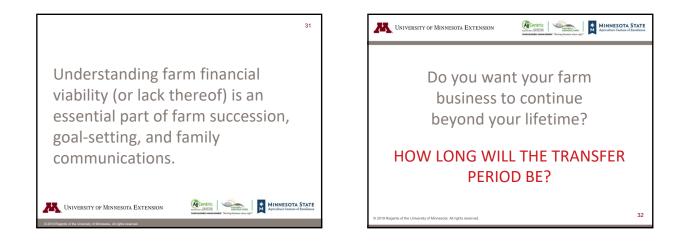






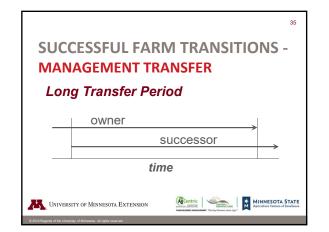


























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PLAN MATRIX	Testing	Commitment	Established	Withdrawal
Labor				
Timeline				
Income				
Timeline				
Management				
Timeline				
Ownership				
Timeline				

Testing	Commitment	Established	Withdrawal
Entering generation begins making day to day decisions for the operation.	Entering generation takes over the management of a farm enterprise.	Both generations manage overall farm obligations.	Senior generation gives up management control.
Ex: Daughter begins managing herd breeding program.	Ex: Son manages dairy operation. Dad manages crop operation.	Ex: Both generations meet with lender to discuss financing.	Ex: Dad provides labor when needed, but no farm decisions.



	Urgent	Not Urgent
nt	I. Activities	II. Activities
mportant	Crisis Management	Planning
du	Deadline Projects	Relationship
-		Building
¥	III. Activities	IV. Activities
ot rtar	Some Calls, Mail,	Time Wasters
Not Important	Popular Activities	Busy Work







## Business Succession Plan Matrix

PLAN MATRIX	Testing	Commitment	Established	Withdrawal
Labor				
Timeline				
Income				
Timeline				
Management				
Timeline				
Ownership				
Timeline				

Description of each phase. Entering generation begins making day to da decisions for the operation	over the management of a y farm enterprise.	Both generations manage overall farm obligations.	Senior generation gives up management control.
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## **TAB** GOAL SETTING





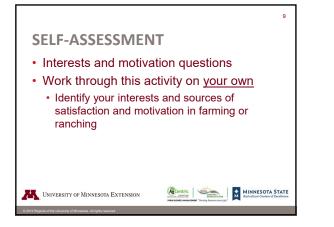






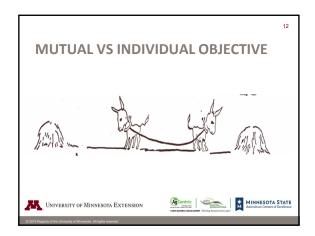




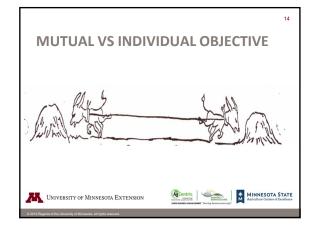


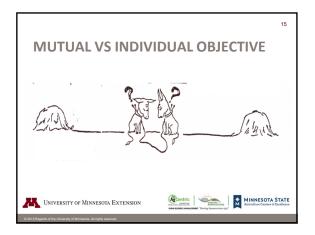






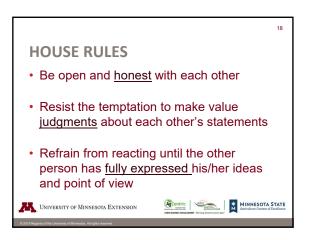






















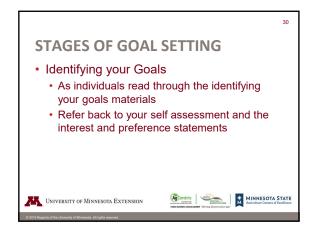




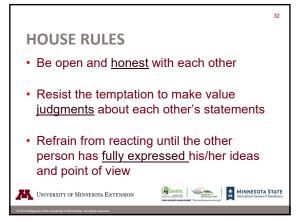
















### GOALS FOR MANAGEMENT OF FARMING OPERATIONS OVERVIEW AND SELF-ASSESSMENT\*

Paul H. Gessaman Nebraska Extension Service University of Nebraska-Lincoln Lincoln, Nebraska 68583-0922

This overview, and the accompanying self-assessment, will provide you with information that can help you to be a more effective manager. Brief discussion of goals and their importance provides background for a self-assessment that will stimulate your thinking about several aspects of farming and family life. In case you are interested in being employed off the farm, or are thinking of changing work arrangements that you now have, a final series of questions will help you assess your potential for employment in occupations other than farming.

#### THE OVERVIEW

In the same sense as the pilot of an airplane needs to know *where* the flight is going, *how* it is to travel (what route), and *when* it is to arrive, you should know *WHERE* you are going, *HOW* you are to get there, and *WHEN* you are to arrive—information that comes directly from your goals.

If you have not identified your goals, or don't know how you are going to attain them, you are not alone. Most people hope for a better future, but few identify goals describing the future they want, and then manage for goal attainment. To help you be a better manager, self-assessment exercises in this document will help you examine the interests, motivations, abilities, and resources of persons involved in your operation – the first step in goal identification and the foundation of goal-directed management.

#### **Goals and Management**

If you and others in your family are like most persons, from time to time you may have individually and jointly pondered questions like these:

- What do I (we) really want in life?
- What can I (we) do that will be most productive and worthwhile?
- What am I (are we) really trying to achieve through my (our) use of time, effort, money, and management skills?
- When should I (we) be able to achieve these things?
- What can I (we) do when really important things conflict with one another? That is, how are inevitable conflicts among things hoped for and dreamed about to be resolved?

<sup>\*</sup> Adapted from Paul H. Gessaman and Kathy Prohaska-Cue, "Goals for Family and Business Financial Management, Part I: Overview and Self-Assessment (revised July, 1985), Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

These fundamental questions of life are not easily answered. They are "goal questions" concerned with your hopes, dreams, and ambitions and with the hopes, dreams, and ambitions of all other members of your family.

Goals are very personal aspects of life. While some of your goals "both family life and farming goals" may be similar to goals identified by others, most will be unique to you and your family. They will reflect your values and beliefs, the resources you have to work with, and the opportunities and limitations that you face. Through their choice of goals, individuals, families and business units identify their aspirations for the future.

If goals really are this personal, you may wonder why this approach to goal identification starts with a self-assessment. It does so because individuals and families are much more likely to attain the things they want in life if they know the nature of the interests, motivations, and desires of family members – if they understand the nature of the human resources of their production unit. As you complete the self-assessment, you will generate background that will help you make better decisions as you respond to the *what*, *where*, *when*, and *how* of farming and family life.

In a practical sense, goals are statements of the things that individuals and families want to attain. Choices among competing or conflicting goals are made through priority-setting decisions. Goals are attained through management in which priority goals guide day-to-day decisions. Identifying your goals provides the foundation for family and business management decisions. Goals *are* important.

It is also important to realize that goals, priofities, and management plans are not final and unchanging. When market prices change; family members marry; death claims a spouse, parent, or partner; land is gained or lost; or other changes come, you will be working under new conditions. The human, physical, and financial resource base for everything you do will be different than it was when your previous management plan was developed. Some of your original goals may now be unattainable. As new interests (new goals) emerge, priorities will change. When this happens goals are modified, priorities are revised, and plans are updated. Despite the time and effort that's required, updating is important – it renews and improves your capability for effective management.

### The Approach Used Here

Self-assessment interest and motivation questions provided below will stimulate your thinking about the aspects of the farming and family life that you enjoy (usually the things you will do well), and those you do not enjoy (and may do less well). Resources and Alternatives Questions are the final self-assessment activity. They will help each person think about possibilities for other employment as a supplement to, or as a substitute for, present employment in farming.

Insights gained from this self-assessment will help you identify goals that give you a "built-in" advantage by capitalizing on your strongest interests and motivations – usually the things you will do very well. As you identify your principal goals for business and personal life, be sure to write them down. Don't be surprised if your list contains goals that are conflicting, as that's the case for most people. Keep in mind that most conflicts can be reduced or avoided through priority setting.

When you have identified goals and set priorities, use your high-priority goals as guides to your management plan. A well-completed management plan will bring together your insights about the resources and potentials of family members, your hopes and dreams for the future, and the nature of your farming operation and family life situation. With a management plan that links together your high priority goals and your expected activities and enterprises during the coming year, you'll have the written background reference needed for goal-directed management of your farm operation.

Over the long run, your management plan will need amending and updating as the future unfolds. In both its original and amended forms, it will provide an overall design for your family and business financial management activities

### THE SELF-ASSESSMENT

Recognizing that farming and family life interact constantly, self-assessment questions focus on the motivations, interests, abilities, skills, and satisfactions of each person involved in farming and family life activities. When completing the self-assessment, the answers of each person are recorded without discussing either the questions or answers with others. *Be honest with yourself.* There are no "right" or "wrong" answers. Remember, only your objective answers are adequate as the foundation for more effective management of farming and family life.

After each person has completed answering the self-assessment questions, family members and/or business associates can share and discuss their answers with each other. In the discussion:

- · Be candid, open, and honest with one another;
- Resist the temptation to make value judgments about each others' statements;
- Don't react until the other person has fully expressed his/her ideas and point of view.

During your discussion, use the record copy of this document to record the range of responses to questions. Where disagreement occurs, discuss the differences and make note of the various perspectives so you have a more complete inventory of the interests, abilities, and skills available within the family and/or business operation. Information and insights gained through the self-assessment questions will provide you with background information that will help you identify your goals.

Keep in mind that the self-assessment *is not* intended to tell you that you should or should not continue your present farming operation. It will help identify interests, motivations, skills, and abilities and improve your knowledge of the potential contributions of the persons involved in your farming operation.

### SELF-ASSESSMENT INTEREST AND MOTIVATION QUESTIONS

These questions will help you identify your interests and sources of satisfaction and motivation in farming and in family life. After you have completed these questions and the related summary statements, a second group of questions will help you inventory knowledge, experience, and skill resources that can be important if you are thinking about part-time or full-time employment outside your farming operation.

If you have a spouse, other family member, or business associate who also is participating, *answer these interest and motivation questions without discussing the questions or answers with he/she/them*. You will share responses to the questions and discuss their meanings later in the workshop.

Be as accurate and objective as possible in answering these questions. As best you can, ignore any present worries and concerns. Focus in on the "real you." Respond with the plain, unvarnished truth. You need facts upon which to base your goal identification activities.

Answer all questions that are pertinent to your life. *Skip any question that doesn't apply to you.* In answering the questions, circle the answers that most closely describe your response to the question. Here is the meaning of the answers:

SA	=	strongly agree
А	=	agree
U	=	undecided
D	=	disagree
SD	=	strongly disagree

1.	I'm glad to be living/working on a farm.	SA	А	U	D	SD
2.	On most days, I look forward to doing whatever work needs to be done that day.	SA	А	U	D	SD
3.	I'm satisfied with farming as my life work.	SA	А	U	D	SD
4.	I enjoy farming for the variety of challenges it presents.	SA	А	U	D	SD
5.	I think that farming is the best occupation for me.	SA	А	U	D	SD
6.	I think that being on a farm is the best situation we could have even if our income may be less than it would be if I (we) worked elsewhere.	SA	А	U	D	SD

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7.	I like our home and our style of living.	SA	А	U	D	SD	
8.	It's important to me that our entire family work together in farming activities.	SA	А	U	D	SD	
9.	During busy seasons, farm work comes before family and/or church responsibilities.	SA	A	U	D	SD	
10.	It's not unusual for me to stop work so I can take family members to their high priority activities.	SA	A	U	D	SD	
11.	When money is scarce, basic family needs for food, clothing, shelter, and healthcare must be met. Then, farm operations should get all remaining funds.	SA	A	U	D	SD	
12.	If I have to make a choice between spending on education for family members or spending on farm expenses/machinery, I'll usually spend for farm purposes.	SA	A	U	D	SD	
						12	
	*******						
13.	I like to raise and/or care for livestock.	~ .					
		SA	А	U	D	SD	
14.	I like to raise fruit and/or vegetables.	SA	А	U	D	SD	
15.	I like to raise and harvest grain and forages.	SA	A	U	D	SD	
16.	I like to keep my machinery, equipment, and vehicles in good shape and well-maintained.	SA	А	U	D	SD	
17.	I like to keep the buildings and farm headquarters neat and well maintained	SA	А	U	D	SD	
	**********						
18.	I enjoy the office work required in farming (keeping records, paying bills, etc.).	SA	А	U	D	SD	
19.	I like to buy and sell livestock (livestock products).	SA	А	U	D	SD	
20.	I like to buy and sell fruit, grains, and forages.	SA	А	U	D	SD	

21.	I enjoy trying to keep costs down when purchasing supplies, small equipment, and other inputs.	SA	А	U	D	SD
22.	I enjoy the business dealings such as buying and selling vehicles or equipment and negotiating with lenders and dealers.	SA	А	U	D	SD
23.	I enjoy looking ahead and planning for long-range management decisions.	SA	A	U	D	SD
	*******					
24.	Compared to others, I think I get better deals and/or higher levels of production from livestock	SA	А	U	D	SD
25.	Compared to others with similar operations, I think my net income usually is greater.	SA	А	U	D	SD
26.	Compared to others with similar operations, my debt level is less.	SA	А	U	D	SD
27.	Compared with others in the community, I work more and manage better.	SA	А	U	D	SD
28.	Compared with others in the community, I do better in managing employees.	SA	А	U	D	SD
				÷		
	*******					
29.	I could enjoy working in an occupation other than farming.	SA	А	U	D	SD
30.	I could enjoy working on a farm operated by someone other than myself.	SA	А	U	D	SD
31.	Having at least one family member working off the farm would be a good idea in our family.	SA	А	U	D	SD
32.	I would encourage my spouse to be employed off the farm if he/she wanted to do so.	SA	А	U	D	SD
33	I would encourage my spouse to be employed off the farm only if we had to have more income.	SA	А	U	D	SD

#### \*\*\*\*\*

34.	Before making financial management decisions, I prefer to discuss related issues with family members and/or business associates.	SA	А	U	D	SD
35.	I enjoy developing a step-by-step plan for responding to our farm and home financial management needs.	SA	А	U	D	SD
36.	I am involved with my spouse and/or other family members in planning for retirement.	SA	А	U	D	SD
37.	I am comfortable with our level of communication on family and farming financial issues.	SA	А	U	D	SD
38	I find it relatively easy to work within our plans for spending, borrowing, and debt repayment.	SA	А	U	D	SD
	******					
39.	I am satisfied with educational opportunities now available to the persons in our household.	SA	А	U	D	SD
40.	I am satisfied with my level of involvement in community activities and organizations.	SA	А	U	D	SD
41.	I am satisfied with my level of contact and interaction with friends and family members who do not live with me.	SA	А	U	D	SD
42.	I am satisfied with my opportunities for work, recreation, self-improvement, and service to others.	SA	А	U	D	SD
43.	I am satisfied to live with the level of claims on time and energy that I've had in recent years.	SA	А	U	D	SD

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44.	I enjoy the office work needed to keep our household operating in good shape throughout the year (keeping records, paying bills, etc.).	SA	А	U	D	SD
45.	I enjoy keeping costs down when shopping for food, clothing, supplies, appliances, and household items.	SA	A	U	D	SD
46.	I find it satisfying to do the cooking, cleaning, and managing of time and effort required when running a household.	SA	A	U	D	SD
47.	Farm work is so important that I don't mind changing my daily activity plans to ensure that the needed work is done on time.	SA	А	U	D	SD
48.	I enjoy being the farm "go-fer" during busy seasons so our farm operations can smoothly continue.	SA	A	U	D	SD
49.	I enjoy receiving assistance with household activities and responsibilities during the less busy seasons of the year.	SA	А	U	D	SD

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In the next part of this self-assessment, you can develop written statements to summarize your thinking about nine aspects of your farming and family life experiences. In developing these statements, you will draw on insights evident in your responses to these 49 questions.

#### INTEREST AND PREFERENCE STATEMENTS

In this part of your self-assessment, you will develop a series of nine statements about your farming interests and preferences. Your statements should reflect meanings drawn from responses to the 49 self-assessment questions plus insights from your sharing and discussion. Writing the statements will be easier if you consider the questions and responses in groups as indicated by the list of asterisks. Be sure to follow the discussion rules:

- Be candid, open, and honest with one another;
- Resist the temptation to make value judgments about each other's statements;
- Refrain from reacting until the other person has fully expressed his/her ideas and point of view.

When all the responses have been shared and discussed, write down the most important insights. Remember, each statement should **express in your own words** the interests and preferences of all persons involved in the farming operation. Be sure to record the range of interests and motivations identified by family members and all others involved in farm operations.

Write your statement for each of the nine question clusters set off by the lines of asterisks. Examples are provided for statements one and two to help you visualize the intended results.

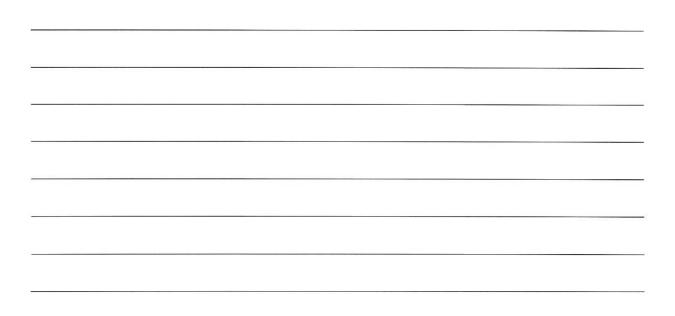
*Statement One* -- Questions 1 through 6 focus on your feelings and reactions to being involved in farming. Discuss your responses to these six questions with others from your farm. Read the example. Write two or three sentences to sum up farm-related interests and motivations of those involved in your operation.

*An Example Statement*: We both enjoy farming and generally look forward to our work. Despite current conditions, we are satisfied with what we are doing and want to continue.

*Statement Two* -- Questions 7 through 12 address your feelings and beliefs about your home, the importance of farm work compared to family life activities, and use of money for farm and family purposes. Discuss individual responses to these questions, then sum them up in two or three sentences here.

An Example Statement: We like to live and work together on our farm. When time or money is scarce, we will take care of necessities, then commit all other effort and money to the farm.

**Statement Three** -- Questions 13 through 17 focus on the types of work that you enjoy (or, do not enjoy). Identify aspects of farming in which persons in your operation have a "built-in advantage" because of their interests. Overall, what can you do *together* if each specializes in doing the things that he or she does well? Sum up your insights in two or three sentences here.



*Statement Four* -- Questions 18 through 23 ask for your reactions to some important management activities. In the same manner as previously, what management activities will be done well if each person does the things that he or she is interested in and able to do? Put your summary here.

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*Statement Five* -- Questions 24 through 28 ask you to make comparison between the results of your farming operations and the results achieved by others with comparable units. Be as objective as possible in summarizing responses to these questions.

**Statement Six** -- Questions 29 through 33 address your interest in working for someone else. This employment could be a means of gaining more income while continuing your present operation, or it could be replacement employment in the event you decide not to continue in farming. Be sure to reflect the interests and preferences of all persons involved in your farming operation and summarize them here.

*Statement Seven* -- Questions 34 through 38 are intended to generate insights indicating your approach to financial decision-making, and the style or approach you use in involving family members in financial decisions. Summarize the insights here.

*Statement Eight* -- Questions 39 through 43 focus on your satisfaction with the farming way of life, and available opportunities for social contacts and self-improvement. Sum up your insights by writing a few sentences here.

**Statement Nine** -- Questions 44 through 49 ask for your reactions to some important household management activities. What can be done well if each person does the things that he or she is interested in and able to do? Put your summary here.

These nine statements provide you with background information for use when you identify goals and set priorities for the future management of your farming operation. If completing these statements has caused you to become aware of other important ideas related to the operation of your farm or your family life, write those additional insights here.

#### INTEREST AND PREFERENCE STATEMENTS RECORD COPY

As a farm management team, discuss the self assessment questions and interest and preference statements of all individuals involved in the operation. Arrive at a set of statements that the whole team can support. Be sure to follow the discussion rules:

- Be candid, open, and honest with one another;
- Resist the temptation to make value judgments about each other's statements;
- Refrain from reacting until the other person has fully expressed his/her ideas and point of view.

When all the responses have been shared and discussed, write down the most important insights. Remember, each statement should **express in your own words** the interests and preferences of all persons involved in the farming operation.

**Statement One** -- Questions 1 through 6 focus on your feelings and reactions to being involved in farming. Discuss your responses to these six questions with others from your farm. Read the example. Write two or three sentences to sum up farm-related interests and motivations of those involved in your operation.

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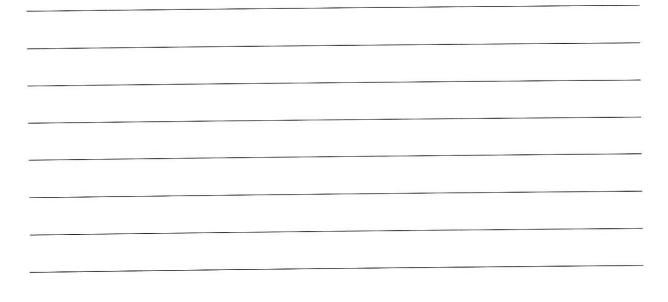
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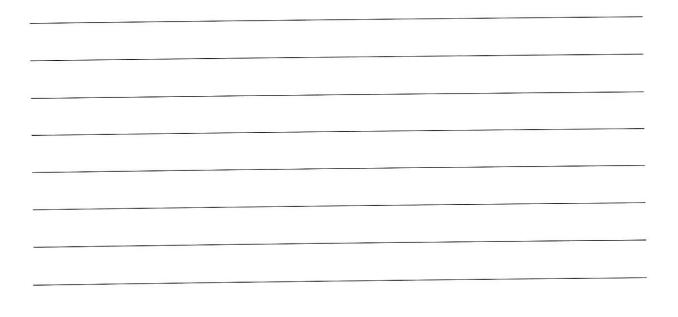
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These nine statements provide you with background information for use when you identify goals and set priorities for the future management of your farming operation. If completing these statements has caused you to become aware of other important ideas related to the operation of your farm or your family life, write those additional insights here.

### LONG-TERM GOALS

#### FOR YOUR FAMILY LIVING & FARMING OPERATIONS

Each person should initially complete this section without discussing it with his/her spouse, other family members, or business associates. Refer back to the insights gained from completing the self-assessment document when writing your goal statement. Select goals that will use the interests, motivations, and abilities of those who work and manage the farm.

Over the next five to ten (or more years), what do you think will be the most important longterm goal for your farming operation?

3

In that same period, what will be your second most important long-term goal for your farming operation?

Over the next five to ten (or more) years, what do you think will be your most important long-term goal for family living?

In that same period, what is your second most important goal for family living during the next five to ten years?

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Several goals that often are identified as important to family living and farming operation goals are listed below. (Some may be virtually the same as the ones you have written out above.) Place a checkmark to the *right* of each one that you feel is important with respect to your own farming operation, and *is not* a goal that you wrote down above (on some you will need to fill in a blank). Add other important goals on the line at the end of this listing:

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Now go back over all the long-term goals for family living and farming that you have identified thus far -- the ones you wrote down *and* ones you marked with a check at the right side of the goal statement. In the blanks next to the left margin, assign to each a ranking number that reflects your view of the importance and/or urgency of each. Put the number "1" beside the one that you think is the most important or urgent, the number "2" beside the next most important, and so forth.

After each person has completed and ranked his/her long-term goal statements, family members and/or business associates can share, compare, and discuss them within the family and business unit. In the discussion:

- Be candid and open and honest with one another;
- Resist the temptation to make value judgments about each other's statements;
- Don't react until the other person has fully expressed his/her ideas and point of view.

Use the record copy on which you enter your family's shared goal statements. Be sure to indicate on the record copy that it is the result of discussions among the persons involved in your farming operation.

When that is done, go on to identify your short-term family living and farming goals.

#### **RECORD COPY-LONG-TERM GOALS**

#### FOR YOUR FAMILY LIVING & FARMING OPERATIONS

Each person should initially complete this section without discussing it with his/her spouse, other family members, or business associates. Refer back to the insights gained from completing the self-assessment document when writing your goal statement. Select goals that will use the interests, motivations, and abilities of those who work and manage the farm.

Over the next five to ten (or more years), what do you think will be the most important longterm goal for your farming operation?

1

In that same period, what will be your second most important long-term goal for your farming operation?

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Over the next five to ten (or more) years, what do you think will be your most important long-term goal for family living?

In that same period, what is your second most important goal for family living during the next five to ten years?

Several goals that often are identified as important to family living and farming operation goals are listed below. (Some may be virtually the same as the ones you have written out above.) Place a checkmark to the *right* of each one that you feel is important with respect to your own farming operation, and *is not* a goal that you wrote down above (on some you will need to fill in a blank). Add other important goals on the line at the end of this listing:

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			weatherstripping, or		by adding insulation,

1

Now go back over all the long-term goals for family living and farming that you have identified thus far -- the ones you wrote down *and* ones you marked with a check at the right side of the goal statement. In the blanks next to the left margin, assign to each a ranking number that reflects your view of the importance and/or urgency of each. Put the number "1" beside the one that you think is the most important or urgent, the number "2" beside the next most important, and so forth.

After each person has completed and ranked his/her long-term goal statements, family members and/or business associates can share, compare, and discuss them within the family and business unit. In the discussion:

- Be candid and open and honest with one another;
- Resist the temptation to make value judgments about each other's statements;
- Don't react until the other person has fully expressed his/her ideas and point of view.

Use the record copy on which you enter your family's shared goal statements. Be sure to indicate on the record copy that it is the result of discussions among the persons involved in your farming operation.

When that is done, go on to identify your short-term family living and farming goals.

#### SHORT-TERM GOALS FOR FAMILY LIVING & FARMING OPERATIONS

The goals that you hope to achieve within the next 1 to 2 years are commonly called "short-term goals." Short-term goals contain a measurable element that you can use to determine whether you have achieved what you hope to do (attain the goal). For example, a short-term goal could be, "reduce debt by \$10,000 this year." When you complete your balance sheet at the end of the year, you will be able to compare your total liabilities at the start of the year with those on the new balance sheet and know if you succeeded in attaining your goal.

As you did before, start this goal identification process by working individually. As soon as each of you has completed it, discuss your goal statements with your spouse and/or business associate and enter the resulting version of goals and rankings on your record copy of this document.

Over the next one/two years, what is your most important short-term goal for the farming operation?

In that same period, what is your next most important short-term goal for the farming operation?

In the next one/two years, what is your most important short-term goal for family living?

In that same period, what is your next most important short-term goal for family living?

Example statements that may be important short-term family living or farming goals are listed below. Place a checkmark to the *right* of each one that you feel is important for you and <u>is not</u> one that you already have written down. Add other important goals on the lines at the end of this listing:

crop year.	acres and rent at least	acres of land during the next
To reduce family co two years.	onsumption expense by at leas	t \$ per year in the next
To reduce operating	g debt by at least \$ per	year in each of the next two years.
		head breeding sows, ing hogs per year by years
To put acre	es under (e.g tile or i	rrigation) within two years.
To transfer years.	_ inanageinent (or ownership)	task(s) to within two
To provide next two years.	_ person(s) with full-time fa	rm-related employment within the
To improve farm ef the next year.	fficiency, upgrade (	equipment or software, etc.) within
To increase next ye	ar's net farm income by \$	*
		nal allowance" (a specified amount eeds to be accounted for to anyone
such as maintenanc		egular, and emergency expenses osses not covered by insurance,
	d in at least one significant co ) goals, health, values, or well	mmunity activity that is important l-being.
	Salah di selata di sala	
have been		

Now go back over your list of short-term goals as you've identified them on this page -- the ones you wrote down and ones you marked with a check at the right side of a printed goal statement. Assign rankings to them by putting numbers in the blanks in the left margin. Put the number "1" beside the one that you think is most important or urgent, the number "2" beside the next most important or urgent, and so forth.

After each person has completed and ranked his/her short-term goal statements, family members and/or business associates can share, compare, and discuss them within the family and business unit. In the discussion:

- Be candid and open and honest with one another;
- Resist the temptation to make value judgments about each others' statements;
- Don't react until the other person has fully expressed his/her ideas and point of view.

Use the record copy on which you enter the goal statements and rankings that you think most suitable for your family living and farming operations. Be sure to indicate on the record copy that it is the result of discussions among the persons involved in your farming operation.

It's important that you do both family living and farming goals. Your farming goals do not stand alone. They generally will be linked to goals for family life through competing claims on your time, effort, money, and management skills. Thus, priorities and decisions reflected in your family and business financial management plan need to recognize your goals for family life <u>and</u> your goals for farming operations.

#### **RECORD COPY -** SHORT-TERM GOALS FOR FAMILY LIVING & FARMING OPERATIONS

The goals that you hope to achieve within the next 1 to 2 years are commonly called "short-term goals." Short-term goals contain a measurable element that you can use to determine whether you have achieved what you hope to do (attain the goal). For example, a short-term goal could be, "reduce debt by \$10,000 this year." When you complete your balance sheet at the end of the year, you will be able to compare your total liabilities at the start of the year with those on the new balance sheet and know if you succeeded in attaining your goal.

As you did before, start this goal identification process by working individually. As soon as each of you has completed it, discuss your goal statements with your spouse and/or business associate and enter the resulting version of goals and rankings on your record copy of this document.

Over the next one/two years, what is your most important short-term goal for the farming operation?

In that same period, what is your next most important short-term goal for the farming operation?

In the next one/two years, what is your most important short-term goal for family living?

In that same period, what is your next most important short-term goal for family living?

Example statements that may be important short-term family living or farming goals are listed below. Place a checkmark to the *right* of each one that you feel is important for you and <u>is not</u> one that you already have written down. Add other important goals on the lines at the end of this listing:

crop year.	acres and rent at least	acres of land during the next
To reduce family co two years.	onsumption expense by at leas	t \$ per year in the next
To reduce operating	g debt by at least \$ per	year in each of the next two years.
		head breeding sows, ing hogs per year by years
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To transfer years.	_ inanageinent (or ownership)	task(s) to within two
To provide next two years.	_ person(s) with full-time fa	rm-related employment within the
To improve farm ef the next year.	fficiency, upgrade (	equipment or software, etc.) within
To increase next ye	ar's net farm income by \$	*
		nal allowance" (a specified amount eeds to be accounted for to anyone
such as maintenanc		egular, and emergency expenses osses not covered by insurance,
	d in at least one significant co ) goals, health, values, or well	mmunity activity that is important l-being.
	Salah di selata di kalendar	
have been		

Now go back over your list of short-term goals as you've identified them on this page -- the ones you wrote down and ones you marked with a check at the right side of a printed goal statement. Assign rankings to them by putting numbers in the blanks in the left margin. Put the number "1" beside the one that you think is most important or urgent, the number "2" beside the next most important or urgent, and so forth.

After each person has completed and ranked his/her short-term goal statements, family members and/or business associates can share, compare, and discuss them within the family and business unit. In the discussion:

- Be candid and open and honest with one another;
- Resist the temptation to make value judgments about each others' statements;
- Don't react until the other person has fully expressed his/her ideas and point of view.

Use the record copy on which you enter the goal statements and rankings that you think most suitable for your family living and farming operations. Be sure to indicate on the record copy that it is the result of discussions among the persons involved in your farming operation.

It's important that you do both family living and farming goals. Your farming goals do not stand alone. They generally will be linked to goals for family life through competing claims on your time, effort, money, and management skills. Thus, priorities and decisions reflected in your family and business financial management plan need to recognize your goals for family life <u>and</u> your goals for farming operations.

### TAB COMMUNICATION

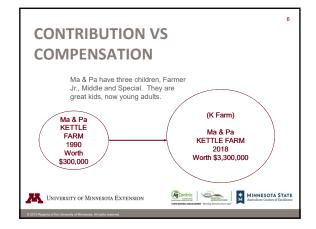




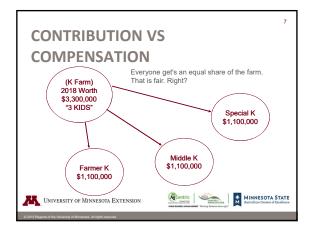


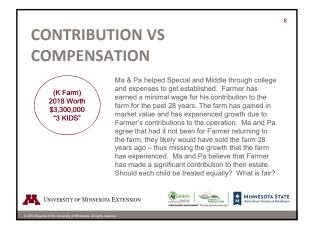


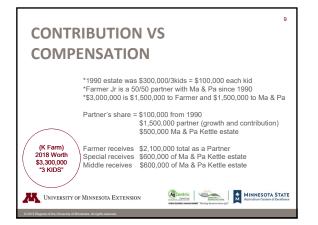


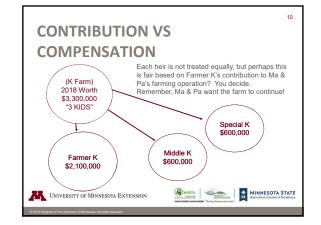


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Sometimes the Most Unfair Thing You Can Do is to Treat All Your Heirs Equally

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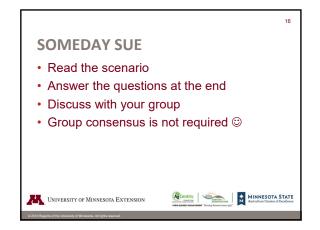
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Agrentric Stretcherver MINNESOTA STATE Agriculture Centers of Excellence









#### SOMEDAY SUE

• Report back by groups on questions one to three.

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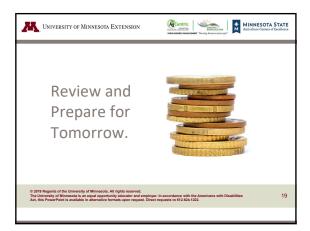
#### SOMEDAY SUE

 What does this scenario tell us about family communications in the farm transition process?

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# "Someday, Sue, this will all be yours..."

This activity has been modified from the original version "Some Day Son – Jimmy" from University of Nebraska Extension Specialist Dave Goeller. Some may remember the 1969 hit song "A Boy Named Sue" by singer Johnny Cash. In 1969, most thought of the farm successor as male. Just like the name Sue - the next generation of farmers is likely to be of either gender. Sue can be thought of as a she or he throughout this document.

Sue Dean is 38 years old, the youngest of the Dean Family. (S)he has been farming with his parents, Bob and Billie Jean Dean, since (s)he graduated from college at age 21. Sue's two older siblings, Franklin Dean (43) and Mary Beth (Dean) Green (46), have both established their careers off of the farm. Franklin operates the local grocery store, and Mary Beth and her husband both work in a manufacturing plant in a neighboring state. Financially, Franklin has done modestly well with his store. While not financially stressed, Mary Beth has not managed to accumulate significant net worth. On the other had Sue Dean has a very comfortable financial status.



Bob and Billie Jean feel strongly that the family's farm operation should be kept in their family. They were very excited that Sue showed an interest in farming after college and have been generous in helping her get on her feet. For the first several years, Sue rented one quarter of her parents' ground at below market rental rates. Sue was also able to use her parents' hog finishing building and equipment without paying her parents building rent.

When equipment started to wear out, Sue replaced it, and now most of the machinery and equipment is in Sue's name. At the same time, Bob and Billie Jean started phasing out their direct involvement in the operation. Four years ago, they sold three quarters of crop ground, the bulk of the farm, to Sue at 85% of appraised valued on a 20 year land contract at a 5.5% rate of interest.









MINNESOTA STATE Agriculture Centers of Excellence

FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT "Serving farmers since 1951"

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Over the years, Franklin and Mary Beth have neither requested nor received much assistance. Their knowledge of Sue's business situation has been obtained primarily through offhand conversations and observation. They know that their parents have tried to help out Sue as much as they could and generally haven't had any problems with that. While they knew that Sue bought the farm from their folks, they didn't know how reasonably until just recently.

Bob and Billie Jean, at age 69, now have a fairly comfortable retirement. They still live on the home farmstead. With social security income, interest from CDs, and the land contract payment, they have plenty of cash to live on. At a recent family gathering, the family discussed Bob and Billie Jean's will. It called for an equal division of the Dean's estate between Mary Beth, Franklin and Sue. Speaking for Franklin and herself, Mary Beth brought up the fact that Bob and Billie Jean had treated Sue very generously already. While it would be difficult to estimate the value of what Sue had received, she contended that in essence, a significant part of the estate had already been transferred to Sue.

Bob and Billie Jean were surprised that their two off-farm children felt this way. Bob asserted that it was their money and they didn't have to leave it to anybody if they didn't want to. Sue felt that Franklin and Mary Beth were jealous of his success and wanted a bigger piece of the pie to make up for their own lack of financial success. Franklin was surprised by the family's strong reaction to their assertion, and Mary Beth is furious that Bob, Billie Jean and Sue won't see their point of view.

Please discuss the following questions. It is not necessary to reach a group consensus.

1. Do you think Bob and Billy Jean are treating their children equitably? Why or why not?

2. What should Franklin and Mary Beth know about the business relationship between Sue and his/her parents?

3. Could the Dean family have better dealt with this issue? How?

4. What does this scenario tell us about family communication in the farm transition process?

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## TAB BUSINESS STRUCTURE













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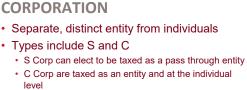


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- Operating assets can go into corporation
- Recommended not to put land in corporation
- Getting in is a tax free event, getting out is not

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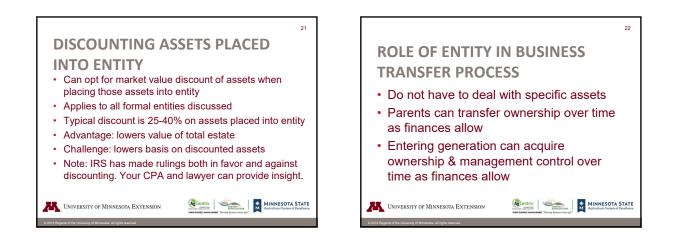
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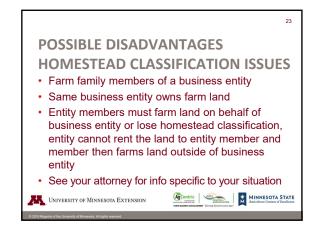
 57
 CORPORATION
 Offers continuation & longevity to the farm business through several generations – individuals can enter and leave without disruption
 Provides liability protection not available to the self-employed individual
 Provides unique operating & tax deduction alternatives
 Corp. may be able to rent land from the shareholders without SE tax (also applies to partnerships, LLC & S corp)
 WIVENITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION



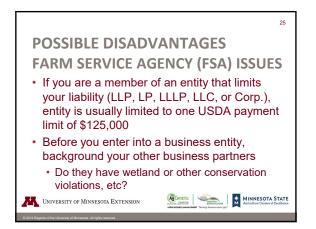










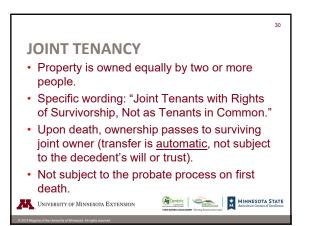


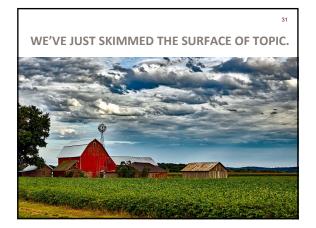








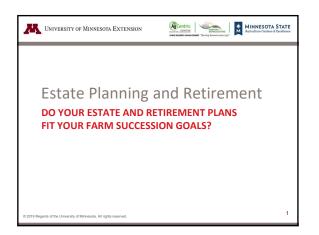






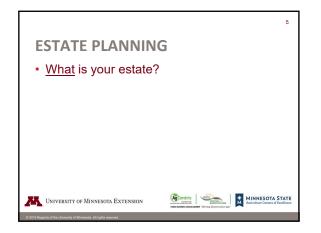


## TAB ESTATE PLANNING

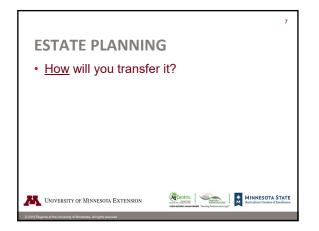








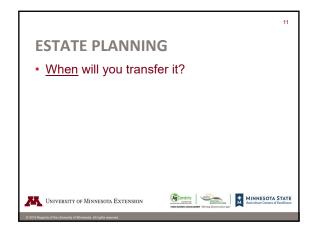




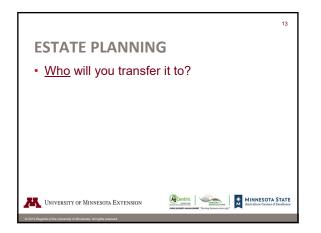




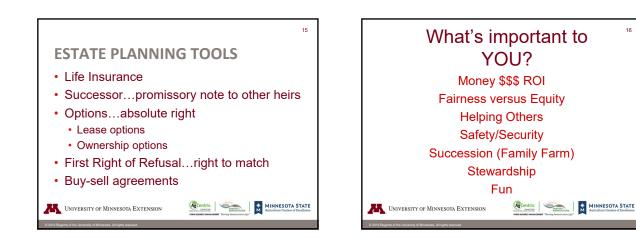


















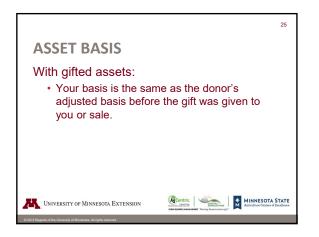


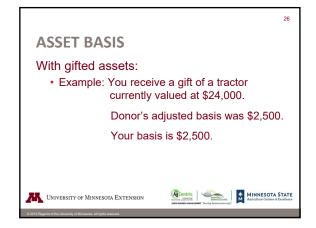






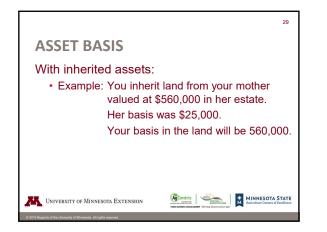






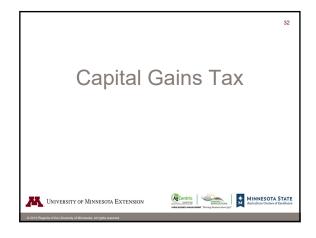


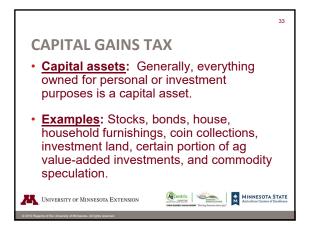


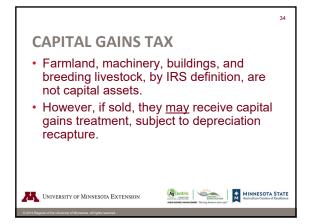


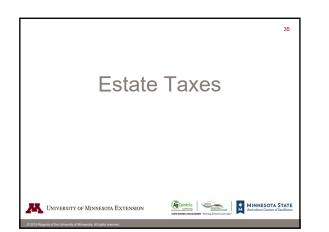




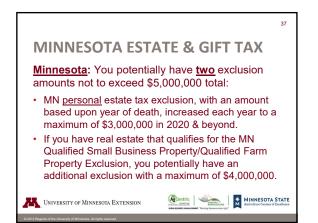




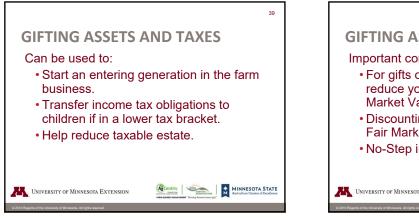






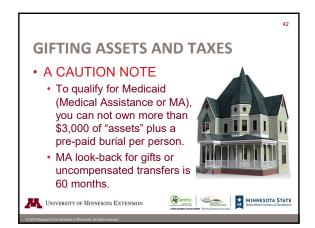


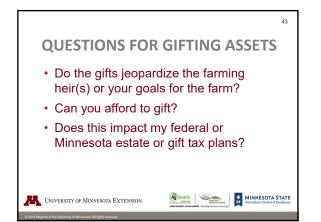


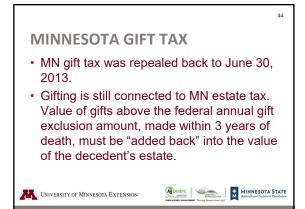






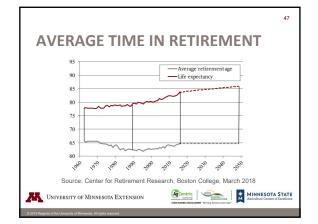


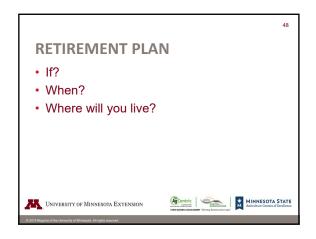


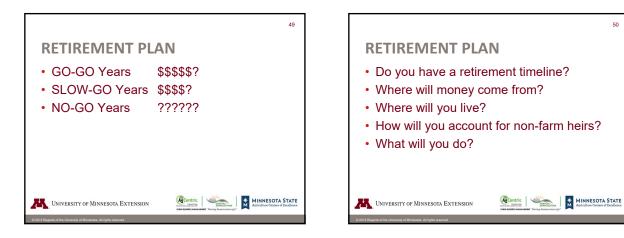




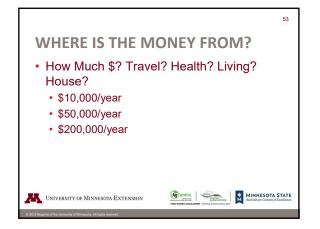














**RETIREMENT PLAN** 

• Retire <u>TO</u> something!!

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

• Don't retire FROM something.

50





58

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%

72%





