LIFESTYLE VALUES AND CHOICES
A SURVEY FOR YOUNGER FARMERS

Rate the importance for you of each item listed below by circling a number (1 = not important; 2 = important, 3 = very important). Then discuss each item with your spouse and/or other family members. Use the survey to become clear about what is most important to you and your family in the farm transfer process.

1 2 3 1. It’s important to have money for vacations, fun activities and home improvements.
1 2 3 2. I am willing to make sacrifices and plow farm income back into the farm the first few years of farming.
1 2 3 3. I am willing to make sacrifices, but I also want to honor my family’s needs for spending money now.
1 2 3 4. I want our children to grow up experiencing the responsibility and other benefits a farm has to offer.
1 2 3 5. I want to build a farm and estate that I can pass on to my children in future years.
1 2 3 6. It’s important to me that the farm and machinery we buy or use is safe for us and our children.
1 2 3 7. I want to maximize production and will use the technologies that will allow me to meet this goal.
1 2 3 8. I want to maximize profits and will do what I can to increase income, cut expenses and meet this goal.
1 2 3 9. I am willing to sacrifice production and/or profits to farm using sustainable methods.
1 2 3 10. I believe you can maximize profits and still farm using sustainable methods.
1 2 3 11. I hope our children will want to farm and will do what I can to pass the farm to them.
1 2 3 12. I hope our children will be able to leave the farm and find satisfying off-farm employment as adults.
1 2 3 13. I want to support my children in their career decision regardless of whether they decide to farm or not.
1 2 3 14. I hope our farm will continue to be farmed after I/we retire.
1 2 3 15. It’s OK with me if our farm goes out of production when I/we quit or retire.
1 2 3 16. I view other farmers in our area as competitors and feel I need to be guarded in my interactions with them.
1 2 3 17. I view other farmers in our area as resources and feel I should reach out to work with them when possible.
1 2 3 18. My primary responsibility is to my farm and family; I don’t have a responsibility to be active in community events.
1 2 3 19. While my farm and family take priority, I also have a responsibility to be
active in community affairs.

20. Farmers need to be actively involved in community affairs if our rural communities are to remain alive and vital.

Developed by Roger T. Williams for “Family Farm Transfers: A Guide for Exiting Farmers”
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