

Section One: Developing a Vision for the Future

Worksheet 1.4

RATING YOUR COMFORT LEVEL

It is a given that risk tolerance differs between generations. The senior members of the farm family are quite justified in their concern about protecting what they have, and confidence in their own ability to manage resources to meet their own needs sometimes eclipses their ability to transfer management to the next generation. Likewise, the younger members can see the necessity that their ideas and energy be put to work earlier to grow and secure their income interests. Agreement is not easy, but exposing risk tolerance levels can help each generation understand the other and identify strategies to manage risk. The table below contains a list of possible actions for your farm during/after the farm transition process starts. Please rate your personal level of comfort for each of these actions on a scale of 0-10 (Zero indicates you are very uncomfortable with taking that action; 10 indicates you are extremely comfortable with taking that action). Each member of the family that is interested in managing the farm should fill out this form and compare. Add your numerical responses, and divide by eleven (11), the resulting figure is your “risk basis” of how far each of you have to go in reaching a consensus. Use each statement above as a platform to discuss your ideas on changes you would make in management of the farm resources.

Expanding the size of the current operation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Reducing the size of the current operation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Taking on added debt to expand	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Adding new enterprises	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Eliminating one or more enterprises	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Making dramatic changes to the operation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Taking more time away from the operation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Increasing the amount of labor you provide to the operation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Increasing your managerial responsibilities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Relinquishing managerial responsibilities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10