

If you're the current generation looking to start the conversation about transitioning the family farm, here are some thoughtful and respectful questions you can use.

Understanding Their Interest & Commitment

- 1 “I’ve been thinking a lot about the future of the farm. What are your hopes for it?”
- 2 “Do you see yourself involved in the farm long-term? What role(s) do you want to play?”
- 3 “Farming has changed a lot since I started. What ideas do you have for moving the farm forward?”

Discussing Transition & Responsibilities

- 4 “I’d like to start stepping back in certain areas. Are there parts of the farm you’d like to take more responsibility for?”
- 5 “What skills or experience do you feel you need to be fully ready to run the farm?”
- 6 “Would you be open to working on a transition plan together so we can make this as smooth as possible?”

Talking About Ownership & Financial Planning

- 7 “We should talk about how the farm will be passed down. Have you thought about how ownership might look in the future?”
- 8 “What concerns do you have about taking over? I want to make sure we address them early.”
- 9 “Farm finances are complex, and I want to help set you up for success. Would you be open to meeting with an advisor together?”

Retirement & Legacy

- 10 “I’m starting to think about retirement. What do you think that transition should look like?”
- 11 “I want to make sure the farm stays strong for the next generation. How can we work together to make that happen?”
- 12 “What traditions or values do you think are important to keep as you take on more responsibility?”

Encouraging Open Communication

- 13 “I know these conversations aren’t always easy, but I want to make sure we plan ahead. How do you feel about having regular check-ins?”
- 14 “What’s one thing we could start doing now to make this transition smoother for everyone?”

- 15 “This farm has been my life’s work, and I want to see it succeed for years to come. How can we work together to make that happen?”