

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

## Expressing Interest & Understanding the History and Vision

- 1 “I really love being part of the farm and want to see it thrive for years to come. What are your hopes for its future?”
- 2 “What do you see as the biggest challenges and opportunities for the farm in the next 5–10 years?”
- 3 “I’d like to understand the history of our farm and how we got to where we are today. What do I need to know?”
- 4 “How did you envision the farm staying in the family when you first started?”

## Talking About Transition Planning

- 8 “I know farm transitions can be complicated, and I want to make sure we’re all on the same page. Have you talked to anyone about our transition plan?”
- 9 “How do you feel about gradually shifting some management or ownership responsibilities?”
- 10 “Would you be open to discussing long-term financial plans to ensure the farm stays successful?”

## Encouraging Open Communication

- 14 “I know these conversations can be hard, but I want to make sure we’re planning ahead together. What’s the best way to start?”
- 15 “What’s one thing we can do now to start preparing for a smooth transition?”

## Discussing Transition & Responsibilities

- 5 “I’d love to take on more responsibility. Are there specific areas where you could see me stepping up?”
- 6 “What skills or knowledge do you think I need to develop to be ready for leadership?”
- 7 “Could we start setting up a plan for how decision-making might evolve over time?”

## Addressing Retirement & Legacy

- 11 “What does retirement look like for you? How can I help make that a reality?”
- 12 “What’s most important to you in passing down the farm—financial security, family involvement, keeping the land in production?”
- 13 “I want to honor everything you’ve built. What traditions or values do you want to see continue?”

- 16 “I don’t want to rush anything, but I’d love to have regular check-ins to talk about the future of the farm and everyone’s role within it. Can we set up a schedule for discussion?”