

# 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.

- 1 2 3 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"*  
*Adapted from "Farm Transfers in Wisconsin — A Guide for Farmers"*