



THE BALING WIRE

Winter 2006 Edition

Questions and Answers About Estate Planning for Colorado Ranchers and Farmers (Part 2 of 2)

This edition of "The Baling Wire" is a continuation of the fall edition. Again Dr. Bob Fetsch will respond to some of the questions that Colorado AgrAbility has received concerning estate planning.



Dr. Bob Fetsch is the director of the Colorado AgrAbility Project and is an Extension Specialist and Professor in the Department of Human Development & Family Studies at Colorado State University. He was raised on a small dairy farm. He has been working with farm and ranch families to assist them in improving their communication skills about estate planning since 1985.

1) How do you handle members of a family who don't buy into the "vision thing" that you have for the estate?

Go back and hold more family meetings with all the major stakeholders in your family. Talk about your vision and listen to theirs. Strive for consensus, that is a simple, one-sentence summary of your family's shared family vision. One family's vision was "We want our family ranching to be harmonious, consensual, enjoyable, and profitable." Having a shared family vision gets the "buy in" by all major stakeholders. Having it short makes it one that everyone can remember and think about each day. Making it into a plaque that hangs above the door is a good way to remind all family members each morning as they start their work to remember to work today to achieve their shared family vision. Strive to accomplish this in your family meetings. If your family is still "stuck in conflict," seek the assistance of a family consultant who will serve as a facilitator for a family meeting or two.

Colorado AgrAbility Workshops!

Information relevant to Colorado's farm and ranch families hosted at cities near you!

This year the workshops will include information about AgrAbility & Managing Arthritis.

The workshops will also highlight equipment designed to make your farm and ranch work easier and more efficient.

Please call Dr. Bob Fetsch at 970-491-5648 for more information!

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2) What steps can farm or ranch families take to communicate more clearly?

First, set up some family rules to make your family meetings safe places for people to talk and listen. Agree on some family rules. Five rules that many families have found helpful are as follows:

- I won't use what is said here against you later.
- I will listen so well that I can repeat back to the speaker's satisfaction what s/he says and feels rather than lose my temper, yell, scream, or get violent.
- I will give no blame, no shame, and no violence.
- I will ask directly for what I want rather than force another person to accept my way.
- When we get angry, I will call for a "time out" to cool down, relax, and set a time when we'll get back together to talk further.

Begin with a "we-can-solve-this-problem-together" attitude. Listen so well that you can repeat back to the speaker's satisfaction what they say, feel, and want. Use the 10 problem-solving steps when necessary and use conflict management strategies. See <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/consumer/10238.html> . Hold effective family meetings. See <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/consumer/10249.html> .

3) What is the single greatest challenge facing family estate planning?

The single greatest challenge facing family estate planning in my experience is for us men to face it-We're going to die some day! We're going to have to say goodbye to this land, this farm or ranch that we've worked so hard to keep and care for. This is tough! Few of us want to face this issue. Those of us who are willing can give the best gift of all to our spouse and our children. We can start by writing down what we really want for the future of this place. Think who in the family is the best person with whom you can share your thoughts. Also, who is the best outside resource person whom you can call on for their expertise to assist you? Let's do it! Our children will be glad we did (although they'll probably never tell us!)



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4) What's the greatest asset that farming and ranching families should leverage into this estate planning process?

Most farm and ranch families' greatest asset is that they are tough, strong, hard-working, determined, and resilient families. They care deeply about the work they do. They work and play side-by-side, day in and day out. They have an opportunity for closeness, camaraderie, shared dreams, and hopes that other families may be too busy, too rushed to appreciate, celebrate and savor.



5) What are some additional resources related to estate planning for farm and ranch families?

- <http://www.joe.org/joe/1999june/iw2.html>
- <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/consumer/10217.html>
- <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/consumer/10255.html>
- <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/consumer/10201.html>
- <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/consumer/10256.html>
- <http://www.cahs.colostate.edu/hdfs/faculty/fetsch/>

Colorado AgrAbility is a joint program between Colorado State University Cooperative Extension and Colorado Easter Seals. The goal of AgrAbility is to maximize independence of farmers, ranchers, and their families who are facing new obstacles due to injury, illness, or normal wear and tear on the body by providing

For more information please contact **Jason Beck, Project Coordinator**, at 303-937-7713 x224 or **Bill Tiffany, Rural Rehabilitation Specialist**, at 303-937-7713 x233. Or, if you prefer email, please contact Jason at jbeck@eastersealscolorado.org or Bill at btiffany@eastersealscolorado.org. For TTY/ASCHII please call 303-232-5685

COLORADO AGRABILITY PROJECT

Creating solutions, changing lives.

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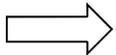
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<http://hdfs.cahs.colostate.edu/Pages/Faculty/fetsch/agrability.htm>

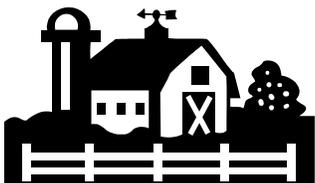


This year's free educational workshops are off to a great start. Each year they are offered throughout Colorado for farm and ranch families with disabilities and for professionals who work with them. This year's morning workshops for ranch and farm families with disabilities will be on "AgrAbility & Managing Arthritis." This year's afternoon workshops for professionals who work with farm and ranch families with disabilities will be on "AgrAbility & Utilizing Arthritis Resources for Ranchers and Farmers with Disabilities." We look forward to seeing you at a workshop near you!

This winter's Colorado AgrAbility Workshops continue as scheduled:

- Thurs. January 19, 2006, Trinidad, Trinidad Junior College, 600 Prospect Ave.
- Tues. January 24, 2006, Monte Vista, San Luis Valley Info. Center, 947 1st Ave.
- Tues. February 7, 2006, Fort Collins, Colorado Welcome Center, 3745 E. Prospect
- Wed. February 8, 2006, Strasburg, Adams County Community Bldg., 2550 Strasburg Mile Road
- Tues. February 21, 2006, Craig, Moffat County Extension, 539 Barclay St.
- Thurs. February 23, 2006, Delta (For ranch and farm families only), Delta/Montrose Vocational Technical Center, 1765 U.S. Hwy. 50

If you know that you are attending please pre-register with Bob Fetsch or for more information, call/e-mail at 970-491-5648, fetsch@cahs.colostate.edu.



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