

**New Farmers,
New Generation**

Marion Bowlan

**Pennsylvania
Farm Link**

ness they built, and you have genuine reasons why the junior generation is left wondering.

As difficult as these decisions are to address, avoiding or delaying the process only compounds the problems. Passing on the business means an ending and a beginning. With this change there is a sense of loss, an end to old ways, patterns, and ideas. The next generation will want to do things their way.

Letting go will be difficult — after all, this has been your life's work. The easier way out is to just wait around and let someone else decide.

Being reluctant to step down and turn the business that has been your life's work over to someone else, even your own children, is understandable. However, failing to make a plan for succession can have dire consequences on the family and the farm.

Letting go is not only restricted to the senior generation, the junior generation has issues, too.

So who needs to let go of what and how do we let go?

- Children need to let go of being taken care of and being children. When you are an adult, it's time to behave as one.

- Children need to let go of the idea that their parents can, should, or will treat them equally. Assisting one child in the farm business does not imply or mean that you love that child more, only that a way was found to continue with the farm operation.

- Parents need to let go of the idea that their children will run the operation just like they did. Change is inevitable, even healthy.

- Parents need to let go of the idea that they can protect their children from the uncertainty, stress, and pain in starting their own farm business.

- Everyone needs to accept each other for who they are and stop trying to change each other.

- Everyone needs to let go of trying to control the other and doing things their way.

- Everyone needs to let go of always being right.

- Families need to trust each other to deal with life the best way they know how.

Letting go can also have its rewards. You have opened the door for renewal and, we hope, viability of the farm business for the new generation. What better legacy can you leave behind?

To learn more about farm transfers, plan to attend one or more of Pennsylvania Farm Link's "Passing on the Farm" workshops scheduled this fall and winter: Nov. 18 in Meadville, Nov. 20 in Sheloceta, Dec. 16 in Chambersburg, Jan. 20 in Leesport, Jan. 27 in Troy, and sometime in February in the Lancaster area.


LETTING GO
If you asked the junior generation of a multifamily farm operation what was the most important question they had in a farm transfer, nine times out of 10 they would respond, "When will I be able to take over?"

Ask the senior generation and they might say, "Do I have enough money to take care of myself until I die?"



Add dealing with the nonfarm children, an inability to let go of the control of the checkbook or the decision-making on a busi-

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Chamber To Honor Farming Tradition

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Agriculture Industry Banquet is scheduled Monday, Nov. 24 at Willow Valley Resort and Conference Center at 5 p.m. Tickets for the event are available.

The theme, "Embracing Change," captures the rapid changes in today's agriculture industry and the need for professionals in this industry to embrace change to ensure continued success.

Popular speaker, author, and media personality Jolene Brown will address attendees' concerns regarding how to balance traditional and modern attitudes, perspectives, methods, and marketplaces in today's fast-paced agriculture industry during her keynote presentation, "Normal Doesn't Live Here Anymore."

The event will include recognition of the outstanding accomplishments of our local agriculture community. The Chamber will honor the recipient of the George C. Delp Award, recognizing an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to Lancaster County agriculture, and the recipients of the Century Farm Award, recognizing families who have continuously operated their family farm for a hundred years or more.

Tickets for the banquet are \$40 each for members (\$55 for non-members) and include a pre-dinner reception. To register, visit www.lancasterchamber.com/ag or contact June Mengel, agriculture services manager, at (717) 397-3531 ext. 134 or ag@lcci.com.


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PMMB Sets Hearing

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board will conduct a public hearing for Milk Marketing Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, on Dec. 3. The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony and exhibits concerning the continuation of the Class I over-order premium scheduled to expire Dec. 31, and whether an adjustment should be made to the level of the over-order premium. The hearing will begin at 9 a.m. in Room 202 of the Agriculture Building, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg.



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