

December 23, 2019
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Holiday Conversation

Here we are at the end of the year, and Christmas is right here. Maybe as you read this your Christmas Family time has already taken place, but maybe it has yet to happen. With so many families to coordinate around dinners and opening of gifts, some Christmas celebrations are a little later.

In recent weeks I have talked about the program that we are now in the middle of that is discussing Estate Planning. This past week we met for the second session and had some interesting discussion and observations. Mind you, this is either my sixth or seventh of these programs that I have been a part of during my career in extension. With that said, I am excited when I hear something new, so I thought I would share it with you this week. All of what I am about to share is not new to me, but some is.

Christmas is a time when most family members will be together, while it is not a great subject to talk about during the holidays, it is never a good time to discuss your death. However, it is a good time when everyone is in one place to discuss things that will be part of passing the business or farm business onto the next generation. Remember equal and fair do not mean the same thing. If it was that simple, we can all simply use a calculator to divide the total by the number of kids.

The farm business, in most cases, can not stand to be divided into 2 parts, let alone 3 or 4 parts and remain in business. That would hold true for most any business. A furniture store, a jewelry store, a construction company, etc. would not likely survive being divided.

In the class we have discussed issues concerning continuing the business and how the other heirs can be treated fairly without sacrificing the business. We have also discussed that if everyone is involved in at least discussion about the plan, some issues can be resolved with simple communication. One of those things would be to find out what everyone is thinking and what they might want or cherish. I am talking about little things here, not big things. Maybe grandpa's watch or grandma's dishes. You may find out that only one wants a certain thing and it may not be the child you thought would want it. This would probably be best done with a pencil and paper. Have each child make a list of 5 or 10 things that are important to them and then discuss. You might be surprised.

One assignment that I gave the class was to make a list of things that they thought was important enough to specify in their estate plan. What assets would be included. I think that is a good place to start for each of us. Then that list can be added to as you think of additional things. This may save you significant time and money when you go to start the process with an attorney.

Something new to me was thinking about and writing down things like combinations to the safe, where the septic tank is, when the septic tank was last serviced, where you have money in which banks, your passwords on your email and facebook, if you have cash hid in the house or barn, etc.



Sit down and tell someone where this stuff is. Tell them where the water line runs, tell them where you have something in storage. Tell them which tractor you have to keep an eye on the oil level, or the gear oil in the front left wheel. Also tell them where you have written down everything that they may need to know quickly.

Our speaker last week told that he keeps a notebook. The notebook has all of the things I just mentioned and then some. Things like life insurance policies, funeral instructions or anything else that you need to be able to share when you will no longer be able to do so.

Pesticide Re-certification

The Adams County Re-certification will include Fertilizer and Pesticide on Thursday January 9 at Frisch's in West Union. YOU MUST pre-register by calling Barbie at the OSU Extension Office and there will be a fee of \$10 for Fertilizer only, and \$35 for Pesticide including Fertilizer. Call the office at 544-2339 or stop by at the Adams County Government Annex to register.

Other locations and dates in surrounding counties include:

OSU South Centers on December 19 beginning at 5:00 p.m. call 740-354-7879

Highland County Extension Office on Jan. 15, in Hillsboro starting at noon, call 393-1918

Brown County Fairgrounds on March 19 at 5:30 p.m., call 378-6716

Dates to Remember

Jan. 9 Pesticide Re-certification at Frisch's. You must pre-register at 544-2339.

Jan. 16 Pesticide and Fertilizer Testing for Private and Commercial Applicators at the Old Y Restaurant at noon. Register by calling ODA at 800-282-1955 or online go to <http://pested.osu.edu>