

Legacy Project Workshops Kick Off

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“We’re going to look at where you, your family and your operation are today and where you want to be tomorrow,” Kevin Spafford told the crowd at a recent Farm Journal Legacy Project workshop. “Succession planning is the road map for you getting there.”

More than 150 family farmers convened in Middleton, Wis.; Owatonna, Minn.; and Sioux Falls, S.D., for the first of many Legacy Project workshops to be held across the country. Attendees shared their thoughts as Spafford guided them through the issues of succession planning. His advice focused on how a family can breach the topic of succession planning, who should be involved in family discussions and, finally, how to set up a formal family meeting complete with succession planning facilitators.

Through the day-long workshops, Spafford expanded on the five key elements of a succession plan: leadership development from one generation to the next; ownership transition of assets; financial security; estate planning strategies; and business growth and development. The workshops help create something of a network among the attendees, and the participants share their personal stories with each other during breaks throughout the day.

“What’s so good about this workshop is the input by the participants,” says Linda Johanson of Hadley, S.D., who attended with her son Doug. “There are a lot people in the same boat.”

—Tom Dodge

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**Sign Up to Attend a
Legacy Project Workshop**

Week of July 19, 2010	Week of Aug. 23, 2010
■ Lincoln, Neb.	■ Wichita, Kan.
■ Des Moines, Iowa	■ Columbia, Mo.
■ Champaign, Ill.	

To register, go to www.FarmJournalLegacyProject.com/events.