

MENTORING

Succeeding Generations Initiatives Project

Program Overview

A young farmer applicant will be matched with an experienced farmer or retired farmer who will provide advice and assistance regarding specific issues and subject areas that have been identified by the young farmer.

- Each young farmer participant will develop an initial evaluation of their farm situation.
- The program will match a mentor to each participant with the role of the mentor customized to each participant's specific needs as identified in the initial evaluation and through discussions with MAFRI representatives.
- Based on his or her experience and knowledge, the mentor will provide one-on-one consultation in developing problem analysis, choices and potential solutions to the specific questions and issues raised by the young farmer client.
- Although the program is primarily focused at fostering growth and development within a participant's farm, mentorship may also be used to develop or enhance a participant's community leadership skills and capacity.
- If deemed useful due to unique circumstances, more than one mentor may be chosen to assist a participant.
- The mentor can only provide professional advice in areas where he or she is appropriately qualified. If professional legal, accounting or financial advice is required, the mentor will refer the young farmer participant to appropriate professional advisory services.
- If the young farmer participant is involved in a farm that includes additional generations and/or partners, additional consideration and management will be given during the mentor selection phase to insure that family dynamics are recognized and accommodated.
- Financial assistance in the form of an honorarium and coverage of travel expenses is available to mentors on an optional basis. However, mentoring is closely associated with neighborliness and volunteering. Rural communities depend heavily on these traits which are fundamental to the social and economic fabric of the communities. The volunteer nature of this mentoring program is reinforced.

