

MENTORING

Succeeding Generations Initiatives Project

Young Farmer Participants

- Young farmer participants need to apply to the program.
- A young farmer participant is defined as farms where one of the principal managers/operators, including, for example, either wife or husband, is under 40 years of age. This age will not be restrictive and the program can assist farmer participants who are 40 years old or older. New and beginning farmers who have only a few years of active farming experience are welcome to participate.
- The young farmer application form will provide an initial evaluation of the farm situation. Specifically:
 - Contact information.
 - Description of current farm assets and resources including people. Brief commentary on important successes and challenges.
 - Description of future plans and goals including production, marketing, family and lifestyle, resource management and new or different ventures that they are interested in exploring.
 - Identification of specific issues and questions for a mentor's advice and guidance.
 - Comment on educational and training courses already completed and description of the most effective learning experiences.
 - Signature.
- Prior to receiving acceptance into the program, each applicant will need to participate in the program's training and orientation process.
- The provincial program coordinator will provide written notification to each accepted participant.
- The participant will enter into an agreement with the mentor that will include specific questions and issues on which the participant is seeking advice and guidance from the mentor as well as defining a time period for the mentoring process.

- If the participant develops additional questions or issues after entering into the agreement with a mentor, the MAFRI contact person will be contacted for assistance. This situation may be managed by developing a new agreement, amending the existing agreement or selecting an additional mentor.
- On a regular basis, but no less frequently than every four months, the participant and the mentor will separately evaluate progress being made as a result of the mentor relationship. The evaluation will be completed in a prescribed written format.

Young farmer participants need to take full responsibility for decisions. Neither the mentor nor the program should be held liable for the results or consequences of decisions.