

**Securing Your Farm's Financial Future
AgSave\$ Summit, Workshop Offered for Florida Farm Families**

Farm families face unique issues concerning retirement and planning for who will own or manage the farm when the current owner is no longer able. To help with this important process, the University of Florida IFAS Extension faculty in the Panhandle are offering a newly developed personal finance and succession planning program for Florida farmers and their families called AgSave\$. Farmers and their families involved with any agricultural industry are invited to join our Florida Commissioner of Agriculture, Adam Putnam, in a proclamation for the kick-off event, the AgSave\$ Summit, at the UF/IFAS Extension Jackson County office Feb. 23 from 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. in Marianna, Florida or at the "satellite site" located at the Jay Extension Office, 5259 Booker Lane in Jay. This first event is free of charge, and will focus on the importance of succession planning. Lunch is provided, sponsored by Farm Credit of Northwest Florida and America Saves. Registration for the AgSave\$ Summit is offered online at www.eventbrite.com/e/agsave-summit-tickets-15211456877 or by calling UF/IFAS Santa Rosa County Extension office at (850) 623-3868.

Following the initial summit, an AgSave\$ Workshop Series begins March 24. This four session series of interactive workshops will focus on the basics of securing your farm's financial future and will be offered locally at the . The cost of this series is \$55 for up to four family members. In addition to learning from our featured speakers, which are experts in the field of financial planning, participants will receive a "Farm Journal Legacy Project Workbook" to help walk your family through the succession planning process.

Farming is a business which has evolved into more than just a way of life. Now, successful farming includes in-depth financial planning, implementing and evaluating new enterprises, new techniques, new tools, and planning future ownership and management of the farmstead. Many times unfortunately, "exit" strategies for retirement and succession of leadership are often overlooked. The question, "Who will continue the farm?" is just as important as assessing the value of land, equipment, and livestock. The first step, which is often the hardest, in building a succession plan is to include and communicate with family members about the process.

For more information on these programs, please feel free to contact the Santa Rosa County Extension Office at (850) 623-3868.

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