

Farm Transitions and Succession Planning

Purc-Stephenson et al. (2025)

OBJECTIVES

- What are farmers' priorities for developing a succession plan?
- What are the barriers and facilitators to developing a succession plan?
- What resources would they find helpful?

FINDINGS

- Identified 5 main priorities (maintain family legacy + land ownership, ensuring financial viability were top issues)
- Identified 7 barriers or facilitators to developing a succession plan:



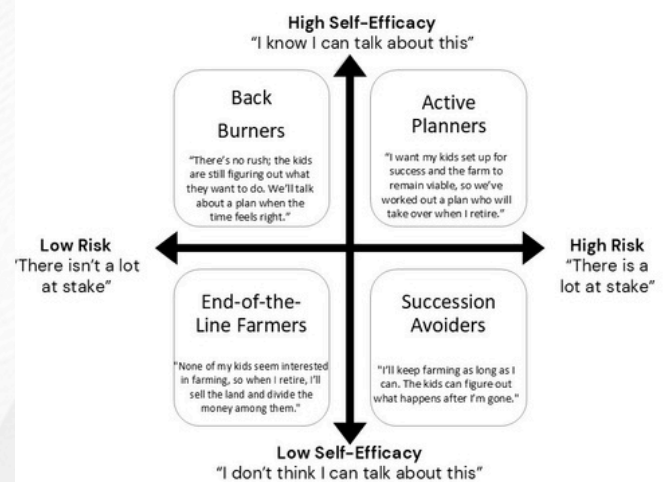
- A common response from farm operators:

"Well, there's definitely nothing on paper, that's for sure. You know, I'm just sort of mulling things around in my own mind"
(Farm Operator, Farm Family A)



METHODS

- Interviewed 35 farmers across AB from 16 farm families
- At least 2 people from each farm family were interviewed separately
- From the themes, we identified 2 key variables influencing succession planning (risk, self-efficacy)
- These variables were used to create a farmer readiness framework



Key Takeaways

- 25% of farmers interviewed had a succession plan
- 10 recommendations to support farmers initiate or continue a succession plan