



Nebraska

What to Do When You Are Not In Control!

Effective communication between family members is one of the biggest obstacles to successfully transferring a ranch to future generations. When communication fails, the success of the ranch is in jeopardy as well as their family relationships. In Nebraska, Sandhill ranchers took part in a series of workshops sponsored by Nebraska Extension, which was designed to assist them through this communication and business transition process.

According to project directors, Bethany Johnston and Jay Jenkins, these workshops were an intensive effort to empower the "Sandwich Generation", or those caught in the middle, to initiate a successful

transfer plan. A total of 154 participants attended workshops, 66 families were provided "communication assistance", 25 families obtained legal/financial advice, 10 families scheduled a meeting, and 10 families consulted one-on-one with an attorney/financial advisor before heading out to craft their own transition plan.

Many participants belonged to the generation that owned the farm/ranch, however, many families brought multiple generations to the workshops. Families expressed their need for education in communication, many feeling they just needed a push to gain the courage to open the lines of communication and start a transition discussion. One ranch family worked through their communication issues and put together a ranch transition plan which assists their on-ranch heir in the ability to buy-out his siblings following their parent's death. The on-ranch heir stated, "I estimate the new estate plan and the information we learned during these meetings has potentially saved me over \$3.2 million in future payments to my siblings."

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"My new estate plan and the information I learned during these meetings has saved me over \$3.2 million in future payments to my siblings."

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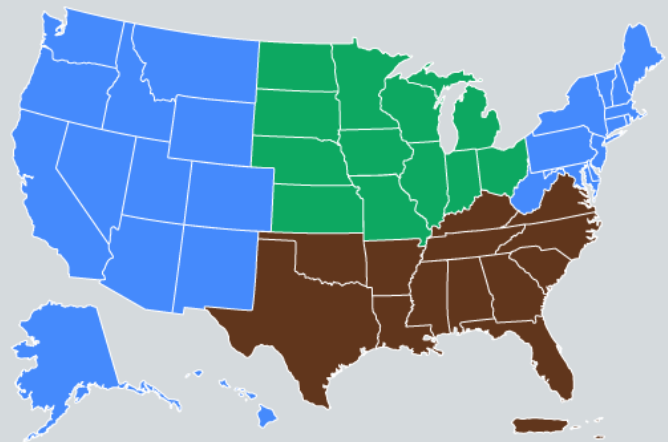
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**“Educating America’s farmers and ranchers
to manage the unique risks of producing food
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Extension Risk Management Education (ERME) is delivered through four regional centers that provide grant funding and leadership within their regions.

Projects are producer-focused, results-based and encourage public-private partnerships. Funded projects must identify targeted results that will help producers manage risk and then describe how the project will measure those results.

Extension Risk Management Education has funded innovative programs that have generated tangible results for producers in every state. ERME is committed to funding results, providing transparent accountability, and encouraging collaboration. View the accomplishments of all funded projects on our website. <http://ExtensionRME.org>



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University of Nebraska
Dept. of Agricultural Economics
303 Filley Hall
Lincoln, NE
68583-0922

(402) 472-1742
NCERME.org



**NORTHEAST
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University of Delaware
Dept. of Applied Economics
and Statistics
112 Townsend Hall
Newark, DE
19716-2130

(302) 831-6540
NERME.org



**SOUTHERN
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EDUCATION**

2301 South University Ave.
Little Rock, AR
72204

(501) 671-2165
SRMEC.uark.edu



**WESTERN
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222 N. Havana St.
Spokane Valley, WA
99202

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