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This update is designed to provide you with concise, up to date agricultural business information with links to where you can find the details.

NEW FARM SUCCESSION COURSES SET TO ROLL

The OATI Learning Group, with support from Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) through the Agricultural Management Institute (AMI) program under the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF), has created two new farm succession planning courses for farm advisors.

Introduction to Farm Succession Planning

The Introduction course will:

- provide participants with a general awareness of family farm succession planning issues and
- begin to develop the skill sets and knowledge to answer some common questions about farm succession.

This introductory course will be offered through two formats.

One-Day Face-To-Face Classroom Session.

The pilot for this will take place on January 18 in Guelph. **The cost for the pilot only is \$65 + GST.** Space is limited, so register early. Depending upon demand, additional sessions will be offered later in 2006 but these will be at a higher rate.

Web Classroom

The web classroom mechanism offers advisors from all across Ontario access to the course right at their home or office computer through this web classroom environment. Participants will have live audio and video, and direct communication with the instructor and other classmates. This unique new web technology works over dial-up connections, as well as high speed connections. This course will be delivered one evening per week over 4 weeks—**Wednesdays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on February 22 and March 1, 8 and 15.**

The cost for the web classroom course is \$199 + GST with a \$100 refund for the first 22 participants in each session, who complete the course and its evaluation.

Advanced Succession Planning for Farm Advisors

The “Advanced Succession Planning for Farm Advisors” will be an intensive, interactive, multi-disciplinary course offered only as a 1.5-day face-to-face classroom course in mid-late May 2006. Major components of this course will relate to the handling of conflict, group interaction, values, family readiness, communications and goal setting.

Applications have been made for Professional Development Continuing Education (CE) credits. Please check the OATI website at www.oati.com for current information about these CE and also for further details on the content of these courses.

For further information about any of these courses or to register contact Lee Davis at davis@oati.com or (519) 763-3160 or 1-800-668-6284, extension 222.

Thanks for reading the OMAFRA Business Update. If you have any questions or comments about this email update contact the editor, Rob Gamble at rob.gamble@omafra.gov.on.ca.

Looking for more information? Visit the OMAFRA website at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca> or the Business Development site at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/agbusdev.html>