

A Word of Thanks

By [Lance Woodbury](#)

In last month's *Dispatch*, we asked for the topics readers want to see covered in future editions. We received many thoughtful replies, including suggestions of leaders to feature in our "Guiding Principles" section. We look forward to covering these issues in the coming months:

- Regaining family harmony after conflict, or maintaining harmony after the senior generation steps away, and generally improving relationships and building trust. Also, how to encourage and practice forgiveness.
- Tools and suggestions for starting a business with a small family, or even merging farming operations. Encouraging family members to return or stay in the business amidst the government and regulatory hurdles a small business faces.
- Coaching and encouraging the younger generation with a different style, while instilling the founder's philosophy without feeling that you are "imposing" the senior generation's desires. Making transition progress while acknowledging younger and older family members are in different life stages.
- Mentoring others, teaching lessons of success and the benefits of a career in agriculture.
- Finding and keeping good talent, including bringing non-family members into ownership.
- Managing through tough times and dealing with debt in an ethical and biblical way.
- During transitions, managing the handoff of control, dealing with conflict over responsibilities, working through defensiveness and helping people feel less threatened.
- Recognizing the destructive impact of jealousy among family members.
- Balancing work and family and building family relationships away from the business
- Managing differences, perspectives and transitions between being a "family" and being a "business."