Farm Goal Setting

Answer these questions as specifically as you can. The more specific your answer, the better you will be able to evaluate if you are meeting the goal!

5 things that are true about farming that makes it my life’s work:

1. _______________________________________________________________________

2. _______________________________________________________________________

3. _______________________________________________________________________

4. _______________________________________________________________________

5. _______________________________________________________________________
5 specific things that will be true about my farm life when my farm is up and running:

1. __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

4. __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

5. __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________
5 specific things that will be true about my non-farm life when my farm is up and running:

1. ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

3. ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

4. ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

5. ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
5 things that will be true of my farm when it is running like I envision it:

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

Financial Goals:

Answer yes or no for each question. The answer must be yes or no, or must have a specific deadline for getting there, like “Within 4 years.” It is also helpful to set limits on off-farm investment, like “The operation of my farm can be subsidized by other household income up to $10,000 per year.”

“Someday,” “I hope so,” or “If things work out” are NOT good answers.

1. The operation of my farm can be subsidized by other household income:  

2. My farm income must cover my operating expenses:

3. My farm income must cover financing of equipment and structures:

4. My farm must cover financing of farm ownership costs:

5. My farm must be able to build reserves to deal with unanticipated costs:

6. My farm must allow one family member to stay home with a child or children:

7. My farm must be able to support family members outside my immediate household, like a parent:

8. My farm business will increase my family’s wealth.
Financial Goals, continued:

Name an approximate amount for each category.

Beyond breaking even on farm costs, my net farm income must contribute the following amounts annually to:

- Household living expenses
- Household savings or retirement
- Pre-existing, non-farm debt (like student loans)
- Savings toward replacement costs
- Savings toward risks like disasters, accidents or illness
- Savings toward expansion

Total

Number of acres in production

Divide to determine the amount of net farm income needed per acre.

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