

# Planning Now for Future Generations of Small Farmers

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Growing disparity between "large" commercial farm operations and shrinking relative sizes of other production agriculture entities leads to both reality and misconception. Some assume that there is no future in farming because they believe that the capital requirements are impossibly out-of-reach.

We forget that young people have an advantage that older people do not - they do not know the word "impossible." Most operators of farms in the future will begin "small." They are the ones who will decide whether they will grow "big" or focus on their advantages as "small farm" operators. Many of today's giants on the Fortune 400 richest people list are younger than 35, some in their 20s. They have distinguished themselves by recognizing opportunities, taking risks, recruiting others,

and doing something very special very well. This session will focus on opportunities for a new generation of small farmers and the means to systematically nurture entrepreneurial resourcefulness, creativity, and leadership behavior.