

Engaging the Next Generation

Tips and Resources for Intergenerational Land Stewardship



Hill Country Alliance gathered a group of Hill Country landowners to discuss the long-term, intergenerational nature of land stewardship. Landowners who successfully navigated stewardship across several generations shared their experiences and lessons learned. The following summarizes their ideas and resources to support other Texas ranching families.

Start them young.

One landowner, for example, described how he and his wife started when their kids were very young. This includes discussions around finances. Stewardship of the ranch has passed on to their children “as a responsibility and source of pride.”

Build a connection to the land.

One couple continues to engage their grown children as well as their grandchildren “to learn first-hand about plants, animals and water resources and our role as ‘stewards’ to ensure all remain in balance and healthy.”

Recognize different strengths.

The next generation may have different skills and interests. “Be open to new ideas and trying new things,” especially when the shared love of the land and core stewardship principles guide the conversation.

Make it fun!

One of the youngest landowners at the gathering underscored the importance of fun and transparency. “It can’t just be about the responsibilities and work; we need to enjoy being out on the land with our families.”

Involve everyone.

When exploring partnership opportunities (e.g. grazing or hunting leases), consider including the next generation to find lessees that share the family’s stewardship ethic. Likewise, for those exploring a conservation easement as a tool for keeping the land intact or additional revenue sources (e.g. eco-tourism), consider involving the whole family in the decision-making process.

Succession Planning Resources

Estate planning attorneys and financial advisors are important for navigating the succession process. Find more information here:

- ✦ Texas A&M AgriLife Extension: [Successful Succession Video Series](#) and [Generation Next Course](#)
- ✦ Oklahoma State University Extension: [Farm Transition Tool](#)
- ✦ Texas Land Trust Council: [Conservation Easement Guide for Texas Landowners](#)
- ✦ Texas Dept. of Agriculture: [Texas Agri-Stress Helpline](#) and [Young Farmer Grant](#)



Check out HCA’s Land Stewardship and Conservation resources at hillcountryalliance.org

