

Investment Discussion

The County Board of Directors is elected with the responsibility to oversee the business and affairs of the County Farm Bureau, which includes the finances of the organization. One part of this fiduciary responsibility is managing the assets and investments of the County Farm Bureau to insure its sustainability.

As stewards of the county finances, the Board of Directors must act for the good of the organization and its members. Regardless of the amount of resources a County Farm Bureau has, it is important for the Board of Directors to review their financial situation and discuss their investment philosophy and financial position. Consider the following questions to help guide this discussion:

- o Do we currently have investments? If so, what type and what amount?
- o Do we have access to a financial advisor? A financial advisor should have a discussion with the board about its goals and offer a strategy to help meet those goals, while investing at a tolerable risk level. Financial advisors can provide investment options, periodic reporting and advice to meet these goals. Options for financial advisors include CapTrust and FBFS professionals, such as: qualified agents, Wealth Management Advisors (WMA) and Regional Financial Consultants (RFC).
- o In the absence of a financial advisor to assist in the process, consider the following:
 - o Do we need to form a committee to handle this task?
 - o Do we review our investments to see how they are performing? If so, how often? Who reviews the investments? What benchmarks are we using to compare against our investments? How was the allocation of our investments determined? Have we considered rebalancing our portfolio to realign with these allocations? How liquid are these investments?
 - o Do we have excess money in our checking and/or savings accounts that could be moved into an investment? If so, how much? If not, what is the amount we would need to have in checking/savings before we felt comfortable moving the excess to an investment?
 - o What is the goal of our investment(s)? Do we have a philanthropic goal? Is the goal to generate income? Do we need to fund a specific program? Do investment goals align with the goals and mission of the County Farm Bureau?
 - o Fiduciary responsibility and the county Farm Bureau's tolerance for risk should be considered when discussing the goal of an investment portfolio. What is our philosophy regarding investment risk? Have you discussed your fiduciary responsibility when considering risk? Are we protecting the assets and interests of the organization and its members? Are we ensuring that the organization will remain viable?