Small Acreage Farms Need Estate Planning Too!
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Abstract
The Collier County Agricultural program has been implementing small farmer workshops for the last 6 years. The topics presented during these workshops have ranged from livestock to vegetable and fruit production and adaptation of farming techniques that emphasizes Best Management Practices (BMP) for home, market gardens and small farm enterprises. Unfortunately, the need for small / part-time farmers to begin thinking about the future and their retirement has gone unaddressed. When questioned about their major concerns that keep them up at night, workshop participants indicated future disability, out-living their retirement dollars and market volatility. These and other concerns were addressed in the 2012 Small Farm Workshop series – Farming on 10 Acres or Less. Topics of the seminars were reinforced with visits to local farm sites and individual consultations by planning experts. Recent economic trends have increased the need for these types of economic small farm business development; All county seminars’ post program surveys reveal a high percentage adoption of small farm estate planning advice and likelihood of farm succession planning.

On consecutive Tuesday evenings in June of 2012, the Collier County Extension office offered a 4 week series of educational programs, “Farming on 10 Acres or less” focused on entrepreneurial business topics. Along with crop production and livestock husbandry techniques, the often forgotten yet important subject of Small Farm Estate Planning was introduced.

- Sole Owner, Corporate or Partnerships
- Insurance Protection
- Homesteading
- Power of Attorney
- Living Wills
- Health Care Surrogates

Decreasing your business risks by:
- Protecting your assets
- Preparing legal documentation
- Ensuring property transfer at death