



Beyond Farming

Talking over the fence: planning for life after farming

Expression of Interest for Volunteer Beyond Farming Mentors

Expressions of interest are invited from former farmers to be Volunteer *Beyond Farming Mentors* in the newly launched Beyond Farming Program.

Beyond Farming is a program under the pilot of drought reform measures in Western Australia. It puts current farmers in touch with former farmers to discuss opportunities outside of farming.

Beyond Farming is available to farmers who would like to discuss options for themselves and their families if selling the farm business or retiring. Considering these options is an important part of business and succession planning.

For more information on the drought pilot measures and Beyond Farming see the enclosed Beyond Farming Fact Sheet or go to the website <http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/drought-pilot/beyond-farming> .

Steps to volunteering to be a mentor on the Beyond Farming Pilot Program

You can talk to the Beyond Farming Program Officer on 1800 616 076 first or complete the attached form.

- Send the form to the Beyond Farming Program Officer by mail or email
- You will be contacted once we have received your expression of interest
- Selected former farmers will be invited to attend a two day training session in Perth
- If both parties are happy to proceed then you will be placed on our mentor register ready to be matched to a current farmer and or their family
- You will be provided with resources and information to assist you in your role



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



WACOSS
Western Australian
Council of Social Service Inc
*Ways to make
a difference*



Role of Volunteer Beyond Farming Mentor

As a mentor on the program you will work as part of a small team and will have the opportunity to speak with and visit farmers in the pilot region of WA. Volunteers will be reimbursed for approved expenses and provided with the necessary support to carry out their role.

The goal of the program is to match current farmers with former farmers to assist them with their planning.

The key part of the former farmers' role is to be available to meet face to face or talk by phone with current farmers and their families who have registered their interest in speaking with a former farmer. Your role will not be about providing advice or counselling but rather, to share your experiences.

Volunteers could be male or female or a couple – retired or employed, contribution could depend on their interests, abilities and availability. The program offers the prospect of a highly rewarding experience in helping others in the farming community.

You will be provided with training and resources to make appropriate referrals to professional or independent advisers if required in the course of your discussions.

The amount of time you are able to spend and the specific activities you undertake are flexible. Farmers will be referred to or matched with you, depending on your experience, knowledge, previous farm location and current location and their needs and circumstances. More information on how the program will work is provided in the attached Mentor Information Sheet.

Activities would include:

- Being available to talk to current farmers either by phone or face to face to discuss issues in relation to succession and transition, based on your experience. This may be one off or a series of conversations.
- Being available to respond to informal, ad hoc queries from the public about the Beyond Farming Program and your role.
- Attending training to develop a thorough knowledge of your role as a mentor.
- Maintaining open lines of communications with the WACOSS Program Officer.
- Providing basic information on where farmers can access further assistance if required.

To be eligible for this program you:

- Must have previously owned a farm or pastoral lease, but no longer own a farm or pastoral lease
- Be able to get a police clearance
- Be able to attend two days of training in Perth

As this is a pilot program, you may be invited to provide input – such as through providing information and feedback on your contacts with farmers and joining in a discussion forum.

Expression of Interest Form Mentors Beyond Farming Program



Selection of former farmers for the program

If you meet the initial criteria as outlined in this application form you will be asked to attend a two day workshop covering a range of topics to assist you in your role. Training will cover practical skills around listening and providing feedback and building trust as well as learning about working with privacy and confidentiality requirements. It will also cover how to provide people with information about relevant services.

After the training, if both parties are happy to continue you will be placed on a register ready to be matched with a current farmer.

WACOSS will make these arrangements and we will explain how it all works at training.

You can contact WACOSS by any of the following means:

Post: Beyond Farming, WACOSS 2 Delhi Street WEST PERTH WA 6005
Email: beyondfarming@wacoss.org.au. Fax:(08) 9486 7966

Alternatively you can find out more information by calling the Beyond Farming Program Officer at WACOSS on 1800 616 076 or (08) 9420 7223, or by going to the Beyond Farming website at <http://beyondfarming.wacoss.org.au/>



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Expression of Interest Form for Volunteer Former Farmers

Please note that expenses for all training for the program including accommodation, travel and meals will be covered by WACOSS.

Personal Details

Would you like to participate as an individual or a couple? If you are volunteering as a couple please complete one form each but let us know your partner's name (can refer to one form for duplicate information).

Individual Couple

Name/Names:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Length of time you were (or have) been farming for:

Do you still own/operate a farm/station as an ongoing concern?

- Yes No

(If you answered YES to this question, you may not be eligible to be a volunteer on this program, please call the Beyond Farming Program Officer, who will discuss your eligibility before proceeding further)

Availability

I am available to attend training on the 26th and 27th August 2010 in Perth:

(If selected travel and relevant expenses will be covered)

- Yes No

I am not available on those dates due to of other commitments:

- Yes No

I am not available on week days:

- Yes No

I am not able to attend two days training at anytime:

- Yes No

Attendance at training is an essential requirement of this program. If you answered no please contact the Program Officer to discuss this application further. There may be other ways you can assist in the program.



Time Commitment

I/We have no restrictions on my availability to volunteer on this program

In Person

Monday	<input type="text"/>	Tuesday	<input type="text"/>	Wednesday	<input type="text"/>
Thursday	<input type="text"/>	Friday	<input type="text"/>	Saturday	<input type="text"/>
Sunday	<input type="text"/>				<input type="text"/>

By Phone

Monday	<input type="text"/>	Tuesday	<input type="text"/>	Wednesday	<input type="text"/>
Thursday	<input type="text"/>	Friday	<input type="text"/>	Saturday	<input type="text"/>
Sunday	<input type="text"/>				<input type="text"/>

Farming Experience

Within which shire and state is/was your farm/station located (write more than one if applicable):

1.
2.
3.

Select the main type of production your farm/station was engaged in from following list (you can make multiple selections):

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apiary (bee keeping) | <input type="checkbox"/> Flowers | <input type="checkbox"/> Rice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aquaculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beef | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery | <input type="checkbox"/> Sugar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cotton | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Livestock | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cropping | <input type="checkbox"/> Pigs | <input type="checkbox"/> Viticulture (grapes) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy | <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (give details) |

Other: _____

Select your type farm business type from the following list

- Sole-trader
- Partnership (with your spouse only)
- Partnership (with other people)
- Trust
- Company

Briefly describe what experience do you have as a farmer/pastoralist?

Since leaving the farm what other work or lifestyle endeavours have you pursued? (e.g. retirement, return to study, new business venture, employment etc) _____

Please tell us why you would like to be part of this program?

Please tell us what skills, knowledge or experience that you could bring to this role (e.g. good listener, personal experience etc.)

Travel and access

If you were successful would you be able to travel independently in the regions to visit farmers?

- Yes No

Do you own a computer?

- Yes No

Do you have access to the internet?

- Yes No

Do you have an email account?

- Yes No

Do you use the internet and or email on a regular basis?

- Yes No

Do you possess a current Police clearance or are you willing to obtain one?

- Yes No

Are you able to provide 'C' class drivers licence on request?

- Yes No

Agreement

I verify that the information provide is correct and that I have read and agree to the terms and conditions contained in the privacy statement.

Mentor Name:

Date

Mentor Signature:

References

Please provide the name and phone number of least one person who can verify you no longer own a farming business.

Name

Contact

Privacy Statement

PRIVACY STATEMENT (See Information Notes)

The information in this application is provided voluntarily and is being collected by WACOSS for purposes related to the administration of the program, including the assessment of the effectiveness of the program. In providing the information in this form, you consent to WACOSS using the information for the abovementioned purposes and any other incidental or related purposes.

WACOSS may also disclose your personal information to any party that may be engaged by WACOSS or to the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry or to any party that may be engaged by that Department for the purposes of program evaluation.

Not providing the information requested in this application or providing false or misleading or incomplete information may impact on the ability of WACOSS to accurately assess your application.

WACOSS agrees to take all reasonable measures to ensure that the personal information collected by it is stored securely. You may access or correct your personal information by contacting WACOSS by telephone on 08 9420 7222, or by writing to WACOSS at City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth 6005