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Transition Planning: Step Seven – Do We Have What We Need?

There's nothing quite as frustrating as getting geared up to get something accomplished – then having to put everything aside because you don't have everything you need. It doesn't matter if it's an equipment repair or home improvement project or your operation's transition plan, getting the ball rolling then having to stop because you don't have the right resources to get it to completion can cause significant setbacks. Particularly when it comes to a farm transition plan, there can be a lot of resource assessment needed to help make it successful.

While the more tangible resources like land, machinery, and buildings might be difficult to place an accurate value on, we *can* see them and list them and know what they are because they're typically in front of us every day. Less tangible to track are other things like alternative financial resources or community support services or even people. Whether the resource is easy to define or a little less clear, how you evaluate *and* value it is important as well.

For example: can the building we already have function only in its current capacity or could it be used in other ways, or even have dual-purpose usage? Is there a resource on hand but not currently being used that better helps us reach our operational mission or the goals we've set for the enterprise? Don't hesitate to think outside the box a bit as you do this evaluation.

Your people resources are a large part of this evaluation process. Do any of our current team members have skillsets currently unutilized to their full extent? Maybe they can provide expertise or value in a completely different way. It might take some 'digging' but determining whether current resources can help us reach our end goal is a big part in keeping the transition planning process from getting completely overwhelming.

It's difficult enough to get started, let alone catalog all the resources you have – or need. If you are interested in a three page 'starter' document to help you start doing your resource inventory, Oklahoma State University has a nice form fillable option. Drop me a line for a link to it or contact any District Office to request a hard copy.