

Review the background story of the Miller Family.



Kalang ranch was founded by Joe and Judy Miller. They managed the operation together for several decades, having only one child – Graham. Graham has always worked on the ranch, providing most of the labor and management for the cow herd as Joe allowed. However, he was never provided the opportunity to become involved in making any of the management decisions for the ranch, nor was he included in discussions on ranch financial matters.



Graham Miller has been married to his wife Martha for over 20 years. Joe never really cared for Martha, feeling that she pulled Graham's attention away from the ranch and meddled too much in the affairs of the Miller family and business. Over the years, tension between Martha and Joe increased and spilled over into Joe's relationship with his grandchildren, Joshua, Clarisa, and Jedidiah.



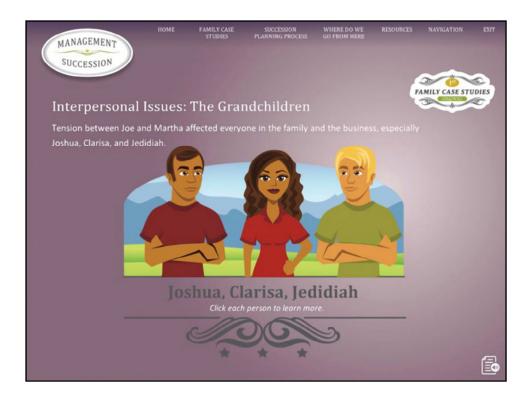
Joe Miller died unexpectedly five years ago. He developed pancreatic cancer and did not survive very long after the diagnosis. Judy and Graham were left to keep the ranch running and figure out what to do with the business in the longer term. Given the steep learning curve he had to climb, Graham is adamant about making sure that future transitions in the business are smoother and less stressful.



In order to complete a SWOB of the Miller family, we need to examine their interpersonal, business, and succession planning issues. First, we will start with the interpersonal issues of the Miller family.

Joe Miller was a man of few words. He had established goals for his business and had a clear picture of the future in his mind, but he did not go to much effort to share it with others.

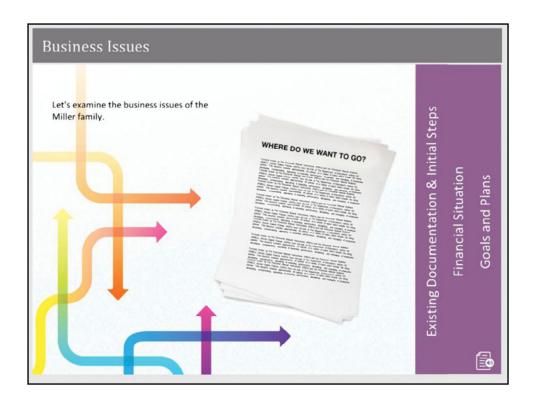
Even though Graham was always involved in the business, he did not feel like he had much say in how it was run.



For years, tension between Joe and Martha affected everyone in the family and the business; especially Graham and Martha's children.

The children were encouraged to have friends and interests off the ranch, and Joe did not like this. When the children did help out on the ranch, Joe tended to be critical of their efforts. As a result, the children did not take much of an interest in the business until after Joe died. Judy and Graham realized that the business would have to be sold when Graham was no longer able to work unless one or more of the kids got involved.

Since Joe's death, Judy and Graham have worked hard to mend relationships and make Martha and the kids feel more a part of the business as well as the family.



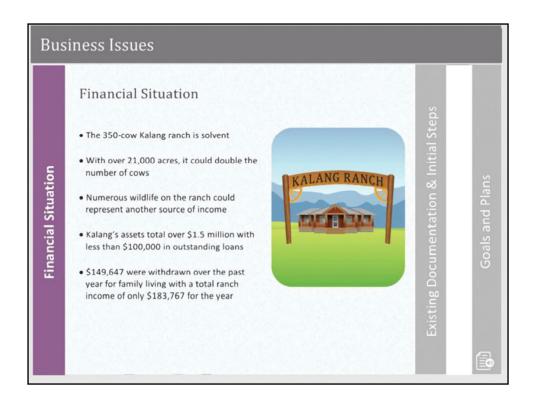
Next, we'll examine the business issues of the Miller family by looking at their:

- Existing documentation and initial steps,
- Financial situation, and
- Goals and plans.



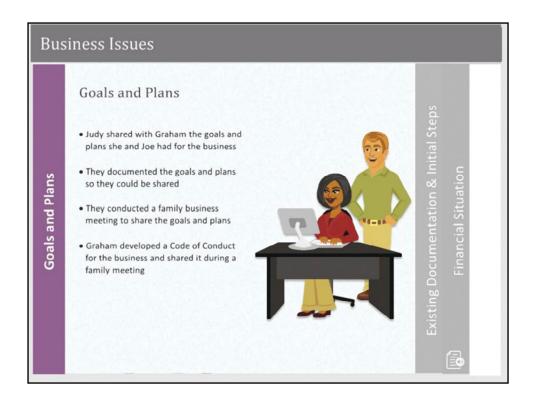
Judy has kept records for the ranch and developed quarterly financial statements for years. After Joe died, she began to share these documents with Graham and show him how she and Joe used them to make decisions about the management of the business.

As a result, Graham recently sold several tracts of land to pay off a large operating note with their primary creditor. Joe had instilled a healthy fear of debt into Graham and he had become quite troubled about the increasing size of the operating note the ranch was carrying.



The 350-cow Kalang ranch is certainly solvent. Furthermore, with over 21,000 acres to work with, it could support nearly double the number of cows. Numerous wildlife on the ranch represent another possible source of income.

Kalang's assets total over 1.5 million dollars with less than 100,000 dollars in outstanding loans. The problems arise from the 149,647 dollars withdrawn over the past year for family living; this with a total ranch income of only 183,767 dollars for the year.



Judy also began to share the goals and plans that she and Joe had for the business. She and Graham documented them so that they could be shared with other members of the family and the business advisors. At the suggestion of one advisor, Judy and Graham held a family business meeting in which they shared these goals and plans. It went so well, they decided to hold these at least twice a year to keep everyone informed on the progress of the business.

Graham decided that they should develop and document a Code of Conduct for the business to set expectations for how to work in the business and prevent future conflicts from driving a wedge in the family. He developed a draft and shared it during a family business meeting, asking others to provide their input and ideas.



Finally, we'll examine the succession planning issues of the Miller family. Judy Miller met with lawyers and changed the Kalang ranch ownership from a sole proprietorship to a corporate structure.

Judy began gifting shares of the ranch. Transferring shares of the ranch to the other players in the family business was a way to legally transfer ownership of the ranch's assets to the next generation.

Graham is the clear successor as business manager, as he is the only child and has worked on the ranch his entire life. Judy has made a deliberate effort to share critical business information with him and include him in all management decisions since Joe passed.

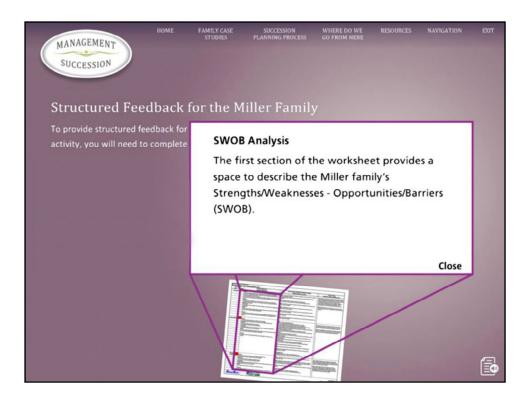
Graham has been talking to his children about their futures and where the business fits in. It is very important to him that they begin to plan for this transition now. Judy would like to retire one day, and Graham wants to make sure that she is able to do that without feeling like the business will be at risk.



Now that you have some additional insights into the Miller family, their history, business issues, and perspectives on family and business, we would like you to provide them some structured feedback.

The course provides more detail on completing the worksheets in the Succession Planning Process module. However, we believe you already have enough information to provide some suggestions to the Millers.

This activity follows the main sections included in the succession planning worksheets.



At the far left side of the worksheet the experts have provided an assessment score and corresponding color to indicate whether any interpersonal, business, or succession planning issues are of concern for the Miller family.

Keeping this assessment score in mind, you will note strengths you believe the Millers can build on, weaknesses they should shore-up, opportunities they should carefully consider, and barriers they may need to break down in order to move their succession planning forward.

The SWOB analysis completed by the experts for the Miller family may be found in the Resources section for comparison with your suggestions.

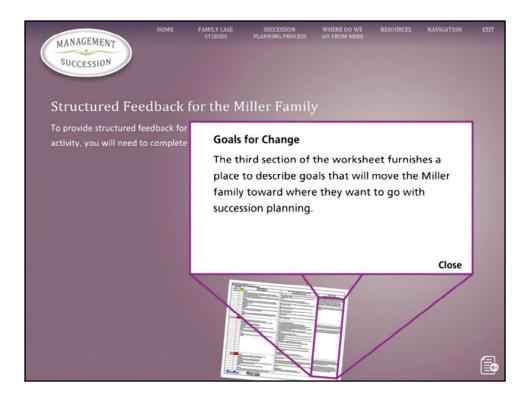


Best succession management practices are specific activities or practices the Miller family may need to adopt to move their succession management process to the next stage.

Typically, a family will adopt these strategies for better management in a step-wise fashion, not all at once.

A list of BSMPs has been provided under the Resources section of the course for your reference.

The experts have suggested a number of BSMPs for the Miller family to consider. Those are provided in the activity.



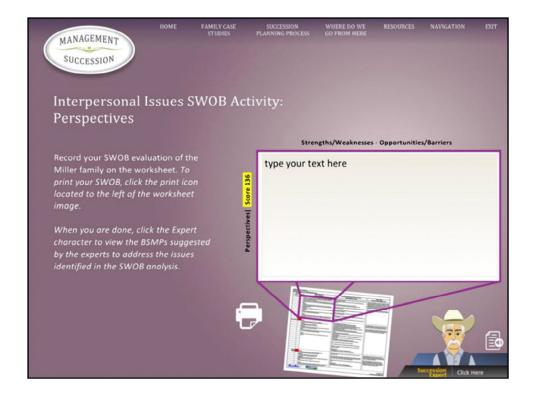
Under this third section write two or three goals for change. These should be written with the intent of helping to improve the Miller family's chance of success with their succession process.

These goals, taken together across all issue areas, become a description of where the Millers want to go as they move forward with their succession transition.

Recommended goals for change completed by the experts are provided for you to consider once you have entered your suggestions for the Miller family.



This activity will provide you with the Miller family's assessment scores for all areas of concern for interpersonal, business, and succession planning issues. It will allow you to create the SWOB analysis of each area and help the family develop goals for succession based on your analysis and BSMPs.



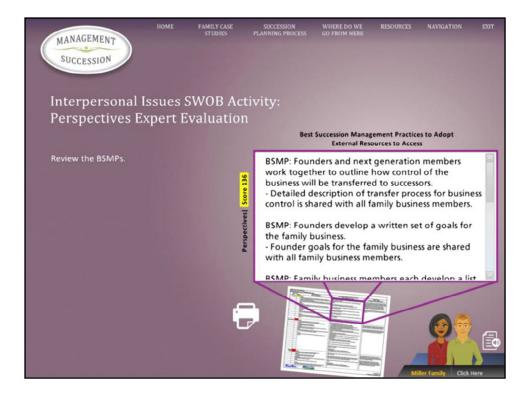
Using the interpersonal issues assessment score shown for Perspectives, record your SWOB evaluation of the Miller family on the worksheet.

Remember from the "Management Succession: Where Are We?" course, the scoring for each issue area is arranged using a Red-Yellow-Green approach.

RED indicates an area that should raise an alert.

YELLOW indicates an area that you should be cautious about.

GREEN indicates an area of strength.



After reviewing the BSMPs, move on to the next slide to continue.



Based on the assessment score, your SWOB analysis, and the BSMPs, what are your recommendations for the interpersonal goals for the future state of the Miller family business?



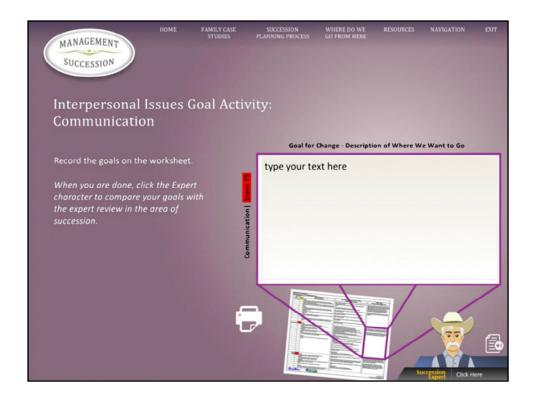
When you are done reviewing the goals, move on to the next area of concern.



Using the interpersonal issues assessment score shown for Communication, record your SWOB evaluation of the Miller family on the worksheet.



When you are done reviewing the BSMPs, move on to the next slide to continue.



Based on the assessment score, your SWOB analysis, and the BSMPs, what are your recommendations for the interpersonal goals for the future state of the Miller family business?



When you are done reviewing the goals, move on to the next area of concern.



Using the interpersonal issues assessment score shown for Managing Conflict, record your SWOB evaluation of the Miller family on the worksheet.



When you are done reviewing the BSMPs, move on to the next slide to continue.



Based on the assessment score, your SWOB analysis, and the BSMPs, what are your recommendations for the interpersonal goals for the future state of the Miller family business?



When you are done reviewing the goals, move on to the next slide to return to the Activity Menu.



This activity will provide you with the Miller family's assessment scores for all areas of concern for interpersonal, business, and succession planning issues. It will allow you to create the SWOB analysis of each area and help the family develop goals for succession based on your analysis and BSMPs.



Using the business issues assessment score shown for Formalized Management, record your SWOB evaluation of the Miller family on the worksheet.



When you are done reviewing the BSMPs, move on to the next slide to continue.



Based on the assessment score, your SWOB analysis, and the BSMPs, what are your recommendations for the business goals for the future state of the Miller family business?



When you are done reviewing the goals, move on to the next area of concern.



Using the business issues assessment score shown for Business Communication, record your SWOB evaluation of the Miller family on the worksheet.



When you are done reviewing the BSMPs, move on to the next slide to continue.



Based on the assessment score, your SWOB analysis, and the BSMPs, what are your recommendations for the business goals for the future state of the Miller family business?



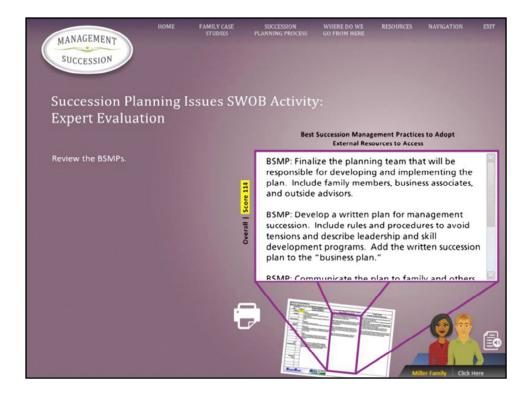
When you are done reviewing the goals, move on to the next slide to return to the Activity Menu.



This activity will provide you with the Miller family's assessment scores for all areas of concern for interpersonal, business, and succession planning issues. It will allow you to create the SWOB analysis of each area and help the family develop goals for succession based on your analysis and BSMPs.



Using the overall succession planning issues assessment score shown, record your SWOB evaluation of the Miller family on the worksheet.



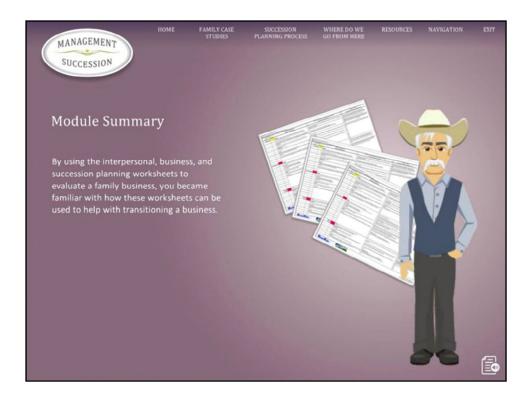
When you are done reviewing the BSMPs, move on to the next slide to continue.



Based on the assessment score, your SWOB analysis, and the BSMPs, what are your recommendations for the succession planning goals for the future state of the Miller family business?



When you are done reviewing the goals, select another Family Case Study if you would like to assess another family business.



This is the end of the Family Case Studies module. The activity in this module provided you the opportunity to analyze a family business. By using the Interpersonal, Business, and Succession Planning Issues Worksheets, you were able to record your analysis and become familiar with how these worksheets can be used to help with transitioning a business.

Next, explore one of the other course modules to learn more about succession planning.