

Review the background story of the Howell Family.



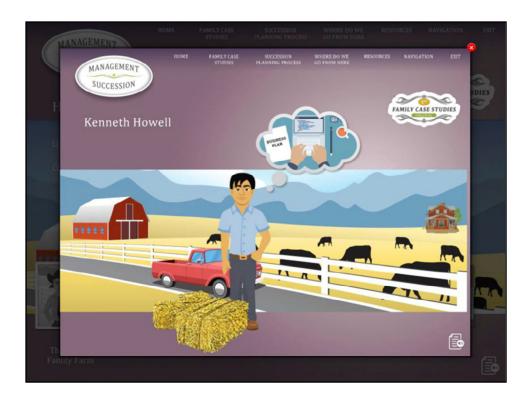
The Howell family is a third generation farm family. The farm consists of 300 acres of irrigated cropland and 1,000 acres of rangeland for grazing both cattle and sheep. Carl and his wife are the primary owners/managers of the farm. Two of the Howell's three children currently work on the farm.



Carl is 63 years old. His health has been good, so he continues to work long days with few signs of slowing down. Carl knows his age will catch up with him at some point, but he expects to manage the farm until he dies.



Carl's wife, Bertha, who is 62 years old, also works on the farm fulltime. Her primary role is to keep the financial and production records for the farm and provide everyone regular updates on financial performance. Bertha's goals for retirement are quite different than Carl's. She would prefer to scale back over time and turn the farm business over to their three children within the next 5 to 10 years. She would like to move off the farm closer to town.



Kenneth, age 38, is the oldest child. He has been working full-time on the farm since he graduated from high school. Being the oldest son and having worked in the business the longest, Kenneth has visions of taking over the farm when his dad retires.



Betty, age 36, is the second oldest child. She attended and graduated from college to prepare herself for taking over ownership and management of the farm. Because of her additional knowledge and training, she assumes her dad will identify her as the best choice to succeed him in the management and ownership of the farm.



Jack, age 31, is the youngest child. Jack is married and lives and works in a large town about 300 miles from the farm. He and his wife, Ann, have four sons. Ann is a stay-at-home mom. Jack has no interest in coming back to the farm, but expects to be treated equally when his dad decides to transfer ownership of the farm to the next generation.



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

At a recent family gathering for Bertha's birthday, Betty accidently started talking about what changes she would like to make on the farm when she assumes ownership. Her comment caused the whole family to start yelling and arguing about the future of the farm. Every family member had a different perspective of succession and retirement and left the birthday party mad. No one talked to each other for several days.

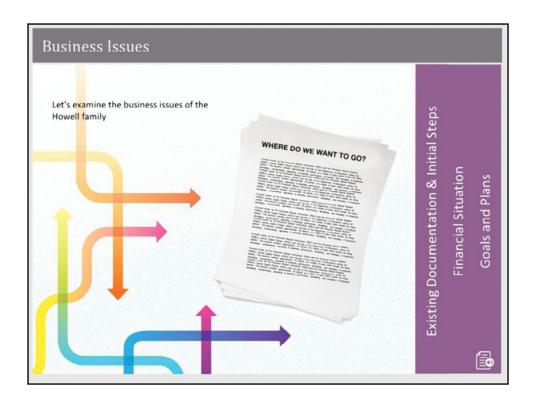


Finally, Bertha couldn't stand it anymore. She demanded that everyone gather at the house. She ordered everyone to sit down together and express their desires and hear what everyone else was thinking about the future of the farm. Everyone was encouraged to be civil and give everyone a chance to talk without being interrupted. Tensions were high and very little happened after this first discussion. Everyone was instructed to think about their discussion and meet again together in a week.



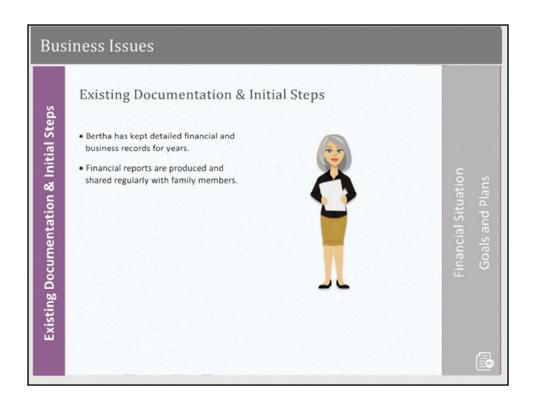
Before the second meeting, Kenneth came across an on-line assessment tool designed to help families assess their readiness for management succession. At the second meeting the family, some reluctantly, agreed to work through the Management Succession Assessment.

They determined the family typically practiced good communication in most all aspects of the business, except for management succession. Because of the threat of conflict between Kenneth and Betty, all family members had intentionally avoided the subject, hoping it would just work itself out. The family experienced little conflict, but that was mainly because they avoided discussing subjects in which conflict could occur.

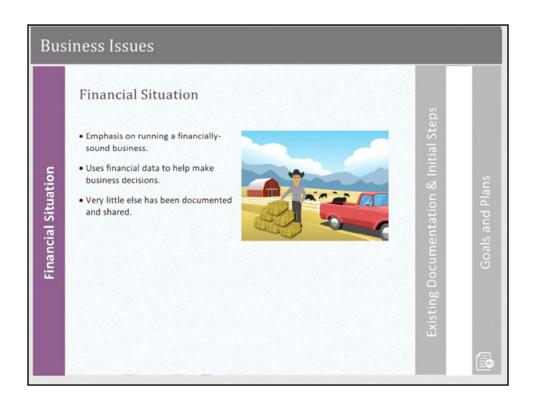


Next, we'll examine the business issues of the Howell family by looking at their:

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



Bertha has kept detailed financial and business records for years. It has been her primary responsibility in the business. Financial reports are produced and shared with family members on a regular basis.



The Howell's put a big emphasis on running a financially-sound business and use financial data to help make business decisions. However, very little else in the business has been documented and shared.

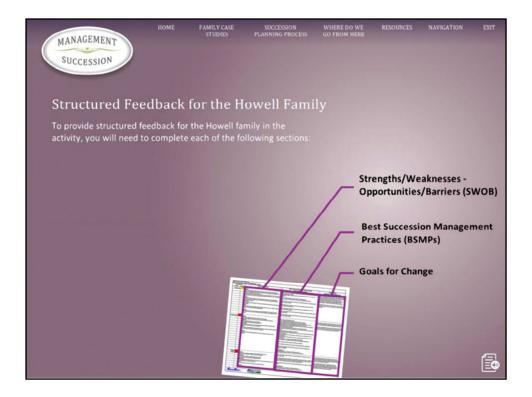


Carl has always had plans and goals for the business, but they were not shared with others. There are no regular meetings where the future of the business is discussed.



Finally, we'll examine the succession planning issues of the Howell family. Carl is determined to remain in control of the business as long as he can. As a result, there had been no discussion about how the management and ownership of the farm will be transferred to the next generation. In fact, the subject has been intentionally avoided. Carl does not want to have to choose between his children. He sees that each of them have different skills and abilities, all of which are valuable to the business. It has been easier for him to avoid the whole idea of management and ownership transition than to risk making decisions that might offend one or more of his children.

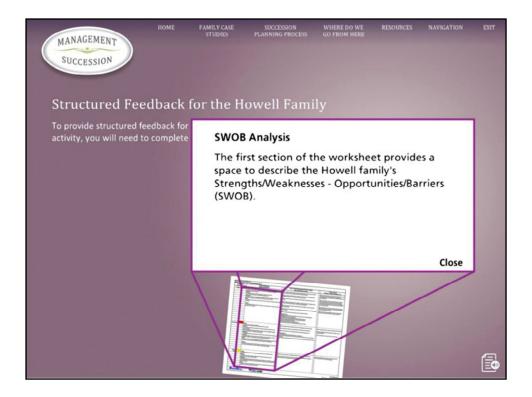
It wasn't until recently that he even knew that Bertha wanted to scale back sooner rather than later. He isn't sure what he would do with himself if he wasn't working on the farm.



Now that you have some additional insights into the Howell 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 Howells.

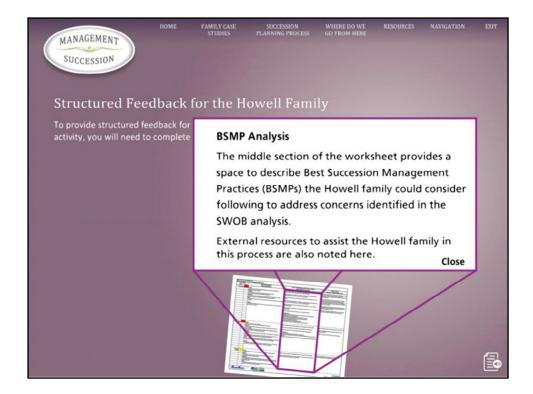
This activity follows the main sections included in the succession planning worksheets.



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 Howell family.

Keeping this assessment score in mind, you will note strengths you believe the Howells 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 Howell family may be found in the Resources section for comparison with your suggestions.

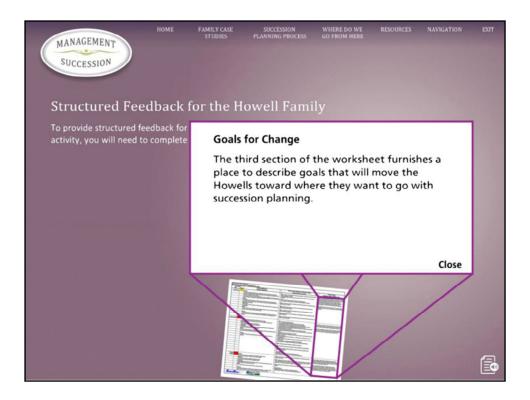


Best succession management practices are specific activities or practices the Howell family may need to adopt to move their succession management process to the next stage.

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 Howell 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 Howell family's chance of success with their succession process.

These goals, taken together across all issue areas, become a description of where the Howells 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 Howell family.



This activity will provide you with the Howell 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 Howell 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.



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 Howell 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 Howell 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 Howell 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 Howell 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 Howell family business?



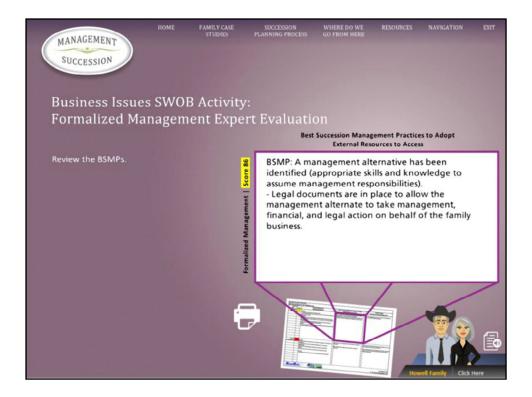
When you are done reviewing the goals, move on to the next slide to return to the Activity Menu.



This activity will provide you with the Howell 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 Howell 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 Howell 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 Howell 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 Howell family business?



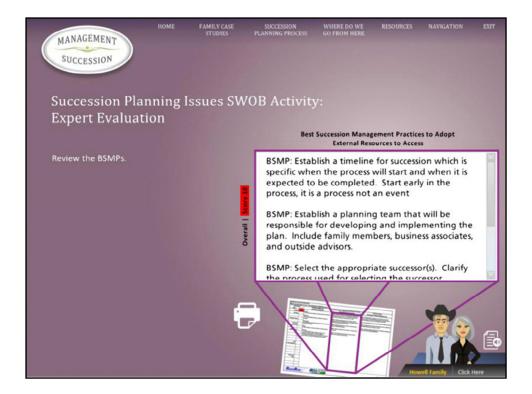
When you are done reviewing the goals, move on to the next slide to return to the Activity Menu.



This activity will provide you with the Howell 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 Howell family on the worksheet.



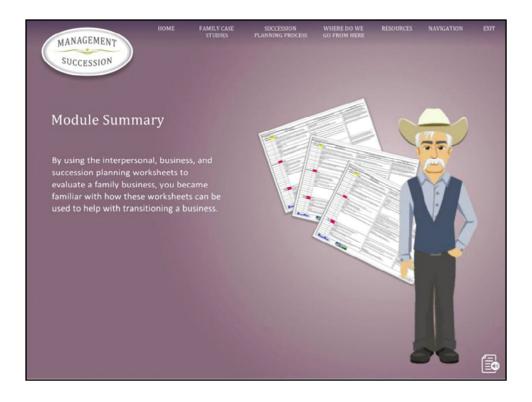
When you are done reviewing the BSMPs, move on to the next slide to continue.



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 Howell 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.