

## Advice to my younger self: All responses

### Opportunities

- Keep open mind about where you may end up. May not end up in area of your degree, etc. Don't pass up an opportunity without looking at it! @Brian\_Voth
- Be open to where you might end up geographically! I never thought I'd find the job I love in SK. @HillarySchlicht
- Take anything that's thrown at you! The more experience the better and to NEVER give up. @FutureFarmer365
- Shut your mouth about your dreams and do the work needed to achieve them. @DailyDairyDiary
- If your dream isn't considered "normal" go after it anyway. That's where new things are found; & being different makes you, you. @nicole\_bohun
- No matter what follow your dream. Don't let anything sway your decision. @McDuggler
- Play the hand you were dealt with like it was the hand you wanted @rjohnson7707
- Follow your heart. Be fearless. Travel a lot. Learn. @wordsworkcoms
- Never assume you know how anything is going to go. @GoddessofGrain
- The things you think may be impossible usually are not. And when you're up shit creek don't stop paddling @LMcLachlan60
- It's ok to say no, sometimes, learn how 2 say no without feeling like you need to explain why. Easy to get stretched thin! @StaceySagon
- Do what you love, it's not a job then if your happy. Everything thing else will fall in place @SandburgRobert
- Say yes to opportunity and no matter what you think in the moment, another door will always open so keep going. @kimkeller
- Learn to say no to some things so you can say yes to the right things. @ArvellLawson
- Don't do it. #misery @Jcalder1983
- Never give up on your dream @SandburgRobert
- There is more to gain in a tough year than a perfect year, so don't give up on a crop. Reduced tillage shines in adversity. @JerryKreuziger
- Even when u feel your path is not taking u where you want to go, persevere - you'll get there eventually if you keep trying. @Knapview

### Relax and have fun

- Everything happens for a reason enjoy farming don't stress the little stuff it will work out listen to the older adults. @FastGrassGuy
- Just relax... crops will get in... crops will get harvested Just friggin relax @sf28430
- Don't worry about things you can't control (weather, markets) worry about what you can change. @DaveBlasey
- Don't sweat the petty things. Also, don't pet the sweaty things @ElgersmaSteve
- Have fun live life party like a star @Sprayerman101
- Remember to listen and don't take things personally @CStephensonBCS
- Be Patient. @MoVan64
- Learn to relax and buy as much land as possible in your twenties. @ElkridgeFarms

## Decision Making

- Try to keep emotions out of everything. Live by the numbers. Don't second guess yourself, gut instinct is usually right. @reinke\_farms
- It's extremely important find out what you don't like/don't want to do. @AshD926
- Don't plan for disaster, because if you do that's what will happen. @CJC\_Skerz83
- Go with the flow, adjust, adapt @weedgirl24
- Be decisive and quick on your feet. All about people, sell yourself to banker, landlords, potential landlords, family, etc. @amhfarms
- No matter how bad things appears there's always a plan and for Eff sakes don't watch the neighbors @farmboy8400
- Have a strategy, set goals, be courageous, don't be afraid to make mistakes, and discover a use for bale twine @girlmeetsfarm
- Accept that you will make mistakes. They make great learning experiences and great stories. @drburns1212
- Trust your gut always! Even if your wrong you'll know it felt right for yourself @uggfarm
- Be prepared for the worst case scenario and you will enjoy success. @DPWeatherald
- Listen to those that share their failures & mistakes - discount those who seem to have only success stories. @nbfarms
- If you are uncertain of an answer, don't make it up. Say you don't know, find someone who does or other resources and get back to them. @sjmatichuk

## Take risks/chances

- Take more risks. Not all will have a positive outcome, but some well calculated risks can lead to some great opportunities! @kendra\_leslie
- Take more chances. @Agridome
- Get out of your comfort zone. @Vines\_N\_Cattle
- "Build all those bins at age 23 (instead of 33) and leverage yourself to the hilt. You're a good grower" @Schuelkecorn
- Make that phone call...@ButterfieldBeef
- Take advantage of more opportunities to expand @farmerjim79
- Play the lottery instead. Much less stressful. @Jrlikeswhisky
- Go for it. It's a great career, don't dwell on mistakes you make along the way. Enjoy the ride. Be positive. @gmjochum
- Quit off farm job sooner (14 years while farming). Quit when daughter asked if I had died cause hadn't seen me for 2 wks. @Gmax62
- Disrupt the marketplace. Doing what is normal/commonplace means you are like everyone else, makes it tougher to succeed @BrianJCorkill
- Be a shift disturber, trend setter in whatever manner that is, push the limits! Rules are meant to be tested @dayxsharkey
- Be patient...but don't be afraid to take a chance! Work hard @Agtcher
- No risk, no reward!! @CanadianCowMan
- I've learned take path less traveled & be flexible. Love crops. Learn animals too @KelseyBanks

- All in ALL THE TIME! Don't hold back, take time to research until you're comfortable, and diversifying comes at a cost! @DwayneCruise
- Learn from everything & don't be afraid to take risks...trust yourself first...advice is great but YOU decide what's best @Candace\_Hill728
- The most successful people know how to implement Plan B @Sask\_Mover

## **Business Management**

- Borrow to the hilt. @blueheeler96
- Learn proper procedures and how to assess what you produce. Need level play field at elevator and market place. @Wally\_53
- Always have two plans @MacBroker
- Make money when you can, not when you have to. @ebenkampfarms
- Don't just rely on on-farm income for living expenses. @LeggSeeds
- My addition would be to be thorough yet efficient @TravisWillerton
- Make decisions, move forward, adopt tech, learn commodity trading, understand ROE and ROA @KristjanHebert
- Regardless of what your bank account says, do not go buy that classic mustang..or the second one that is in better condition @ElmoreFarms
- Watch your debt and banker closely but buy that farm and tile it immediately @BoucherFarms
- Don't sink yourself into unmanageable debt. Even though credit rate may be good. Iron doesn't make you any money @konelopskifarms
- Be very focused in working blocked tasks. Multitasking often leads to unorganized confusion. @BlueHavanaDave
- Know your numbers. Understand the basics of financial management. @JoanneLidback
- Not only know your numbers but know what lender expects, so you can see warning signs early @MaxROIfarmer
- Understand your balance sheet and stress test it. @Roenbaugh
- Buy land and buy it early @JaredZumbach
- Buy and/or lease everything you can. @MikeManion550
- Know your costs inside and out then there may be some margin and hope for keeping debt manageable regardless of enterprise. @TKRanch
- Tile everything. Once everything is tiled put more lines in between.@JerryKrueziger
- If you plan for a shitty crop, you're going to get a shitty crop. Don't cut corners and do things the right way. @CodyWahlstrom
- Ensure everyone in your operation has the same vision and goal. @WadeMcNeil
- Trends always end. Much later than you thought they would. @HurstBlake
- Learn how money works and find out who Bud Williams and Gordon Hazard are @KYFarmboy408
- Do whatever it takes to learn everything about your business ...@SMatthewsFarms
- If you ignore history, it has a way of repeating itself. @egreenhough
- Learn financial rules as quick as you can. Bankers will love it @gbahan
- Not everything can go off gut instinct and not everything has to be penciled out to death has to be a mixture of both @Vranschau
- Build working capital before anything else and preserve it at all costs #workingcapital#farmstartup @FlyinFarmer77

## Relationships

- Find a successful mentor. Key word successful. @SimAngus2
- Find a true mentor and learn, travel and ask all questions without bias! @Jcurtis7Ac
- Treat other people well. It's a small industry and you'll meet up with them again. A good reputation is worth a ton. @LeftFieldCR
- Listen to my Dad he's smarter than I u want to think at the time. Lucky for me I realized it sooner than later! @4720john
- Spend lots of time cultivating business relationships where both people can benefit. @RonKrahn
- who you know is more important than what you know. @KristjanHebert
- Learn to tell the difference between folks who'll give you advice and those who'll tell you you're wrong no matter what. @Stuthefarmer
- Make people earn loyalty. Just because your family dealt with a physical location means little for your business success. @rgstone1
- Make people earn your trust, and never say "it could be worse" because Murphy's Law is listening @mikejoycestein
- Work hard respect the people that help you. There is no i in team. Don't mind the neighbours. Work in oil field put \$ farm @DallasSansom
- Never burn a bridge and always have a plan "B" @rw1456
- Develop strong relationships with industry people. There is a wealth of knowledge out there. @Chad\_ChadRoss
- Find a wife that loves country living and understand farm life @Fanus
- Marry rich. @KattleKitten
- If you farm in the sticks you better find a wife before 30 because after that pretty hard to find one that will consider it @rfershy
- Don't build your house for just one person. Because you won't be a bachelor forever and you are going to need more room. @FarmRanger82
- Patience, persistence, listen to those around that what to see you succeed, create great relationships with all people @FarmerRyanIL
- Ask questions from successful farmers in the area. I had 3 that I would always ask. Put the hours in. Will pay off. @Valleyfield2008

## Confidence

- Be honest with yourself. If your confident go for it. If not you're in the wrong game. Trust me more with less works. @DaytonF
- Trust yourself. Your path will be different from their's. If you continue to learn you will be successful on your own terms. @TimHammerich
- Don't compare your farm to your neighbors. @OwenEDennis
- Be true to yourself. Do not be scared of Failure. Avoid Negative people habits. Decisions you make today do affect Long Term @smgamesafari
- Trust YOUR senses. Learn from your mistakes @Rchiboy101
- Run!!! But seriously, don't let anyone discourage you, including yourself. And go on vacation before kids. @Farmstrong27

- Your net worth shouldn't = your self worth. You will have financial setbacks. Don't let them get you down, work through them @CBKimbrell

### Continuous Learning

- Take more Agronomy courses in college. Buy that land that you thought was too expensive... cause it won't get cheaper!! @JohnKowalchuk
- Keep your mouth shut, and ears open. @bsheff87
- Don't ever think you know more than someone senior to you. @JacquieGerrard
- It's what I tell every new @MonsantoCo employee: go visit a farmer. Do it at least 2x/year. Your work is better when you talk w/ customers. @n\_web
- Stay in school, the farm isn't going anywhere @bradproud
- I started milking my own cows at 17, didn't go to college. Had to learn the business side from experience. Still learning. @TrentMichels
- Find someone who is an industry leader or innovator and go work for them for awhile #learnfromthebest @BrentDouglas88
- Prepare for lifetime learning--education is not a terminal pursuit @iowacornguy
- Professional development is important, and the relationships you make at conferences will pay you back fast! #ageducation @KoreyPeters
- Stay in school if it makes sense, will learn more than you think & make connections. Take some off farm jobs for experience @T\_Bartman
- No matter how good or bad another farmer is there is always something you can learn from them. @JerryKrueziger
- You don't know everything. Be willing to invest in continuous education. Get a mentor to help you. Work smarter as opposed to harder. @mysticvalley
- Spend the full 4 years in college and enjoy it. Have the rest of your life to work @Casnerfarms
- When possible choose your off farm job wisely. Make sure it's a position that makes growth possible once you acquire skills @Hannahverboon
- Make some time every day to learn something new, on and away from the farm. @hort4cy
- I'd tell me to take agri business and every general trade course to improve my ability to be more self sufficient @hawkeyCanada
- Be a "student of agriculture." Understand the areas where you lacking knowledge/ experience, and get the training you need. @FrmerAtHerTable

### Other

- Use a dust mask in the bins, wear hearing protection and lift with your legs.....@chrichtonhotel
- Don't get a twitter account. You might think you are doing it wrong but twitter will confirm it & break your spirit @JohnStraathof
- Time before you know it, it passes you bye....make sure to have life balance. Farm, community volunteering, friends, goals @rfershy
- I would give younger self a book of 50 years of sports stastics but to look out for an old guy and a kid asking about it @218\_234
- Play pro baseball @Bigchasdave
- Get involved. If you don't speak up someone will speak for you. @GustGD

- Don't let farming take over every aspect of your life. Make some time for friends & other interests. It'll keep you sane. @Willpenrievans