

Get everyone involved in family meetings

Today's families are busy people. Mom, Dad and the children may all work on the farm, off the farm, or both, in addition to school, recreational and volunteer activities.

Just the scheduling of people, vehicles and drivers may be hectic. Family members sometimes don't even sit down for a meal together during the day.

How does one know what everyone else is doing? Weekly family meetings are filling that need in many homes.

Family members of all ages sit down together to review each other's activities and schedules for the next week, make arrangements and discuss questions that concern everyone.

Lera
Ryan



Some topics might be whether to repair the older R.V., how to arrange for chores during the 4-H exchange, whether the children's allowances be increased, or how to spend that vacation week.

Children should contribute to these meetings and should share in family decisions. This is important for day-to-day activities but even more so

when there will be a major change, such as having less income or coping with major illness. Once children understand a situation and help put together a decision, co-operation to the best of their ability can be expected.

Some families keep notes or minutes of agreements made. These may be helpful when deciding who pays for the video rentals or who should have the car next weekend!

Regular family meetings can make everyday living easier and more pleasant for all.

Lera Ryan is family resource management specialist with the Rural Organizations and Services Branch.



Be the Best of Whatever You Are

If you can't be a pine on the top of the hill,
Be a scrub in the valley — but be
The best little scrub by the side of the rill;
Be a bush if you can't be a tree.

If you can't be a bush, be a bit of grass,
And some highway happier make;
If you can't be a muskie, then just be a bass —
But the liveliest bass in the lake!

We can't all be captains, we've got to be crew,
There's something for all of us here;
There's big work to do, and there's lesser to do,
And the task you must do is the near.

If you can't be a highway, then just be a trail,
If you can't be the sun, be a star;
It isn't by size that you win or you fail —
Be the best of whatever you are!

— Douglas Malloch