Getting to Know...Ohio Women in Agriculture

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Ag Madness
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Why WOMEN in Agriculture?

...because women make significant contributions to agriculture and rural economies...

Globally
Nationally
Statewide
and in our Communities
Women’s roles in agriculture...
• differ significantly by region
• are changing rapidly in some areas

On average, women comprise...
• 43% of the agricultural labor force in developing countries
• two-thirds of the world’s 600 million poor livestock keepers
• only 10-20% of landholders

Women in agriculture and rural areas have this in common...
• less access than men to productive resources and opportunities

The gender gap is found in:
• Land
• Livestock
• Labor/Wages
• Education
• Extension
• Financial services
• Technology
• Marketing
• Inputs

TEACH A (WO)MAN TO FARM
The Agricultural Multiplier Effect

Some investments are better than others. Investing in agriculture is one of the best ways to reduce poverty because up to 70 percent of people living in extreme poverty are small-holder farmers—and most of them are women. Simple interventions can vastly improve crop yields and the environment—meaning families can put food on the table, improve nutrition and nurture the natural resources their livelihoods depend on. If we also connect farmers to markets, they can develop a source of income, send their kids to school and help lift their community out of poverty for the long-term. We call this the multiplier effect and, because of it, millions of families are on the way to a brighter, more sustainable future. Here’s how it works:
Women in Agriculture
National Overview (United States)

• Women operated farms have tripled since 1978
  – 5% in 1978
  – 14% by 2007
• Always been women farm operators
• Statistics and characteristics not trackable until Census of Ag asked for principal operators’ gender in 1978.
• Report summarizes data from 1978 through 2007 about women farmers and the types of farms they operate

Source: USDA Characteristics of Women Farm Operators and Their Farms, April 2013
Women In Agriculture
Defined “Women-Operated Farms”

Those farms whose principal operator (individual most responsible for day-to-day decisions) is a woman

Source USDA Characteristics of Women Farm Operators and Their Farms, April 2013
Women In Agriculture

Summarized Common Characteristics

• Women operated farms increased in all sales categories
• Most women-operated farms are very small $
• Five percent of women-operated farms (15,400) had sales of $100,000 or more in 2007.
• Nearly half of the farms specialized in grazing livestock

Source USDA Characteristics of Women Farm Operators and Their Farms, April 2013
WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

WHO are we?
WHAT do we do?
Women In Agriculture-Who are we?

FEMALE PRODUCER CHARACTERISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent of US FARMLAND Controlled</th>
<th>Percent of Total Sales</th>
<th>Percentage of Total US Farmers</th>
<th>Acres of Farmland Operated (Millions of Acres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>6.97</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>64.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>62.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>388</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PERCENT OF TOTAL US FARMERS
2017 Ag Census collected first-ever data on the decisions that producers make…

- Female producers were most involved in day-to-day decisions and record keeping/financial management

Source: USDA, NASS, 2017 Census of Agriculture
Women In Agriculture—What do we do?

Number and Location

The 2017 Census of Agriculture revised the demographics data collected to better capture the contributions of all persons involved in agricultural production. In response to detailed questions about farm decision-making, these new data enabled multiple individuals involved in farm operations.

As a result of this new approach to counting producers, the total number of U.S. producers increased 7 percent between 2012 and 2017. The number of female producers increased 29 percent. The number of farms with female producers increased 22 percent.

In 2017, female-operated farms—the 1.1 million farms with one or more female producers—were responsible for making decisions about the farm operation, were 56 percent of farms. In comparison, 91 percent of farms had one or more male producers.

About the Census

The Census of Agriculture, conducted every 5 years, provides a complete count of all farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Results from the 2017 and earlier censuses are available at national, state, and county levels.

Census data can be found in Databases, Data Tools, the Census Data Query Tool, the online Interactive Map, and the Historical Data.

Source: USDA, NASS, 2017 Census of Agriculture.
WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

OH...IO
Women In Agriculture - STATEWIDE

Where we started?

Source: USDA Ag Census 2007 & Women Farm

31,277 Ohio women farm operators

2007
Women In Agriculture-STATEWIDE

Where we were?

2012

- 32,237 Ohio women farm operators

Ohio County Map by Number of Women Farm Operators

2012 Census of Agriculture, County Data, Table 45, USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. **32,237 OH total**, 355 county median is from 87 to 810; counties listed in descending order.

Source: USDA Ag Census 2012, & Women Farm
Women In Agriculture-STATEWIDE
Where we are now?

Ohio County Map by Number of Women Farm Operators

TOTAL: 43,256

Source: USDA, NASS, 2017 Census of Agriculture & OSU Extension Women in Agriculture Program
Women In Agriculture

OHIO Trends

2017

- Ohio has 77,805 farms and **5.5 out of every ten** of those farms have at least one-female producer. 25,609 farms have at least one female principle producer.

- Women operate, solely or in partnership, more than **40,000 Ohio farms** and **5.3 million acres**. 3.1 million acres are managed by a female principle producer.

- Women are principle producers on **26 percent** of Ohio farms=**26,569 women**. The percentage more than doubled over the census 5-year period.

- There are **128,686 individuals** operating Ohio farms and **34 percent** of Ohio farm operators are women=**43,256**. Nationally, 36% of US farmers are women and 56% of all farms have at least one female decision maker.

- New census data on involvement in decision making shows that Ohio female farm operators are most actively engaged in **day-to-day decisions, record keeping and financial management** of the operation.

- Additionally, **45%** of Ohio female operators are also involved in **livestock** decision-making with **49%** making decisions regarding **estate or succession planning**.

2012

- Ohio has 75,462 farms and **four out of every ten** of those farms have at least one-woman operator.

- Women operate, solely or in partnership, more than **30,000 Ohio farms**. Almost all Ohio farms are one- or two-operator farms, slightly more than 5,600 farms are operated by 3 or more people.

- Women are the **principal operators** of **12 percent** of Ohio farms = **8,702 women**.

- There are **115,743 individuals** operating Ohio farms and **30 percent** of Ohio farm operators are women – **32,237 women**.

- During the 5-year period between 2007 and 2012, Ohio lost almost 400 farms while gaining slightly more than 4,000 farmland acres. Ohio also gained 1,571 farm operators, of those more than six out of ten were women=960 women.

Source: USDA, NASS, 2012 & 2017 Census of Agriculture
Women In Agriculture

Why Networks?

– Research has demonstrated that women prefer to learn by making connections; creating relationships

– A great resource for helping to create a local Women In Agriculture network

• Oregon State University Extension

• [https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw638](https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw638)
Ohio Women in Agriculture

Connect with us

Blog: u.osu.edu/ohwomeninag
Subscribe to our Ohio Women in Agriculture blog

Facebook: @OHwomeninag
Like us to stay up to date on Women in Agriculture topics and events

Twitter: @OHwomeninag
Follow us for instant info

• A network for all women engaged or interested in agriculture

• Our aim is to provide all women in agriculture with the tools to learn, grow, connect, inspire and empower themselves and others in their daily agricultural and home pursuits

• Established in 2014 as a response to the growing number of women engaged in agricultural pursuits

Programs, Events, Resources

• East Ohio Women in Agriculture Conference
• Northwest Ohio Women in Agriculture Conference
• Annie’s Project Programs & Retreats
• East Ohio Women in Agriculture Dinner Programs
• Ohio Women in Agriculture Learning Network
• eXtension Women in Agriculture Learning Network
• Customized programming based on local need and interest
• Ohio Women in Agriculture outreach center at the Farm Science Review
Women In Agriculture-Networks

- **eXtension Women in Agriculture Learning Network**
  - Offers resources to help women farmers, ranchers and producers "make better business decisions while maintaining a balance with family and personal obligations."
  - Features include a locator to find your states women in ag program and a resource library with recommended readings, publications, recorded webinars and presentations, podcasts all for women in agriculture.
  - Visit [https://womeninag.extension.org/](https://womeninag.extension.org/) to subscribe to the national network or learn more
Women In Agriculture-Networks

USDA Women in Agriculture Mentoring Network

- Created by USDA (Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden)
- Designed to support and engage women across all areas of agriculture, and to foster professional partnerships between women with shared backgrounds, interests, and professional goals.
- Invited to share suggestions, stories, and other snippets on how the country can build a new generation of women leaders in agriculture.
- E-mail agwomenlead@usda.gov to be added to the Women in Agriculture Mentoring Network and share stories using #womeninag.
Women In Agriculture-Networks

Ohio Agri-Women

- [http://www.ohioagriwomen.com/](http://www.ohioagriwomen.com/)
- Membership based grassroots organization for women in agriculture
- “We, as a women’s Agricultural organization and individuals, unite to communicate with one another and with other consumers to promote Agriculture for the benefit of Ohioans and the world.”
- OAW is an affiliate of American AgriWomen (AAW) that represents over 35,000 members worldwide.

Source: [www.ohioagriwomen.com](http://www.ohioagriwomen.com)
Women In Agriculture-Networks

Rural Action-Women Grow Ohio
http://ruralaction.org/programs/agriculture/women-grow-ohio/

• “group of livestock farmers, growers, homesteaders and urban backyard garden producers who have a desire to connect and unite Ohio women in all forms of agriculture”
Women In Agriculture-Opportunities
Networking and Education-Ohio Conferences

East Ohio Women In Agriculture Conference
Blog site
https://u.osu.edu/eastohwomeninag

Women in Agriculture-Northwest Ohio
https://www.facebook.com/Womeninagnwono
Women In Agriculture-Resources

ANNIE’S PROJECT

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

• Annie’s Project is an educational program dedicated to strengthening women’s roles in modern farm and ranch enterprises
  – Founded in 2003 by University of Illinois Extension Educator Ruth Hambleton, Annie’s Project is a tribute to her mother, Annette Kohlhagen Fleck
  – Education focused on five key areas of risk management-financial, human resources, production, legal and marketing
  – https://www.anniesproject.org/
Women In Agriculture-Opportunities
Networking and Education-Ohio Conferences

Small Farm Conferences and Small Farm Colleges

Find more information at:

https://agnr.osu.edu/small-farm-programs
Women In Agriculture-Opportunities

Networking and Education-Ohio Conferences

- Ohio Ecological Food and Farming Association Annual Conference
Women In Agriculture-Opportunities
Networking and Education-National Conferences

• American Agri-Women National Convention
  https://americanagriwomen.org/
  – 2020 AAW National Convention
  – November 5-8th, 2020 in  Bozeman, MT

• American Farm Bureau
  – Women’s Leadership
  – Young Farmer’s and Ranchers

• Women, Food and Agriculture Network (WFAN) Annual Meeting
  – http://www.wfan.org/
Women In Agriculture-Opportunities
Networking and Education-National Conferences

• National Farmers Union Women’s Conference

• Other states Women In Agriculture Programs
  • Women in AGriculture Network (WAGN)
  • Women In Agriculture (WIA)
Women In Agriculture-Opportunities
Networking and Education-Tours

- Ohio Sustainable Agriculture Farm Tour
  - Usually released sometime in May; Tours and Workshops offered late May/Early June-October
  - OEFFA is a partner
  - Supported by our OSU Extension Sustainable Ag Team (USDA SARE)
Women In Agriculture-Resource

- USDA National Agricultural Library, Alternative Farming Systems Information Center
  - https://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/women-agriculture
Women In Agriculture-Resources

USDA Agencies
- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- Rural Development (RD)
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education
- [http://www.sare.org/](http://www.sare.org/)
Women In Agriculture-Resources

Ohio AgrAbility Program
http://agrability.osu.edu/
- Provides assistance for farm families related to abilities
- Farm safety and prevention, assistive technologies, universal design, etc.

ATTRA  https://attra.ncat.org/

HER-gonomics-Green Heron Tools
http://www.greenherontools.com/hers hovel_more.php
Tools made just for women
Women In Agriculture-Resources

• **FarmHer**
  - Unique site dedicated to documenting women in agriculture with photography
  - Founder is Marji Guyler-Alaniz

• **Pink Tractor**
  - Site developed by a Kentucky based agricultural machinery trader company, FastLine for its women customer base
USDA-Women in Agriculture
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdZbI7QfTIU

“And so...made a Farm-her”- FarmHer
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pglyzJZa9ts

Land O Lakes- “SHE-I-EI-O”- Anne Marie Hite
https://vimeo.com/286042987

Women in Agriculture-Ashley Garlick-Loeffler (AGDAILY)
https://www.agdaily.com/video/ohio-students-video-women-in-agriculture/
“And though she be but little, she is fierce.”

- William Shakespeare
Thank You!

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