Women of Iowa Agriculture

A Resource Guide of Women’s Groups & Programs

2019
About this Resource Guide

Women have played a central role in Iowa agriculture for centuries and today are key decision makers for more than half of Iowa’s farmland. More women are taking on responsibility for the day-to-day operations on many farms and incorporating conservation practices onto their land.

Through vital educational programs, women’s agriculture groups provide women training and expertise needed to successfully meet the challenges of operating a farm and making tough business and conservation decisions. Whether they are an owner, operator or partner, the education opportunities available through these organizations help women be successful.

This resource guide contains information on key groups that provide networking opportunities, conferences, field days, workshops, webinars and other activities---especially for Iowa women.

Ultimately, we hope this guide will help you connect with other farm women, find a mentor, get answers to your farm management questions and become part of the growing community of Iowa farm women.
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Are you interested in taking courses on farm and business management? Are you looking for networks and educational opportunities in your communities? Would you like to be part of a statewide or regional organization? Are you interested in attending annual conferences on a variety of topics for women in agriculture?

If you said yes to any or all of the above, Iowa has you covered! Our state is full of resources that can meet the specific needs, interests, and availability of women landowners and farmers across the state. We look forward to connecting with you!

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The goal of FarmHer is to include women in the image of agriculture and to provide a connection point for these women. This is done through a national cable television show, a SiriusXM radio show and podcast, and events focused at women in agriculture including GROW conference for the next generation of agriculture and I am FarmHer for all women in agriculture.

Iowa Women in Agriculture works to expand the knowledge and economic potential of women farmers, landowners, and agribusiness professionals and their capacity to network with one another. Formed in 2005 as a nonprofit organization, IWIA is governed by a volunteer board of directors who plan and execute all aspects of its programs and services, including the annual conference.

IWIA's core mission of providing information, resources, and networking opportunities to women working in a dynamic agricultural industry culminates in a statewide conference held in late summer in central Iowa. Conference sessions and workshops focus on topics including marketing, finances, transition planning, water quality, conservation, record-keeping, leadership, technology, agronomics, government farm programs, and nutrient management. Participants are offered the options of attending an evening networking reception, and a pre-conference afternoon tour.
ISU Extension & Outreach Women in Ag’s mission is to improve the quality of life in Iowa by providing research-based educational programs that expand agricultural enterprise, improve natural resource management, and support the community of women in agriculture. The program offers local farm business management courses such as Annie’s Project and Managing for Today and Tomorrow – Farm Transition Planning. Women in Ag also hosts a Women Impacting Agriculture recognition program to honor amazing women each year. Extension holds online classes, tours, local workshops, and other programs in response to audience requests.

The ISU Extension and Outreach Women in Ag Leadership Conference brings together women farmers and landowners, women in agribusiness and women interested in agriculture. The conference advisory committee designs this annual event around three major goals. Women will take home and carry with them: 1) a belief in their own leadership abilities and the power of lifelong learning, 2) connections with other women that inspire their leadership journey and 3) new skills that enhance their leadership on the farm, in agribusiness and other industries and in their community.
**Women, Food & Agriculture Network**

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The Women, Food & Agriculture Network’s (WFAN) mission is to engage women in building an ecological and just-food agricultural system through individual and community power. WFAN exists so that women can give each other the information, connections, and encouragement they need to be effective practitioners and supporters of sustainable agriculture and healthy, community-based food systems.

WFAN coordinates four programs: **Women Caring for the Land**, for women who own farmland and rent their land; Harvesting Our Potential, serving aspiring and beginning women farmers; Plate to Politics, helping our members become leaders in their communities; and Women, Land & Legacy. WLL is a USDA program that helps empower women through conversation and networking. Read more about WLL on page 6.

**Women in Denim**

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Women in Denim is an annual, volunteer-run conference. The goal of Women in Denim is to support women in agriculture and those who enjoy the rural way of life.

A conference is held annually in January at Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, IA. Workshops, vendors, and keynotes fill-the conference schedule. Women involved in agriculture will find workshops to sharpen their skills in decision making, leadership, finances, and knowledge of agriculture. There are workshops that also support and acknowledge the importance of family, community, leisure time, quality of life and overall wellness.
Women, Land & Legacy (WLL) is a USDA education and outreach program that has impacted thousands of Iowa women in agriculture. It’s mission is connecting women with each other and with resources to help them make informed decisions for their land and communities. Working locally in counties throughout the state, WLL empowers women landowners and farmers through active participation, educational sessions and networking opportunities. Look to see if there is a local team in or near your county by viewing the active teams page on the website.
Please contact stateteam@womenlandandlegacy.org for changes or additions to this resource guide.

This guide is brought to you by Women, Land & Legacy and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.