

WOMEN IN FARMING

RESOURCE GUIDE

A Kansas Rural Center Publication

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Prepared by Dan Phelps

Project Team

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USDA Risk Management Agency
Risk Management Education Program

Women in Farming Resource Guide

Introduction

This Resource Guide is part of the Kansas Rural Center's **Women in Farming: Managing Production, Financial and Legal Risks as Farmers, Partners, and Landowners in Kansas**, a project funded by a grant from the USDA Risk Management Agency. The goal of this project is to educate women farmers, farm partners and women landowners about risk management on the farm and increase likelihood of success through educational workshops, activities and materials.

The Resource Guide is a compilation of agencies, organizations, programs, websites, and links to information helpful to women in farming. It is Kansas specific but includes references to national resources as well.

The reason for the guide is simple. Women play an increasing role in decision-making positions as farmers, farm partners, and landowners. The shift has created a need for increased educational opportunities supporting women in risk management decision-making.

Women farmers, often find that typically available educational opportunities and services do not meet their unique needs – including the need for women-only workshops, where women are more comfortable asking questions and sharing information. Research shows that women learn differently than men, responding better to a participatory approach than classroom lectures and to a women-only format.

To address this need, KRC, over the last four years, coordinated two programs. The first was “Women and Conservation” which focused primarily on conservation practices for farms and ranches and the state and federal cost share programs to help plan and implement these practices. Farm tours and learning circles of women provided comfortable spaces for women farmers, landowners and/or new farmers to ask questions of professionals. The second program provided a series of educational workshops on a broader range of topics providing information on specialty crop production, soil health and cover crops, livestock and grazing management, financial, legal and business management, and credit and loan information.

Women learned about the opportunities and challenges women face as they implement new enterprises on existing farms, begin farming or take over family operations, or just try to adopt new practices and enterprises with their families. Workshop topics ranged from specialty crop and high tunnel production, to integrated crop and livestock farming, to crop insurance and business, legal and financial risk management.

“Women farmers are increasing in number. They are often interested in small livestock and specialty crop production for direct marketing, and as additional enterprises on the farm, as well as in more traditional crop and livestock farming. According to research, women will inherit much of the land that is expected to change hands in the next twenty years,” stated Mary Fund, Executive Director of the Kansas Rural Center. “As women, we need to be better prepared to manage farms and land and make decisions. Our workshops introduce women to farming practices, ideas and information helpful to them as they make decisions today and plan for the future.”

KRC has a long history of supporting women in farming, and will continue to, support women as they increase their role in Kansas agriculture.

Since 1979, the Kansas Rural Center has promoted the long-term health of the land and its people through community-based research, education, and advocacy that advances economically viable, ecologically sound, and socially just food and farming systems. More information about the Kansas Rural Center and its work is available at www.kansasruralcenter.org.

STATE CONTACTS

NRCS State Office

USDA NRCS have offices in local counties around the state housed with local county conservation districts. Staff provide technical assistance on applying for state and federal cost-share programs to plan and implement conservation practices on farms and ranchers. The state office can guide you to appropriate county programs.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

760 South Broadway Boulevard

Salina KS 67401-4604

785-823-4500

855-533-5070 (fax)

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ks/contact/state/>

To find your local NRCS service center: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=KS>

Kansas Conservation Districts

County Conservation Districts are housed with NRCS offices. They offer assistance with planning and implementation with state conservation programs.

Kansas Department of Agriculture

Division of Conservation

1320 Research Park Drive

Manhattan, KS 66502

Phone: 785-564-6620

Fax: 785-564-6778

To find your local Conservation District: <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/division-of-conservation>

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)

FSA has a state office and field offices located around the state to administer credit and loan programs, crop insurance programs, and commodity programs. Several of their credit and loan programs have specific availability for women or minorities.

Kansas FSA State Office

3600 Anderson Ave

Manhattan, KS 66503-2511

(785) 539-3531

(855) 782-9609 – Fax

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=ks&area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing>

To find your local FSA service center:

<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=ks&agency=fsa>

Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services (KAMS)

Kansas Ag Mediations Services supports the Kansas ag community by providing confidential ag-related legal, financial, and mediation resources at no cost.

K-State Research & Extension

2A Edwards Hall

Manhattan, KS 66506-4806

1-800-321-3276

785-532-6958

785-532-6532 FAX

Char Henton – Mediation Coordinator, char@K-State.edu

<http://www.k-state.edu/kams/>

Kansas Forest Service

The Kansas Forest Service has a state office and several district offices with forestry specialists that deliver forestry services (planning and management) to citizens of the state. They also offer technical assistance for forestry related state and federal conservation cost-share programs.

2610 Claflin Road

Manhattan, KS 66502-2798

785-532-3300

www.kansasforests.org

The K-State Research and Extension• Farm Analyst Program:

The Farm Analyst Program's intensive one-on-one consultation, using farmers trained as K-State Research and Extension analysts, has provided assistance to more than 1,000 Kansas farm families. Analysts are active farmers and ranchers with extensive training in business analysis. Their farming experience provides a strong element of empathy to the families they assist. The role of a farm analyst is centered on the use of a computer software Program called FinPack™.

Duane Hund- Paxico, KS 785-636-5462 dhund@ksu.edu

Coy Allen- Wichita, KS 316-688-5313 callen@ksu.edu

Fred Armstrong- Lakin, KS 620-355-7338 farmstro@ksu.edu

Mark Schwarzentraub- Hutchinson, KS 620-931-7249 schwarzentraub@yahoo.com

Lavell Winsor- Grantville, KS 785-220-5451 lwinsor@ksu.edu

Kansas Rural Center

KRC's mission is to promote the long-term health of the land and its people through research, education and advocacy that advance an economically viable, ecologically sound, and socially just food and farming system.

1021 SW 10th St. #337

Topeka, KS 66604

866-579-5469

info@kansasruralcenter.org

<http://kansasruralcenter.org/>

Kansas Farmer's Union

KFU works to protect and enhance the economic interests and quality of life for family farmers and ranchers and rural communities.

901 W. 1st St.

PO Box 1064

McPherson, KS 67460

620-241-6630

ksfarmersunion@gmail.com

kansasfarmersunion.com

RESOURCES FOR WOMEN**CONSERVATION****Improving Conservation Outreach to Female Non-Operator and Farmland Owners
Curriculum Manual (Women Caring for the Land)**

http://kansas.server265.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Women-Improving-Conservation-Outreach-on-Women-Owned-Farmland-5thEdition_1_for-web-1.pdf

Cover Crops Booklet (Women Caring for the Land)

<http://www.northcentralsare.org/Educational-Resources/SARE-Project-Products/Women-Caring-for-the-Land-Cover-Crops-Booklet>

BUSINESS PLANNING

Women's Farm and Forestry: Developing Your Business Plan

Pre-harvest online training.

<http://wffatrainingdev.cfm.umn.edu/PreHarv/Default.aspx?SectionID=235>

Business plan development online training.

<http://wffatrainingdev.cfm.umn.edu/BizPlan/Default.aspx?SectionID=233>

Transition Planning – 12-Steps to Keeping the Family Farming

A publication from the Department of Agricultural Economics at K-State.

<http://kansaruralcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Transition-Planning-12-Steps-PP-draft.pdf>

Property Ownership in Kansas

Estate planning information by Forest Buhler, Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services.

http://www.k-state.edu/kams/succession/financial/Property_Ownership.pdf

Our Valuable Records

Blank forms for personal and financial records (K-State).

http://www.k-state.edu/kams/succession/financial/Our_Valuable_Records.pdf

Farm Family Transition Mediation Program

A model to help families working through transition or succession (Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services).

http://www.k-state.edu/kams/succession/financial/KAMS_MediationProgram.pdf

Estate Planning – The Basics

A step-by-step guide to estate planning (K-State).

<http://kansaruralcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/WCL-Estate-Planning-The-Basics-Part-1-0001.pdf>

Agricultural Business Structures: Basics Characteristics and Choices

Business management information by Forest Buhler, Kansas Agricultural Mediation Services.

http://www.k-state.edu/kams/succession/financial/Agricultural_Business_Structures.pdf

Preparing to Meet with an Attorney

A presentation by Forest Buhler at KRC's Women's Whole Farm Planning Workshop.

<http://slideplayer.com/slide/3562514/>

FINANCIAL

Federal Funding for Minority and Women Farmers and Ranchers (USDA)

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/minority-and-women-farmers-and-ranchers/index>

Scholarships for the Land (Farm Bill Brochure) (WFAN)

<http://www.wfan.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Farm-Bill-brochure.pdf>

MENTORSHIP

Harvesting Our Potential: Farmer Mentor Handbook (WFAN)

<http://wfan.mattnosco.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/2014WFANMentorHandbook.pdf>

LEADERSHIP

Plate to Politics: 6-part Webinars Series (WFAN)

<http://www.wfan.org/our-programs/plate-to-politicssm/watch-webinars/>

TENANT RELATIONS

Talk to Your Tenant (WFAN)

<http://www.wfan.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/TalktoYourTenantFINAL.pdf>

See: Women Caring for the Land publication under the Conservation category

MISCELLANEOUS

Characteristics of Women Farmer Operators and Their Farms (USDA)

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/1093194/eib111.pdf>

BOOKS

National Agricultural Library Database

http://agricola.nal.usda.gov/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&CNT=20&CMD=%28woman+or+women+or+girl%29+and+%28agriculture+or+agricultural+or+farms+or+farm+or+farming+or+forestry+or+homestead%3F%29+not+%28nutrition+or+WIC+or+infant%29&SL=Submit&LANG=ENG&Search_Code=CMD

ORGANIZATIONS

Women, Food and Ag Network (WFAN)

WFAN is a non-profit organization based in Iowa, whose mission is to link and empower women to build food systems and communities that are healthy, just, sustainable, and that promote environmental integrity.

PO Box 611
Ames, IA 50010
515-460-2477
info@wfan.org
<http://wfan.org>

Women Caring for the Land

Women Caring for the Land serves female non-operator landowners who are interested in learning more about conservation.

PO Box 611
Ames, IA 50010
515.460.2477
<http://womencaringfortheland.org/>

Women's Agricultural Network (WAgN)

WAgN works to increase the number of women owning and operating profitable farms and ag-related businesses, as well as their profile in leadership positions throughout the agricultural sectors of business, government and community.

University of Vermont
617 Comstock Rd., Ste. 5
Berlin, VT 05602
802-223-23889
wagn@uvm.edu
www.uvm.edu/wagn

Annie's Project: Risk Management Education for Farm and Ranch Women

Annie's Project is an educational program dedicated to strengthening women's roles in the modern farm enterprise.

Annie's National Network Initiative for Educational Success
Iowa State University
1111 NSRIC
Ames, IA 50011

Phone: 515/294-2136

Fax: 515/294-9496

E-mail: annies@iastate.edu

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/annie/>

CONFERENCES

Women Managing the Farm Conference (Kansas)

To aid women who are helping to aid women who are helping to grow the nation's food supply, whether by design, marriage, or inheritance.

2627 KFB Plaza, Ste. 201 E

Frontier Farm Credit

Manhattan, KS 66503

877-744-7144

Janet.barrows@frontierfarmcredit.com

<http://womenmanagingthefarm.blogspot.com>

WFAN Annual Conference

Davenport, IA

<http://www.wfan.org/conference/>

Women in Agriculture Regional Conference

Marshall, MO

<http://www.womeninag.net/>

Women in Agriculture Conference

Kearney, NE

<http://wia.unl.edu/>

GENERAL RESOURCES

SPECIALTY CROPS

Resource Guide to Organic and Sustainable Vegetable Production (ATTRA)

<https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=19>

Recommended Readings for Vegetable Crop Production

<http://kansasruralcenter.org/women-in-farming/>

Growing Under Cover: A Guide to Polytunnel Options for Kansas Growers (Kansas Rural Center)

<http://kansasruralcenter.org/growing-under-cover/>

Hoop House Handbook (Growing for Market)

Recently revised!

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Hoophouse-Handbook-Second-Edition/dp/0977978192>

LIVESTOCK

Understanding Grass Growth: The Key to Profitable Livestock Production

by Steven Waller, Lowell Moser, and Patrick Reece

This is a 20 page booklet that covers a lot of basics.

<http://grassland.unl.edu/understanding-grass-growth>

Foraging Behavior: Managing to Survive in a World of Change

by Frederick Provenza

<https://extension.usu.edu/behave/htm/learning-tools/book-and-dvd>

Comeback Farms: Rejuvenating Soils, Pastures and Profits with Livestock Grazing Management by Greg Judy

Filled with lots of practical information, compared to the previous two listed that are more scientific in nature.

<http://www.greenpasturesfarm.net/store.php?prodID=12110>

NRCS Fact Sheet on Rotational Grazing-2013

Rotational Grazing What? Why? Where? How?

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ky/newsroom/factsheets/?cid=stelprdb1101721>

Electric Fencing for Serious Grazers, USDA NRCS Missouri

<http://old.kansasruralcenter.org/publications/MONRCS-ElectricFencing.pdf>

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_010636.pdf

Livestock and Pasture Master Publication List

<https://attra.ncat.org/publication.html#livestock>

Poultry Basics Factsheet (ATTRA)

<https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=477>

Pastured Poultry Nutrition and Forages (ATTRA)

<https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=452>

How to Direct Market Your Beef (SARE)

<http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/How-to-Direct-Market-Your-Beef>

SARE Learning Center for Animal Production

<http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Topics/Animal-Production>

BEES/POLLINATORS

<http://kansaruralcenter.org/pollinator-resources/>

<https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=76>

Kansas Beekeeping Associations - <http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org/Links.html>

MARKETING***Finding Your Niche: A Marketing Guide for Kansas Farms* (Kansas Rural Center)**

<http://kansaruralcenter.org/finding-your-niche-a-marketing-guide-for-kansas-farms/>

Farmer's Market Resources (From the Land of Kansas)

<https://fromthelandofkansas.com/discover-resources/farmers-market-resources>

Direct Marketing (ATTRA)

<https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=263>

Scaling Up For Institutional Markets: A Case Study for the Midwest (ATTRA)

<https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=499>

Organic Certification (ATTRA)

<https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=163>

Adding Value to Farm Products: Overview (ATTRA)

<https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=270>

CROP INSURANCE

Whole Farm Revenue Program (WFRP):

Primer on Whole-Farm Revenue Protection Crop Insurance: Updates for 2016:

<https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/download.php?id=501>

RMA - WFRP: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/wfrp.html>

RMA - WFRP Factsheet: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/2015/wfrpfactsheet.pdf>

RMA - FAQ: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/help/faq/wfrp.html>

RMA - Comparison to AGR/AGRLite: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/2015/comparison.pdf>

NSAC- Grassroots Guide to WFRP:

<http://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/grassrootsguide/credit-crop-insurance/whole-farm-revenue-protection-for-diversified-farms/>

Webinar hosted by NCAT, NSAC, RAFI-USA:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6ZF1ylClsw>

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP):

FSA NAP Fact Sheet: http://fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/nap_2015_subsqnt_yrs.pdf

USDA News Release:

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdamediaafb?contentid=2014/12/0269.xml&printable=true&contentidonly=true>

NSAC Blog: <http://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/nap-farm-bill-changes/>

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

USDA SARE Learning Center

The Learning Center provides books, bulletins and videos (free and for sale) searchable by topic and product or title.

<http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/>

ATTRA Publication List

The ATTRA Publication List links to more than 300 easy-to-read titles covering organic production, livestock, horticultural crops, business and marketing, farm energy, water and pest management and more. Our publications are written by our sustainable agriculture specialists, who are experts in their fields, and are meant to help farmers, ranchers and others involved in sustainable agriculture.

<https://attra.ncat.org/publication.html>

Growing for Market: News, Advice and Resources for Market Farmers

Growing for Market is a nationally recognized publication based in Lawrence, KS. Articles are written by farmers, for farmers. The focus is on the business of growing and selling specialty crops, including fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers, and is appropriate for growers of all scales.

<http://www.growingformarket.com/>

Mother Earth News

Mother Earth News is the "Original Guide to Wiser Living." The magazine and website cover organic gardening, DIY projects and plans, renewable energy and energy-efficiency, natural health remedies, and recipes and tips for cooking real, local food. Find all you need to achieve self-sufficiency and live sustainably.

<http://www.motherearthnews.com/>

Stockman Grass Farmer

The Stockman Grass Farmer is *the* grazing publication of North America and is devoted to the art and science of making a profit from grassland agriculture.

<https://www.stockmangrassfarmer.com/index.php>

Acres USA

Acres is a publication focused on helping farmers, ranchers and market gardeners grow food organically, sustainably, without harmful, toxic chemistry.

<http://www.acresusa.com/>

NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATIONS

Sustainable Agriculture and Research Education (SARE)

SARE's mission is to advance—to the whole of American agriculture—innovations that improve profitability, stewardship and quality of life by investing in groundbreaking research and education.

<http://www.sare.org/>

info@sare.org

North Central SARE

Kansas is one of the twelve states within the North Central SARE Program.

They offer farmer/rancher grant programs.

www.northcentralsare.org/

Kansas SARE

Kansas SARE receives funding from NC-SARE for professional development programming for agricultural professionals.

Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops

144 Seaton Hall Manhattan, Ks. 66506

Phone: (785) 532-2976

Fax: (785) 532-5825

Kerri Ebert, KS SARE Coordinator, kebert@ksu.edu

<http://kansassustainableag.org/sare>

ATTRA, Sustainable Agriculture Program

ATTRA, a program developed and managed by the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT), is committed to providing high value information and technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, Extension agents, educators, and others involved in sustainable agriculture in the United States.

<https://attra.ncat.org/>

ATTRA's Ask an Expert: 1-800-346-9140

National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)

NCAT helps people by championing small-scale, local, and sustainable solutions to reduce poverty, promote healthy communities, and protect natural resources.

<https://www.ncat.org/>

NCAT's Midwest Office

206 6th Ave.

Suite 1101

Des Moines, Iowa 50309

(515) 288-0460

(479) 587-3474

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC)

NSAC is an alliance of grassroots organizations that advocates for federal policy reform to advance the sustainability of agriculture, food systems, natural resources, and rural communities.

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

110 Maryland Avenue NE, Suite 209 Washington, D.C. 20002

Phone: (202) 547-5754

info@sustainableagriculture.net

<http://sustainableagriculture.net/about-us/>

