



Women for the Land

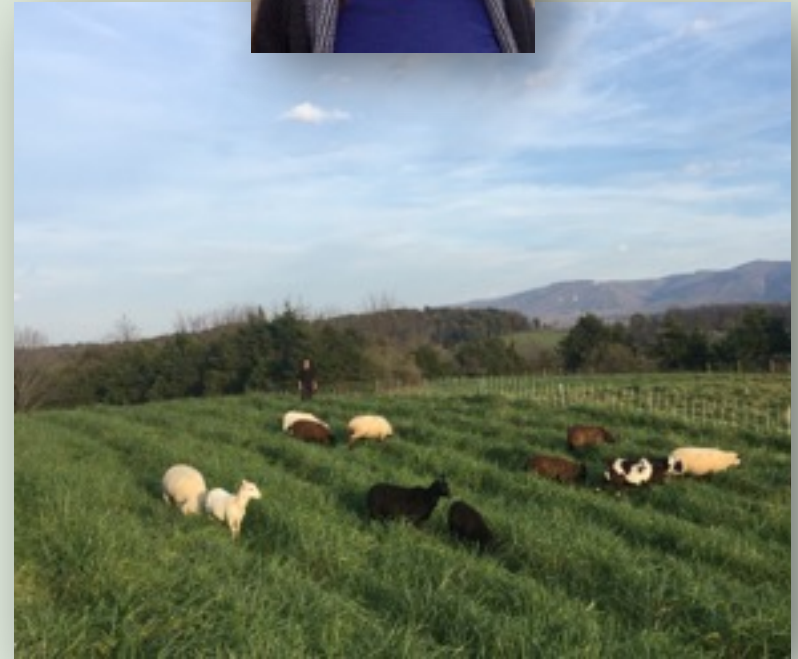
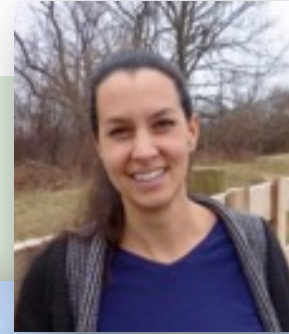
A New Era of
Ownership and
Conservation

The Women Behind Our Land

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A National Shift in Ag Land Ownership

- Nearly **301 million acres (1/3) of U.S. land** are now farmed or co-farmed by women & at least **87 million additional acres** are in the hands of women landowners
- Percentage of women who own land expected to increase in the next decade as more women inherit farmland from their relatives



Focusing Nationally on Women Non-operating Landowners



- 31% of land on farms in the 48 contiguous states is owned by people who do not farm (non-operating landowners)
- 37% of non-operating landowners in the U.S. are female and own 46% of farmland

The California Perspective on Women Non-operating Landowners

- 37% of California acres rented out is owned by people who do not farm (non-operating landowners)
- 29% of non-operating landowners in California are women



Getting to Know Women Landowners

- Particularly interested in conservation
- Deeply committed to healthy ag land and thriving farming communities
- Under represented in farmland conservation programs
- Face gender barriers to managing their land for long-term sustainability



Introducing AFT's Women for the Land Program

Objectives: Address the obstacles women landowners face in accessing conservation programs and resources. Support women landowners in taking action to protect their farmland, adopt environmentally sound farming practices, and enhance farm viability.

Three key components:

- Research (Women Non-operating Landowner Survey)
- Conservation learning circles
- Technical assistance & policy reform





Women Non-operating Landowner Survey

- Developed 5 years ago and sent out to women non-operating landowners in 11 states
- Goals:
 - Increase knowledge and awareness of women non-operating landowners
 - Identify the most effective ways to support women landowners in achieving long-term goals around conservation
- Survey distributed last fall in California and currently collecting preliminary results

Women Landowner Conservation Learning Circles

- Nationally, since 2012:
 - 50 learning circles across 7 states
 - Topics: Whole farm planning, Succession planning, Farmer-landlord relationship building, Farmland protection
- In California:
 - First learning circle hosted in Solano County in 2018
 - 2 more circles planned for the San Joaquin Valley this March





• Community

• My Land

My/Our Plan

• Conservation

Legacy

• ACTION

Technical Assistance & Policy Reform

- Technical assistance, resources, & templates: American Farmland Trust's Farmland Information Center
- Strong conservation policies & programs: Women landowners

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