



american honey

FARMER'S DAUGHTER

WOMEN IN FARMING / FEBRUARY 18, 2022

You Grow Girls! – Women in Farming



Women's rights have been a societal topic since the suffrage movement in 1848 and a large topic of conversation in more recent years. With everyone talking about our rights, we must not often be wrong, LOL, which is why the [U.S. Farm Bureau](#) states, "56% of all farms have at least one female decision maker." Indeed, hens aren't the only females on the farm.

Fun 'FarmHer' Facts



In fact, between the years of 2012 and 2017, the number of [women farmers grew by 27%](#), and today, they make up over one third of the farming industry, sitting at [36% of all U.S. farm operators](#). You grow girls! In light of this, we are the 'farmHers'! I'm not writing this to advocate that men and women are physically equal, but God simply made women to do all that men couldn't, and the opposite. On the 8th day, when God made the farmer, he didn't specify the sexuality. He did, however, make the playing field the same (pun intended). While men have the reputation of hard, physically demanding labor, "women farmers are most heavily engaged in day-to-day farm and ranch decisions, along with recordkeeping and financial management." Even the farm wife who feeds the farmer is just as important as the farmer himself. The moral here, women have the same opportunities as men to be successful and thrive in the farming business, and they are!

Live with Grit & Grace

Again, I am the [daughter of a fifth-generation farmer](#), and us farm women have a backbone like no other. Granted, being yelled at by dad for hitting the gas barrel with the farm truck or leaving the cow gate open sure makes that stiff backbone feel like a limp noodle. Stories for another time ... live and learn, right? However, we have learned to live life with a little grit and grace.

As I sit here, I think about the women in the farm business. In farming, the "glass ceiling" of business isn't actually a thing. The playing field for farming is the same for women as it is for men. You can call yourself whatever title you want - CEO, CFO, COO - but titles mean nothing on the farm. The work that needs done can be accomplished by both male and female, and the rewards are the same, no matter your gender. If you work hard, manage your inputs, and market and sell your grain or livestock successfully in the business, you will thrive. In fact, women have a bit of an advantage in the farming trade because the government offers guaranteed loans and direct loans for women in farming because they are still a minority. Remember the 36% that make up the industry? The opportunities are equal, and what a bright spot in today's business world where it is often argued that women are at a disadvantage. You grow girls!

An All-American Businesswoman

All of this thinking of women in the farming business reminds me of my Great, Great Aunt Edna, a.k.a Auntie. Auntie was the epitome of the 'All-American Businesswoman' in farming. She was born on a farm in 1916. In her early twenties, the love of her life left for World War II and, unfortunately, didn't return home. So, Auntie stayed on that farm her entire life. She was just shy of 100 when she passed away.

Edna worked side-by-side with the men day in and day out, tending to the livestock, plowing and planting the fields, and harvesting the grain

for market. She grew huge vegetable gardens every year to supply the family with the winter staples. She had to consider all of her inputs for the farm as well as the rotations of the crops. She would assist in managing the marketing and sales of the grain and livestock and even deliver the goods. She wore all hats for the success of her farm. Sometimes, she even had to play 'vet' to tend to injured animals or care for the heifers during calving season. Other times she would cook for the tired farm crews if she wasn't behind the horse and plow herself. She was the hay bailer, the rock picker, the oats seeder or the egg gatherer, no title needed, she was the proud owner of her family farm. The land she and the family worked has been passed down for over 120 years. You grow girl!



Great, great Auntie Edna holding a picture of her family on the farm.

Generation to Generation



As an adult, and a marketing student in college, I treasure the knowledge that I come from a long line of hardworking women who were successful in their business endeavors. They knew their trade, and they marketed it well. So well, that the land remains in the family, and today my mom owns the ground. She cherishes it not just for the business value, but as a sentimental and precious heirloom that unites the generations of women and men in our family.

“Legacy is not leaving something for people, it’s leaving something in people.”

– ~Peter Strople

As I ponder my next stage in life in today’s business world, I believe the hard working farming women of this great country do just that for their future generations.

Sincerely,

an american honey

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4 Comments



Tina Cummings

February 23, 2022 at 6:22 am

[REPLY](#)

Love this . It really shows women might not be talked about in the farm world but it would not run with out the women and the team work of a family.



Tina Cummings

February 23, 2022 at 6:25 am

[REPLY](#)

Love this . It really shows women might not be talked about outside the farm world but it would not run with out the women and the team work of a family.

[Keep on Truckin' - American Honey.](#)

February 24, 2022 at 9:19 pm

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[...] You Grow Girls! - Women in Farming [...]

