

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension and Outreach

Success Story

Title

Helping Women Make More Informed Ag Decisions In Northwest Iowa

Author: Gary Wright

Author's Location

DICKINSON COUNTY EXTENSIO

SPIRIT LAKE IA

51360-2106

Relevance

Trends continue to show an increase to the proportion of women owning and/or managing Ag assets. As of the most recent 2017 5-year Iowa Farmland Ownership and Tenure Study, women own 47 percent of the farmland and 13 percent is owned by women beyond 80 years of age. ISU Extension and Outreach continued to support women in Ag education in key Ag decision-making, thru programs like *Annie's Project*, *Women Marketing Grain* and *An Introduction to Tiling/Drainage*.

Response

During the year ending July 1, 2019, a total of 54 women directly received this education in Northwest Iowa: (a) Women Marketing Grain in Cherokee county (8 women); (b) Tiling/Drainage in Buena Vista county (8 women); (c) *Annie's Project* in Plymouth county (14 women); and (d) *Annie's Project* in Lyon county (24 women).

Type of Change(s)(s)

- Learning Changes
- Behavior Changes
- Condition Changes

Impact Statement

Northwest Iowa offerings of Women in Ag programming enhances women attendees' readiness to contribute to Ag. Better farming decisions help producers stay economically viable and able to support and stimulate their local economy, which promotes a more vital rural community. Agriculture in Iowa is a major contributor to the overall State of Iowa economics. Women are a larger component of Ag decision making, both short run operating decisions, and long-term ownership decisions. Successful farming aids overall community quality of life, e.g. main street shopping, arts/recreation, schools, etc.

ISUEO Signature Issues

Food & the Environment --> Farm Business Management

Outcomes

Farmers who attended the WIA programming are making better decisions regarding the risk of alternative farm plans. They can evaluate the effect each plan has on the farm business through the knowledge and skills they gained from participating in the NW Iowa workshop. Individual client learning is well-documented by ISU Extension and Outreach Women in Ag and International *Annie's Project* pre- and post-surveys. In addition a simple 6-month, 5 question e-mail gains answers when asked for feedback to the question "what actions have you taken." As of this writing the last two feedback tools from the above two, most recent Plymouth and Lyon county offerings are in process. The below quotes are from the *Annie's Project* participants in Buena Vista, Feb-Mar, 2018, when asked for feedback to their best experience/actions taken:

"Networking with other women in agriculture."

"Great speakers, interesting topics, would highly recommend regardless of involvement in farming operation."

"Participation in Annie's Project gave me more confidence to be involved in important conversations."

Location / Participant(s) Came From

- Campus
- County

- Buena Vista
- Cherokee
- Clay
- Dickinson
- Emmet
- Ida
- Lyon
- O'Brien
- Osceola
- Palo Alto
- Plymouth
- Pocahontas
- Sac
- Sioux
- Woodbury

Partner(s)

- Business and Industry
- County Extension Staff
- Local Government/Agency