

CASE STUDY:

WOMEN IN LOCAL FOOD AND FARMING



In May 2021, Center for Rural Affairs staff members Erin Schoenberg and Kirstin Bailey filmed an “alternative” farm tour to share with an online audience.

The farm tour features the southeast Nebraska-based group, Women in Local Food and Farming. Members of the group who were filmed for this video included: Alicia Schroeder of Delish Farms, Lainey Johnson of Bright Hope Family Farm, Katie Jantzen of West End Farm, Megan Nelson of Knocknamon Stable and Ranch, and Rose Munderloh of Rose's Home Crafts.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Women supporting women to improve our local food systems and sustainable farms.



View the farm tour video at cfra.org/women-local-food-and-farming

GROUP TIMELINE:

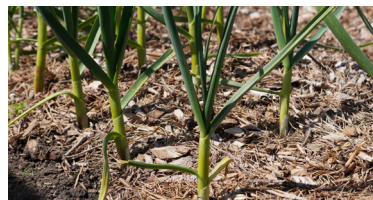
First meeting occurred in November 2018.



Word started to spread via word-of-mouth, farmers markets, and social media.



More farmers joined the group. (New farmers always welcome.)



First Mother's Day Market event took place in 2020.



Future plans include a mini conference or speaker event.



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THE FARMERS:

The women's farms include vegetables, livestock, cut flowers, eggs, bees, baking, and sewing.



FORMING THE GROUP:

"I'm just so glad people took the initiative to make this happen. This can happen in other ways too, with other groups, it just takes a few people that want to get something started." — Katie Jantzen

ENCOURAGING HELP:

"Being a part of this group has just been such an encouragement to keep going. The encouragement applies to everything from flooding to the day-to-day balance of raising a young family while also running a farm business."

— Alicia Schroeder

ADVICE TO EARLIER SELF:

"You're going to make a lot of mistakes and that's okay. You can just learn from them, and there's always next year." — Lainey Johnson



COMPONENTS OF A FUTURE DREAM CONFERENCE



Education: How to participate in the food system (growing/turning crops into food).

Finances: Money can be a barrier.

Social aspect: Conceptions about gender in farming can be a barrier if everyone thinks all farmers are guys.

SHARED EXPERIENCES:

"This group gives women the social empowerment to get out and get their hands dirty and take on the challenges. It's wonderful to have other women to share these experiences with, and it's very empowering. We really like to share the sustainable women-led ideas that we all really hold dear."

— Rose Munderloh