RUTH'S STORY

Originally from Omaha, Nebraska. Grew up canning and gardening.

Together, she and her husband started on a community farm in Wisconsin. They had a steep learning curve, which helped equip them with the tools and knowledge needed to start their own farm.

They moved to Nebraska and started their own Community Supported Agriculture (CSA).

Currently...
Co-owner (with her husband, Evrett Lunquist) of Common Good Farm, located outside Raymond, Nebraska.
CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Have utilized U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) conservation programs including the high tunnel cost share and a separate organic EQIP program focusing on rotational grazing, cover crop, nutrient, pest management, and EQIP Drought Assistance Funding in 2012 for reseeding pastures.

Common Good Farm is certified organic and certified biodynamic, meaning organic agriculture standards are met.

In addition, they learned about farming from publications such as Acres USA, Growing for Market, American Pastured Poultry Producers Grit, and Biodynamics.

They also consider the farm to be a whole organism.

ADVICE FOR BEGINNING FARMERS

“Learning how other farmers do things is important. Farming can be demanding—day and night, but it is worth it.”

UNIQUE CHALLENGES THAT WOMEN FACE

“Teamwork is important when raising a family on the farm. Many women feel they are limited in what they can do on the farm because they are raising children, so sometimes it is helpful to designate roles for various tasks to share the duties with a spouse/partner.”