

Public Abstract

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Title:Meeting the Educational Needs of Farm Women: A Case Study of Annie's Project

Women farm operators continue to be underserved by traditional agricultural education and training. In order to effectively address the needs of farm women, it is necessary to evaluate and study existing agricultural educational programs for women.

This case study evaluated the effectiveness of Annie's Project in meeting the educational needs of farm women. Interviews were conducted with 18 past Annie's Project participants in Missouri, Iowa, and Illinois to study the influence of Annie's Project on their lives.

The findings of this case study show that Annie's Project led participants to feel empowered to become better business partners and owners, seek additional education, increase their satisfaction with their farm role and/or lifestyle, and contribute to their rural communities. This study supports the current research that women respond to women only programs, a network of other women is important, and education empowers women. As we move forward, the need for educational programs for farm women will continue to be in high demand. Annie's Project can serve as a guide for development of future programming for farm women.