



2015 Annual Report



Message from the Executive Director



To the WFAN Community,

Sometimes the stories I hear are overwhelming.

We heard from a woman going through a divorce and afraid she was going to lose the farm too, where she was raising her children. We heard from a woman who just lost multiple family members, inherited a farm, and was bullied by the tenant farmer. And we heard from many women who felt unwelcome in their own communities as the odd woman out, doing some other kind of farming than all her neighbors.

But we get to tell these women they are not alone. As isolating as it can be to be a woman in food and agriculture, we are a network of women across the country who have each other's backs. We help women connect to other women who have been in their shoes, and we get to share our success stories. And there are many success stories, from finally starting the farm of their dreams to groups pulling together to protect their watershed. Make no mistake – we women are changing the food system.

To all of you who support WFAN: thank you. We are making a difference. Here are some highlights:

- We trained over 100 women beginning farmers through on-farm mentorships, business training, and networking and educational events
- We reached 400 women who own farmland to talk about working with tenants and about conservation practices
- We hosted 200 women at our annual conference to network and learn from each other
- And 30 women took part in our leadership training and shared their dreams of what they want to advocate for

On top of all of this work, we were also highlighted in 14 media stories about women in food and agriculture. We need to change the narrative of women in agriculture, and we are helping to get more women's voices heard.

We've got a lot more work to do. Let's go.

Bridget Holcomb

Our Staff and Board



WFAN board members hard at work on an updated strategic plan.

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WFAN Team

Becky Thorson, Office Manager

Bridget Holcomb, Executive Director

Carol Schutte, Women Caring for the Land Coordinator

Jean Eells, Women Caring for the Land collaborator

Leigh Adcock, Conference and Communications Coordinator

Liz Johnson, Plate to Politics collaborator

Lynn Heuss, Harvesting Our Potential Coordinator

Melody Bro, Women, Land and Legacy Coordinator

Wren Almitra, Women, Land and Legacy Coordinator

Highlights of Our Work

Here are some of our favorite moments from 2015.

Our Executive Director, Bridget Holcomb, was invited to present at USDA. “I probably doubled the number of times the word ‘feminism’ was ever said at the USDA,” she said.

“They will really responsive. They know what women are facing in agriculture.”



Carol Schutte and Jean Eells doing what they do so well: helping women farmland owners get their hands dirty. After one day with Carol and Jean, these women know what to look for when looking at soil, and 94% report they are likely to talk with their tenant about what they learned. Within six months, over half of these women will take a conservation step because they attended a Women Caring for the Land meeting.

Highlights of Our Work



In the spring we trained our women farmers who were mentors for our Harvesting Our Potential program. Attorney Ed Cox helped by discussing legal issues. In turn some of the women farmers helped by pushing his car out of the mud.

And then there are the aspiring farmers who get to learn from these strong women. Here's what they have to say:

- "This program was amazing and totally changed the direction of my life. I knew I loved farming but being able to work and live with such an inspiring woman and working around so many other farmers in such a beautiful place made me realize that I do want to farm for the rest of my life."
- "As the mentorship continued, I began to realize the importance of relationship building. Now that I have a relationship with [my mentor], she will continue to mentor me even after the program has finished."
- "This could be a life changer."



Highlights of Our Work

We brought 200 inspiring women together for our annual conference. And inspiring women inspire each other, as we heard from attendees:

- “Good wide range of topics. Nice mix of participants. It's invaluable getting people together to meet, network, share the work they are doing....and not feel so isolated.”
- “This was such an amazing conference. So good to recharge with inspired women passionate about the issues. I was also so happy to see so many young women there. I think it is a testament to WFAN's relevance and importance!”
- “What a rejuvenating 1.5 days! (when do you say that from returning from a conference?!)”



WFAN's Mission:

To engage women in building an ecological and just food and agricultural system through individual and community power.

Thank You to Our Funders

Grants

Ag Ventures Alliance
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Iowa Department of Natural Resources Resource
Enhancement and Protection
Iowa Women's Foundation
Kentucky Natural Resources Conservation Service
Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture
McKnight Foundation

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USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education
Western Conservation Foundation

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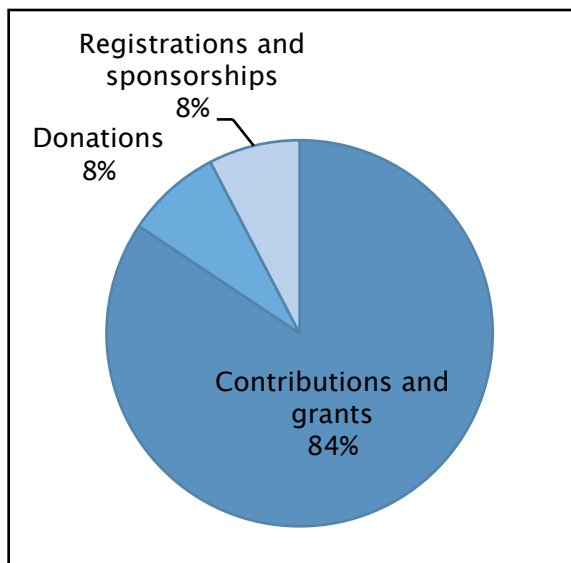
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2015 Revenue and Expenses

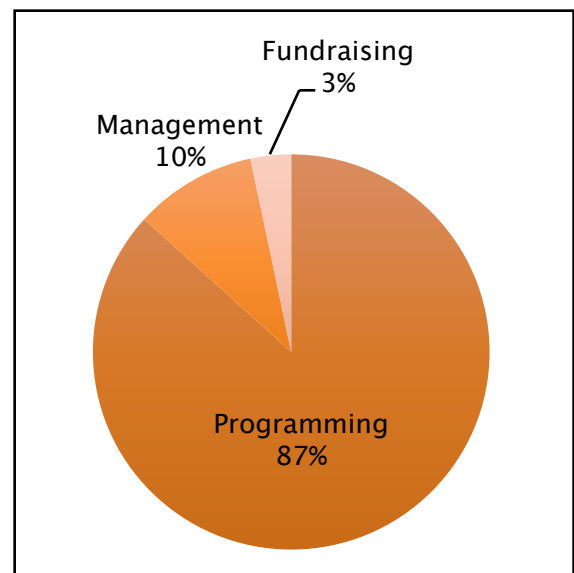
REVENUE	
Contributions and grants	\$359,438.47
Donations	\$35,910.53
Registrations and sponsorships	\$32,546
TOTAL	\$427,895
EXPENSES	
Programming	\$400,428.80
Management	\$46,080.17
Fundraising	\$15,275.03
TOTAL	\$461,784

Seeing that our expenses are greater than our revenue? Don't worry: some of our grants get paid by reimbursement and come in after our fiscal year is over. We never spend a penny we don't have!

Revenues



Expenses





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