Women in Agriculture

“Women make crucial contributions in agriculture and rural enterprises in all developing country regions, as farmers, workers and entrepreneurs. Their roles vary across regions but, everywhere, women face gender-specific constraints that reduce their productivity and limit their contributions to agricultural production, economic growth and the well-being of their families, communities and countries.”
– FAO 2012 Report, State of Agriculture; Women in Agriculture

Women play an important role in agriculture and there are many opportunities for farming women here in Maryland. Annie’s Project has been an educational program dedicated to strengthening women’s roles in the modern farm enterprise for ten years. Their mission statement reads: To empower farm women to be better business partners through networks and by managing and organizing critical information. Annie’s Project fosters problem solving, record keeping, and decision-making skills in farm women.

Her goal was to marry a farmer and she did. Annie spent her lifetime learning how to be an involved business partner with her farm husband. Together they did great things, but it wasn’t easy. Annie’s Project was established to help take her experiences and share it with farm women living and working in a complex business.

If you are one of our female Beginning Farmers or know a woman in agriculture, consider attending or sharing information about the Mid-Atlantic Women in Agriculture Region Conference on February 12-13 in Dover Delaware. Find out more about the event here.

Annie was a woman who grew up in a small town in Northern Illinois.
The **Beginning Farmer Guidebook** was developed as part of the Maryland Collaborative for Beginning Farmer Success program and is intended to be a resource for agricultural service providers and farmers in the region. The guide should be used as a companion to the [Beginning Farmer Success website](http://beginningfarmersuccess.org) which contains additional resource material to support farmers in Maryland.

The Guidebook contains various publications often requested by beginning farmers. Each publication may be used as a standalone document or in conjunction with other material. Authorship of each publication is indicated on the actual document.

The Maryland Collaborative for Beginning Farmer Success builds on existing University of Maryland Extension resources and partnerships with Future Harvest-CASA; Southern MD Agriculture Development Commission, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, regional nonprofits, agricultural organizations, and experienced farmers to provide beginning farmers with easily accessible tools and practical experience-based training on farm production, marketing, land management, business planning, and financial resources.

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**Beginning Farmer is on Facebook**

The Beginning Farmer Success Team excitedly joined Facebook this past week! If you are on Facebook be sure to Like us so you can get updates on events and see pictures from our events across that state!

Submit photos of you and your farm by sending us a message on Facebook and you could be our Farmer Spotlight!

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**Click here to receive this newsletter every month**

To submit information for the monthly newsletter, please contact the Beginning Farmer Success Project Coordinator, Hannah Shear at hshear@umd.edu.

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Hannah Shear  
hshear@umd.edu  
301.600.3580

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