

Workshop Title:

The Changing Face of Farming

Speakers:

Emily Board, Nollie Livingston, Emily Shapiro

Executive Summary:

This plenary covers the lives and views of three different women in agriculture and offers their perspective on farming while female. Also features a 17 year old girl and her insight as a future farmer and is representative of the growing trend of female farmers.

Main Notes:

Emily Board

- ◆ What inspired her to go into agriculture? Nova Scotia did
- ◆ Work on farm in exchange for boarding or housing
- ◆ She got to work on really good farms
- ◆ Engaged her mental and physical capacity
- ◆ Community of farmers like ACORN
- ◆ Community of eaters or clients
- ◆ Support of community

Childcare on their farm's first farm baby was born when their farm was already 3 years old. Hired some extra staff when 4 of her staff were out at the same time for weeks when 2 babies were born 1 day apart. They live in Quebec. Maternity leave 8 weeks, paternity leaves for 5 weeks, parental leave 30 something weeks for either parent. One would work in the morning and the other would pick up in the afternoon so

they both worked. When workday ends, they go home and give their full attention to their children.

Important to encourage women in their roles as farmers: both by males and females. When talking about farmers, people have a tendency to drop the women when promoting these farms even if they are both involved in running the farm and working on the farm. Words have power; acknowledgement is important. Try dropping the man's name in this case and see what it brings to the table. Seems like guys know how to do things and girls don't is a common perception. Go out and get those skills. If there were a way to get women's workwear it would be very beneficial.

Nollie Livingstone

- ◆ 17 years old
- ◆ Distaste for processed food; don't know what's in it
- ◆ Positive effect of organic food on people
- ◆ Nutrients back into the soil and composted

Her generation will not face as many barriers because it is not as uncommon for women to do things in this day and age. Has never pictured a husband there with her running the farm. She wants the same respect as any man would who runs a farm; she can do anything she wants. It isn't about whom you are if you want to do something. She believes she has the same intelligence as any boy or man running a farm. She will not let barriers get in the way of her goals.

Views a lot of opportunities as equal due to her age. Things you should consider: don't enter a partnership with a male so things aren't questioned or overruled. Promote the incredible role that women can play; that they are just as good as men. People will

do what is promoted. Men should also promote that women are just as important to business as they are.

Emily Shapiro

- ◆ Mixed livestock farm; pasture raised; not certified organic
- ◆ John Best; partner
- ◆ Executive director of SPADE
- ◆ 16 week on farm job and ability training
- ◆ Why agriculture? She said she wanted to be a farmer when she was 6 and still says it today
- ◆ Grows her own meat

Still barriers for women in agriculture, perception barrier, need to explain to people that she does play a major role in the farm and is not just a supporter of her husband. She takes on some of the roles in marketing because she is not as familiar with farming as he is since he grew up farming and she didn't. She does just as much work as he does.

Don't be afraid to call yourself a farmer; not a woman in farming, agriculture, etc.; a farmer. If you're a farmer then be a farmer and call yourself a farmer. Put yourself out there in a leadership position. There are many organizations looking for people to help out on a board level. Be positive to other women; be a strong voice for the work that they are doing. Don't burn yourself out trying to play every role on the farm if it isn't your passion or strength. Do what you want to do and not to prove a point; you'll love farming even more.