



5th National Conference for Women in Sustainable Agriculture
**Grow, sow, reap, repeat: Making connections toward
resiliency**

November 30 - December 2, 2016 • Portland, OR

<http://2016wisa.org/>

CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

The 5th National Conference for Women in Sustainable Agriculture will bring together farmers, educators, technical assistance providers and activists engaged in healthy food and farming to share educational and organization strategies, build technical and business skills, and address policy issues aimed at expanding the success of women farmers and ranchers. The conference will take place November 30-December 2, 2016, at the Double Tree by Hilton at 1000 NE Multnomah St., Portland, OR 97232.

In order to build a rich program for our participants, the program committee is soliciting workshop proposal ideas. Thank you for considering submitting your idea. Below is some information that will help you develop your idea.

OUR AUDIENCE

Farmers, educators, activists and agricultural professionals involved in sustainable agriculture. Women engaged in developing healthy, viable food systems are our target audience.

SESSION DETAILS

Sessions will be 60 or 90 minutes in length. Expect approximately 25-40 attendees per session. The program will offer a variety of formats, including one-speaker sessions, joint presentations, panels that combine farmers, service providers and activists, and round tables featuring group discussion. Participatory formats are encouraged. You may be asked to modify your submission or combine your workshop with another.

FORMAT OF PROPOSALS

To be considered, all proposals must be submitted electronically at <https://wagn.wufoo.com/forms/2016-wisa-conference-call-for-workshops/> by 11:59 p.m. March 31, 2016. Submission of a proposal is not a guarantee of acceptance. Proposal review will be complete by early June.

TOPICS

We are seeking presentations and workshops in the following tracks/topics:

TRACK 1: GROW (production topics)

We are interested in workshops that share results of on-farm research, relay proven strategies, and/or provide "how-to" information. Topics could include:

- Crop management
- Soil health
- Pest management
- Livestock health and welfare
- Season extension
- Value-added enterprise development
- Farm safety/Ergonomics
- Equipment maintenance and repair
- Nutrition

TRACK 2: SOW (business planning, diversification, financial topics)

This track includes workshops designed to help begin and maintain successful farms and rural businesses. We are particularly interested in interactive, hands-on workshops that will engage participants. Please indicate the experience level that would be most appropriate for this workshop (e.g., beginners, intermediate or experienced). Topics could include:

- Business planning/Marketing
- Food Safety
- Expansion
- Diversifying your farm income
- Financial management
- Maintaining and improving a healthy farm ecology

TRACK 3: REAP (food systems development, policy, advocacy)

This track will focus on developing leadership capacity and skills for women farmers and healthy food systems advocates wherever they want to lead, from the farm house to the White House. Workshops should provide opportunities for participants to acquire information, leadership and organizing skills they need to be effective participants in policy development at the local, state and federal levels. We are seeking a mix of round-table, panel presentation and “how-to” sessions. Topics may include:

- Women impacting the Farm Bill & agricultural policy
- Creating community support for small farms and local food systems
- Running effective meetings
- Mentoring the next generation of leaders
- How to advocate effectively with limited time and resources
- Creating a farm/ranch women’s network in your area
- Fearless fundraising
- Food access/food justice

TRACK 4: REPEAT (sustainability and transition; maintaining a healthy balance, farm transfer/transition, mentoring)

- Balancing farm and family
- Beginning farmer challenges (finding apprenticeships, land, financing, mentors)
- Women landowner challenges (working with tenants, using leases, conservation management, managing family conflict)
- Financial planning for retirement
- Farm transfer and transition (for both farmers and non-operator landowners)
- Expressing your vision and values as a woman farmer or landowner through writing, music and the visual arts

Don't see a category for your idea? Please submit it anyway. A variety of topics that are relevant to women in sustainable agriculture will be considered.

YOU WILL HEAR BACK FROM US

Submission of a proposal is not a guarantee of its acceptance. A planning committee will review all proposals. Notification of your proposal status will be provided by June 1, 2016. Please contact program committee chair Mary Peabody at mary.peabody@uvm.edu if you don't hear from us.

PRESENTER BENEFITS

Presenters will receive a reduction in the conference registration fee. A limited amount of scholarship and travel stipend funding may be available, but is earmarked for farmer participants. Questions? Contact Maud Powell (maud.powell@oregonstate.edu) or Melissa Fery (melissa.fery@oregonstate.edu), conference coordinators.

SPONSORS

This event is hosted by Oregon State University's Center for Small Farms and Community Food Systems, and is being coordinated by a nationwide coalition of organizations including: Women's Agricultural Networks of Vermont and Pennsylvania; Women, Food and Agriculture Network; Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service; Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE); and others.