

# Women on the Land



## Changing Lands Changing Hands

*A National Conference on Farm & Ranch  
Access, Tenure, and Transfer*

JUNE 13-15, 2017 | DENVER, COLORADO



*Photo credit: UVM Extension Northwest Crops & Soils Program*

# Session Learning Objectives

As a result of this session, you will...

- Better understand Women on the Land
- Tips on working with women farmers & ranchers
- Programs available
- Outcomes & Lessons Learned





# Women Farmers & Ranchers and Farmland Tenure



*Presented By Debra Heleba*  
*University of Vermont Extension*



**21st Century Management: Enhancing Educational Programming  
for Beginning Farm and Ranch Women project**



*Photo credit: Beth Holtzman, University of Vermont Extension*



Photo credit: Chindy Daley, Chico State University

**14%**

of the nation's 2.1 million farms  
had a female principal operator  
in 2012.

Women Farmers control

**7%**

of U.S. farmland

and account for

**3%**

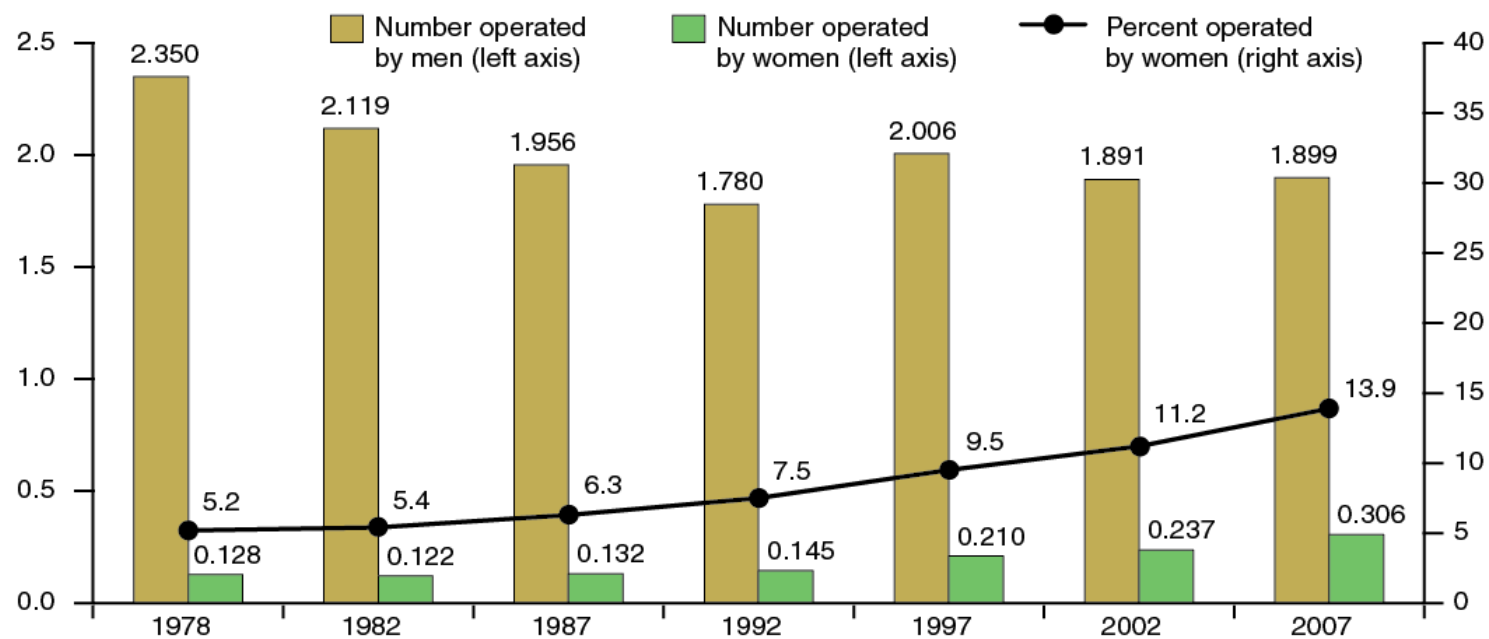
of sales.



## U.S. farms and ranches by gender of the principal operator, 1978-2007 censuses

*The share of farms and ranches operated by women has grown to 14 percent*

Million farms and ranches

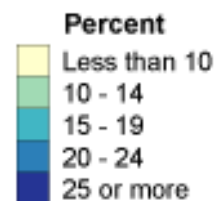
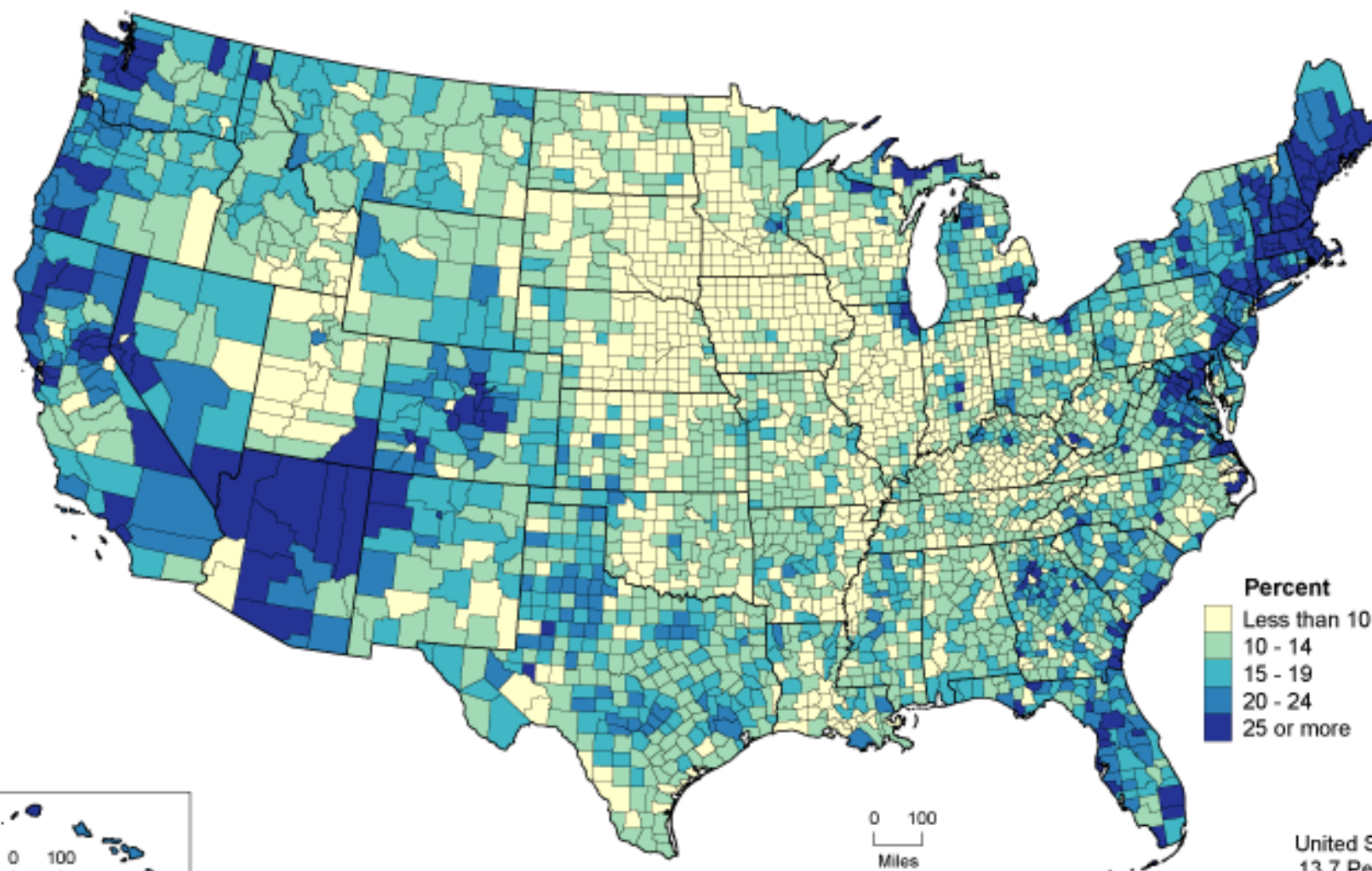


Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, compiled from Census of Agriculture data, various years.



*Photo credit: UVM Extension Northwest Crops & Soils Program*

## Percent of Farms with Female Principal Operator: 2012



United States  
13.7 Percent

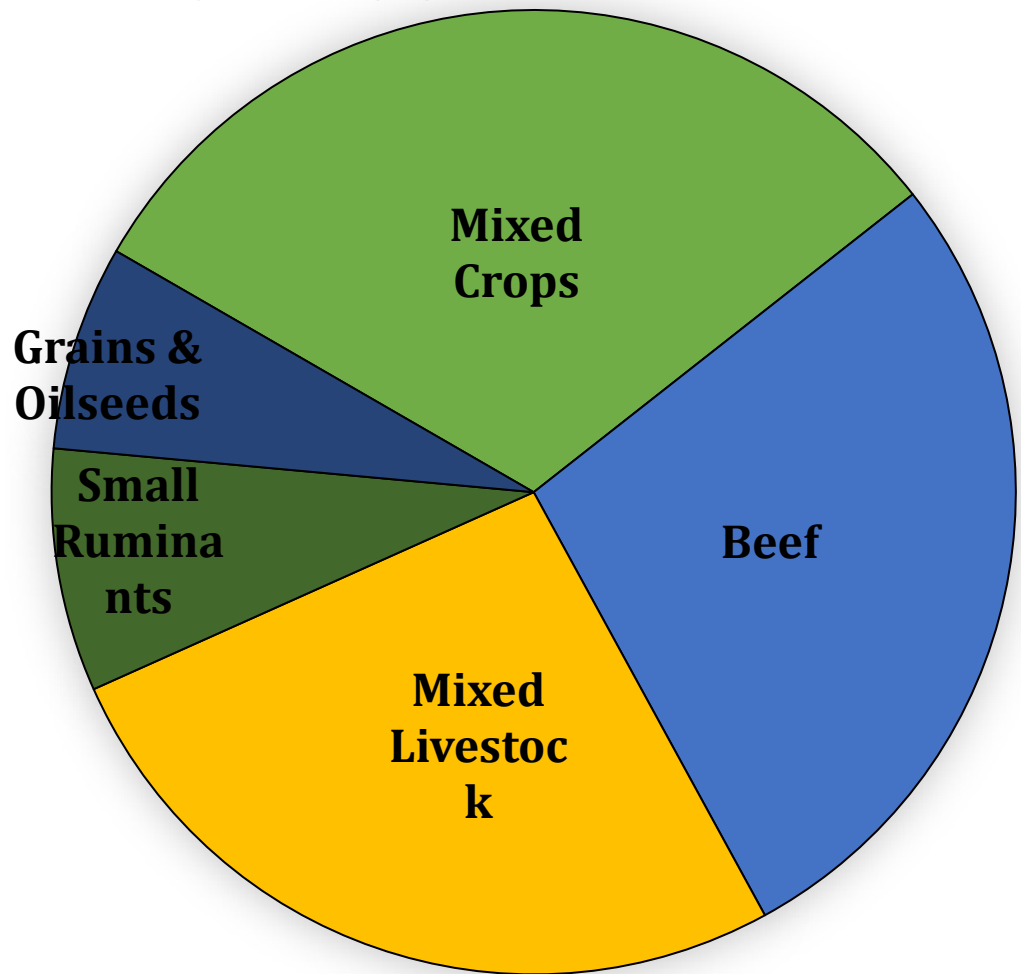






Photo credit: Deb Heleba, University of Vermont Extension

# Top Commodities Women Farmers Produce

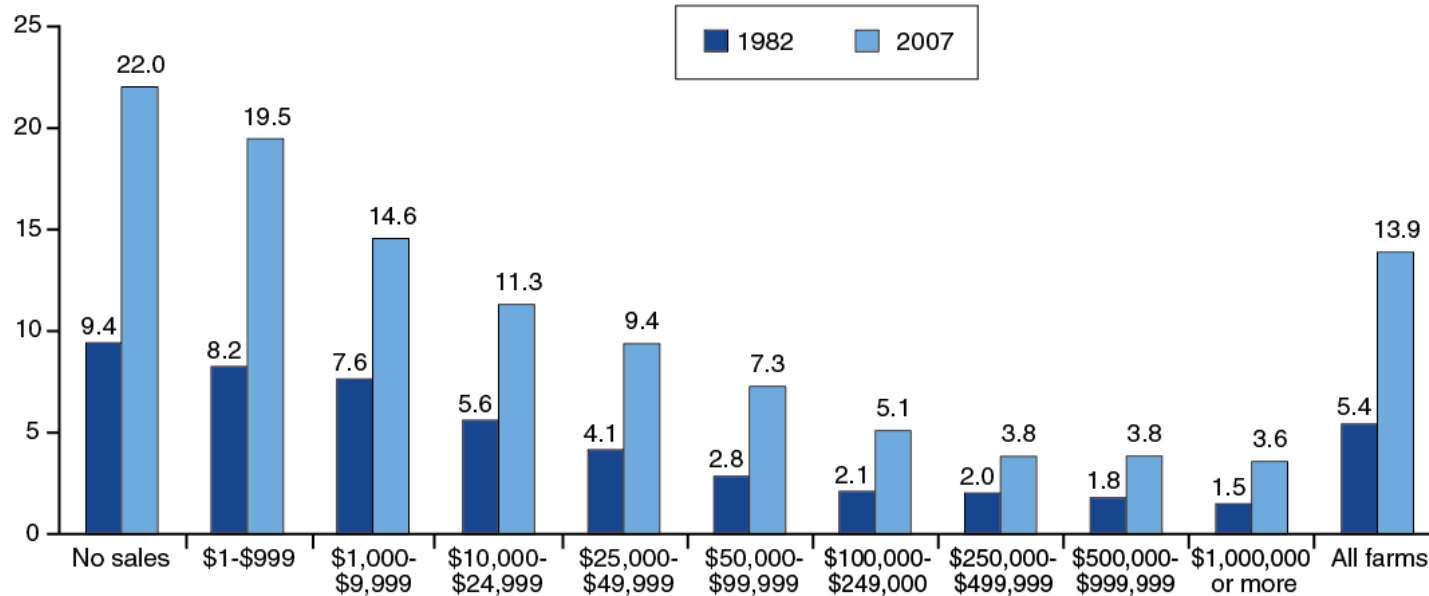


Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture

## Share of farms and ranches operated by women in each sales class, 1982 and 2007

*Women operators increased their share of farms and ranches in all sales classes*

Percent of farms in sales class



Note: Sales classes are expressed in constant 2007 dollars, using the Producer Price Index (PPI) for farm products to adjust for price changes.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, compiled from the 1982 and 2007 Censuses of Agriculture.







Average age of women  
principal operators was  
**60.1 years**

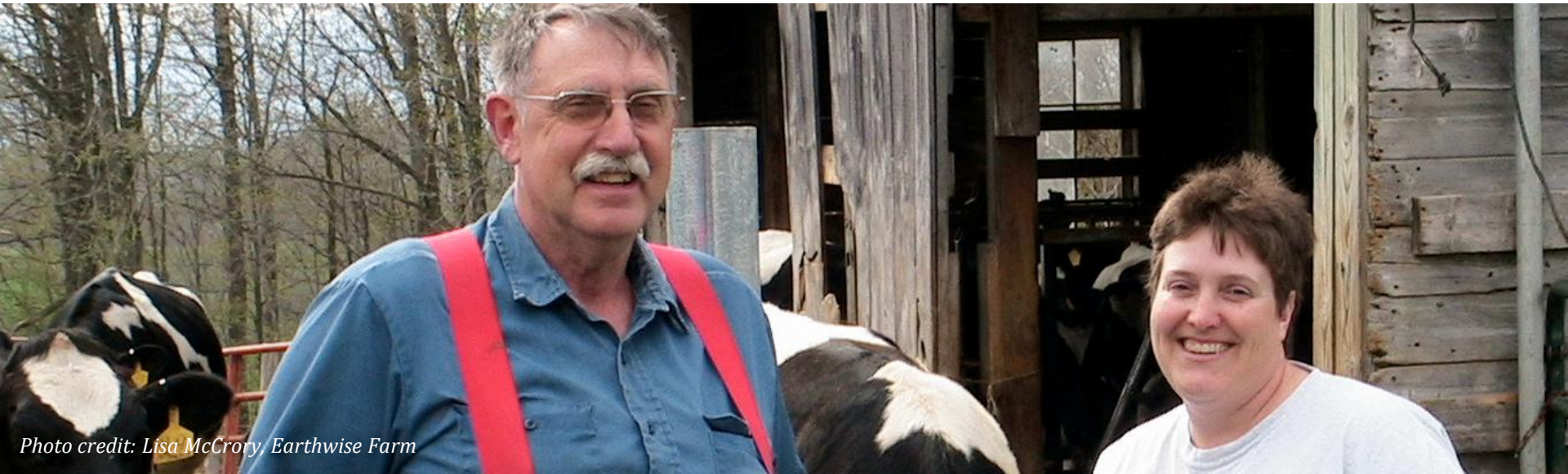
**4%**  
of women principal  
operators were under 35  
years old

*Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture*

# Multi-generational Farms

Farm Operators	Female	Male
Principal	14%	86%
Second	67%	33%
Third	39%	61%
All	30%	70%

*Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture*



*Photo credit: Lisa McCrory, Earthwise Farm*



# Own vs Rent

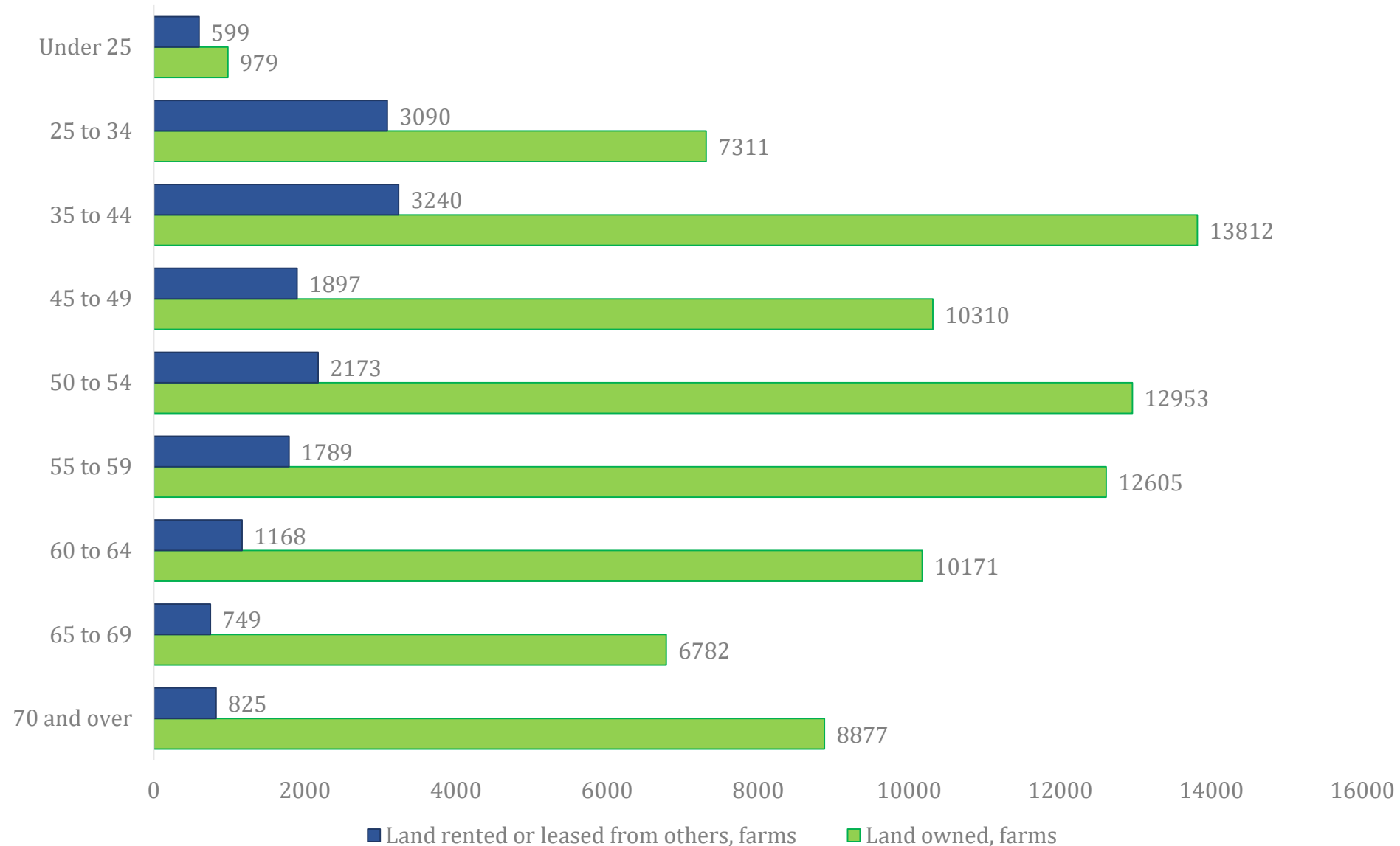
Land in Farms	Women	Men
Owned	78%	61%
Rented	22%	39%

*Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture*



Photo credit: Deb Heleba, University of Vermont Extension

# Tenure of Beginning Female Principal Operators



Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture





# **Design Tips for Successful Programs for Farmer & Rancher Women**

- Safe space & supportive learning environment.
- Let learners learn from each other.
- Child care and flexibility.



*Photo credit: Deb Heleba, University of Vermont Extension*



- Apply lessons to real life.
- Use role models & mentors.
- Feedback loop:  
experts/specialist/resources.



*Photo credit: Deb Heleba, University of Vermont Extension*

# Women in Ag Programs for 21st Century Farms and Ranches

Best practices & innovative approaches for emerging audiences

WELCOME

ABOUT

PACKET MATERIALS

WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS & NOTES

RESOURCES

## Welcome

Welcome to the website for the "Women in Ag Programs for 21st Century Farms and Ranches" Professional Development Workshop.

We've created this website as place to share workshop materials and follow-up resources. It will also be a space where we can share our progress, questions and comments on enhancing programming for beginning women farmers and ranchers.

We'll be adding new materials as we get closer to the workshop, and then continue to update and add more features following the workshop to continue to support your learning and professional development.



[blog.uvm.edu/wagn-workshop/](http://blog.uvm.edu/wagn-workshop/)



# Resources

- Vermont Women's Agricultural Network (started in 1995):  
[www.uvm.edu/wagn](http://www.uvm.edu/wagn)
- Sustainable Agriculture through Sustainable Learning: Improving Educational Outcomes with Best Practices for Adult Learning:  
[go.uvm.edu/adulted](http://go.uvm.edu/adulted)



Photo credit: Deb Heleba, University of Vermont Extension



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