Farm System Design: Working with Beginning Farmers to Enhance Sustainable Farming Practices

Tamara J Benjamin
Diversified Farming and Food Systems
Basic Webinar Instructions

- Audio available through computer or phone.
- Check sound via Communicate menu at top left.
- Closed captions: use arrow to expand or contact the Media Viewer window. You may have to enter some log-in information.
- Expand/contract any of the windows in the right-hand column with the arrows. May need to do this to see video of presenter.
- Expand/contract the size of the right-hand column.
Questions and comments

- Go to the Chat option in the right-hand column. Please send to “All Panelists”. Enter message in box below TO and hit return. You may enter questions about the presentation at any time.

- In addition, during the Q & A period, if you have a web microphone, click the “Raise Hand” icon to indicate that you have a question. We will enable your microphone or phone connection.
Basic Webinar Instructions

• Please let me know if more than one person is viewing at your computer
• 4 quick survey questions + opportunity to share comments
• Session recorded and archived with PowerPoint files at www.agrability.org/Online-Training
• Problems: use chat window or email jonesp@purdue.edu
AgrAbility: USDA-sponsored program that assists farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities.

- Partners land-grant universities with disability services organizations. Currently 20 state projects
- National AgrAbility Project: Led by Purdue’s Breaking New Ground Resource Center. Partners include:
  - Goodwill of the Finger Lakes
  - APRIL (Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living)
  - Colorado State University
  - Washington State University
- More information available at www.agrability.org
Farm System Design:
Working with Beginning Farmers to Enhance Sustainable Farming Practices

Tamara J Benjamin
Diversified Farming and Food Systems
Small-Scale Farmers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farm type</th>
<th>Operator's primary occupation¹</th>
<th>Original typology</th>
<th>Revised typology</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small family farms²</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>Less than $250,000</td>
<td>Less than $350,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retirement farms</td>
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<td>Less than $350,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Off-farm occupation farms³</td>
<td>Nonfarm</td>
<td>Less than $250,000</td>
<td>Less than $350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm occupation farms:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Low-sales</td>
<td>Farming</td>
<td>Less than $100,000</td>
<td>Less than $150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate-sales⁴</td>
<td>Farming</td>
<td>$100,000-$249,999</td>
<td>$150,000-$349,999</td>
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<td>Category not used</td>
<td>$350,000-$999,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large-scale family farms²</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large farms</td>
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<td>$1,000,000-$4,999,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Very large farms</td>
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<td>$500,000 or more</td>
<td>$5,000,000 or more</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonfamily farms²</td>
<td>Not a criterion</td>
<td>Not a criterion</td>
<td>Not a criterion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹Occupation at which the operator spent 50 percent or more of his or her work time.
²Family farms include any farm where the majority of the business is owned by the operator and individuals related to the operator. Nonfamily farms do not meet that criterion.
³Formerly residential/lifestyle farms.
⁴Formerly medium-sales farms.
Any form of agricultural policy always has to set out from the right to food. But food and nutrition security cannot be achieved with agricultural policy alone. Photo: J. Boehling

09.12.2013

Agricultural policies

Food security, agricultural policy and the role of small-scale farms

Increasing prices for agricultural commodities offer a historic opportunity to intensify production systems for small-scale farmers in many developing countries. But without agricultural policies supporting them in making use of this opportunity, many of them would lose their access to land and income, resulting in aggravated food insecurity.
How urban farms in New York schools are raising food to fight inequality

Teens for Food Justice’s farm-to-table concept brings fresh, student-grown produce to the cafeteria

By Patrick Sisson | Sep 27, 2018, 5:48pm EDT

Student farmers at the Green Mountain Energy Sun Club/Teens for Food Justice farm at DeWitt Clinton High School | Meg Jones Wall
• 99% of farms in the US are considered family farms
  – 2/3 of all farms in US are family farms - either retired or primary occupation is off the farm
  – Other 1/3 worked elsewhere to supplement income
• Family farms make up 89% of production
• Small farms make up 90% of all farms, about 50% of land in farming
• 50% of all farms have annual sales of less than $10,000
• 10% of farms that are large scale family and non-family farms, which account for most of our food spending
Small Farms in the Indiana

• In Indiana more than 75% of all farmers own less than 200 acres (does not include urban farmers)
• Many voices but not unified
• Local economy is impacted
• Generation of value added cottage industries
• High land prices for agricultural land, smaller farms are more obtainable for new or beginning farmers (military veterans)
• Local Food movement (people want to know who produced the food they consume)
  – Thought as being used by only elite
  – SNAP dollars
  – Younger generation
• Farms are a system of parts that are interconnected and interrelated

• Looking at your farm holistically helps you see the interactions between the parts
• Factors that need to be taken into consideration:
  – Farm conditions
  – Production systems
  – The growers

• Your Goals
  – Increase land productivity
  – Diversify production
  – Improve environmental conditions
Sustainable Agriculture Can Be Complex

- Diagnostics
  - biophysical
  - socio-cultural
  - economic

- Design
Now  How  Wow
A Beginning Farmer Workbook:
How to Plan, Support, and Grow Your Farm or Ranch

Tamara Benjamin,
Diversified Farming and Food Systems, Purdue Extension
What does your farm have? (Diagnostics)
What would you like it to have? (Design)
Cranberry Marsh - source of migrant waterfowl

Beheler’s Remnant of Cranberry Marsh is adjacent to Beheler’s. Source for snakes, other herps, and warblers.

CRP Land (just removed)
Firewood Work Area

Hardwood Plantation

Prairie Patch

Garden

Sheep pasture with paddocks

Terrain – flat, gentle slope to east into woodland
Ejemplo de la identificación de sus problemas por una mujer indígena

Tengo los animales en la Isla de Gavilán

Tengo los niños pequeños en la casa. Todos los días tengo que ir a ver a los animales y dejar mis niños solos

Soy madre de seis hijos y no tengo recursos para ubicar estos animales
Biophysical Factors

- Soils
- Slopes
- Erosion
- Rockiness
- Flooding
- Humidity

- Natural vegetation
- Climate
- Precipitation
- Altitude
- Wind
- Pests and diseases
Economic Factors

- Capital
- Production or yields
- Input costs
- Prices for products
- Land
- Labor
- Access to Credit

- Profitability
- Equipment
- Land Costs
- Markets
- Commercialization
- Distance to market
Socio-Cultural Factors

- Population density
- Producer preferences and aversions
- Social organization (church, community)
- Gender
- Education
- Access to technical assistance
- Family union
- Land Tenure
- Future vision
- Adaptability/resilience
- Social services
- Infrastructure
- Immigration
- Jobs outside of the farm
- Type of labor
- Local knowledge
- Size and age of family
- Cultural practices
- Social organization
What do you want to see on your property in 1 year (short), 5 years (medium), 10 years (long)?
Beginning Farmers

- Land issues (costs, access, availability)
- Employment (off farm, on farm)
- Families (support, workers)
- Market access (distance,)
- Price points/profitability
- Access to credit (or lack thereof)
- Resilience (adaptation)
- Diversification
- Compact/lean farming (high production per square foot of land)
- Food access (availability, security)