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

Annie's Orchard

Tamara J Benjamin Diversified Farming and Food Systems

PURDUE EXTENSION

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- 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 <u>www.agrability.org/Online-Training</u>
- 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 <u>www.agrability.org</u>

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Small-Scale Farmers

Comparing the original and revised typologies

Farm type	Operator's primary occupation ¹	Original typology	Revised typology
		Farm size measured by gross farm sales	Farm size measured by GCFI
Small family farms ²	Varies	Less than \$250,000	Less than \$350,000
Retirement farms	Retired	Less than \$250,000	Less than \$350,000
Off-farm occupation farms ³	Nonfarm	Less than \$250,000	Less than \$350,000
Farm occupation farms:			
Low-sales	Farming	Less than \$100,000	Less than \$150,000
Moderate-sales ⁴	Farming	\$100,000- \$249,999	\$150,000-\$349,999
Midsize family farms ²	Not a criterion	Category not used	\$350,000-\$999,999
Large-scale family farms ²	Not a criterion	\$250,000 or more	\$1,000,000 or more
Large farms	Not a criterion	\$250,000- \$500,000	\$1,000,000-\$4,999,999
Very large farms	Not a criterion	\$500,000 or more	\$5,000,000 or more
Nonfamily farms ²	Not a criterion	Not a criterion	Not a criterion

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.

*Formerly medium-sales farms.

www.ers.usda.gov



Rural 21 » News » Food security, agricultural policy and the role of small-scale 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. Boethling

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COMING EVENTS

15 - 17 October 2018 - Singapore 5th International Rice Congress &

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. NEWS

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







What does your farm have? (Diagnostics) What would you like it to have? (Design)

Otterbein

Central Till Plain Natural Region

> West Lafayette

Martell Forest

Goose Island

Colliers Island

Northern Edge of Big Rivers Natural Region

South-East Edge of Grand Prairie Natural Region

> Beheler Property, Warren County

Beheler's

Cranberry Marsh- source of migrant waterfowl

CRP Land (just removed)

Davis Pond

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

-

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Google earth

magery Date; 5/14/2012



Eve alt 2214 ft



Ejemplo de la identificación de sus problemas por una mujer indígena





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)















Questions?