

People & Places

Researcher studies female farmers

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

MOSCOW, Idaho — Rynne Pilgeram wants to make sure women farmers have ready access to the resources they need.

But even finding the time to answer survey questions can be difficult for some, she recently found.

Pilgeram conducted focus groups with women farmers around Idaho, including refugee farmers, last summer.

“We didn’t have very many mothers with young children — we had a lot who wanted to do it and then at the last moment, were like, ‘Oh, my kids! I can’t!’” Pilgeram said. “So if those are barriers to even doing a focus group about how to support women.”

Roughly 464 women took the researchers’ survey.

The biggest needs are access to land and funding, specific information and allowing women farmers to connect with other women farmers with the same pursuit, Pilgeram said.

“How can we support these networks, but we also know if they’re not organized by the women themselves, they tend to fall apart,” Pilgeram said. “If we organize them, they’re not going to be as successful as if people find each other.”

If most women are likely to have small-scale farms, Pilgeram wonders what barriers keep them from operating larger farms and ranches.

She grew up on a cattle ranch, and initially studied small-scale and conventional agriculture.

“I sort of took my dis-



Rynne Pilgeram, University of Idaho associate professor of sociology, at East City Park in Moscow, Idaho. Pilgeram aims to increase access to resources for women farmers.

sertation research and thought, ‘I’m going to answer some of these questions about women in agriculture that I don’t think have been answered very effectively before,’” Pilgeram said.

She’s in the process of reviewing and revising various publications. UI Extension will use the information to design training to support women farmers more effectively.

Women-operated farms tend to have a lower return on investment than farms owned by men, said Colette DePhelps, UI Extension area educator, who has worked with Pilgeram on the project.

“The research she is doing is helping us identify how to best serve women in agriculture in Idaho,” DePhelps said.

Pilgeram has been contacted by leaders interested in using her research to help form national policy, DePhelps said. She also offers Pilgeram’s name up as a speaker for organizations.

In 2021, Pilgeram published a book, “Pushed Out: Contested Development and Rural Gentrification in the West.” The book examines economic changes in Dover, a rural North Idaho community near Sandpoint, as it transitioned from a lumber mill economy to a recreation

economy.

“The way my brain works, I love thinking about problems,” she said. “I’m always convinced that we don’t really understand problems. If we had a better understanding of the problem, then our solutions would be much more effective.”

Katie Dentzman, assistant professor of rural policy and rural sociology at Iowa State University, worked with Pilgeram as a post-doctoral research associate at UI, and they continue to collaborate.

“Rynne has a unique capacity to think outside of the commonly accepted

RYANNE PILGERAM
Occupation: Associate professor of sociology, University of Idaho
Age: 41
Hometown: Gold Creek, Mont.
Current location: Moscow, Idaho
Education: Ph.D. in sociology, University of Oregon
Family: Married, three children
Website: <https://bit.ly/3rjZrni>

explanations for why things are the way they are,” Dentzman said. “She blends idealism with matter-of-fact practicality in a way that can really shift perspectives and make change. She doesn’t sugar-coat reality, but she’s going to try her best to improve it no matter the odds.”

“She really wants her research to be useful to making better lives for people and communities,” DePhelps said. “She’s really dedicated to the human side of research and to the application of research for making women in agriculture, women-owned businesses, more successful.”

Advice for farmers making succession plans

By SIERRA DAWN MCCLAIN
Capital Press

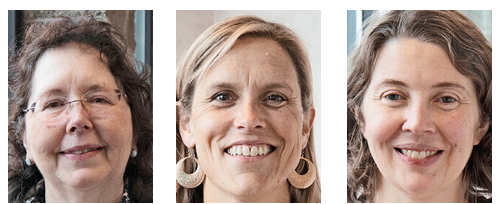
SALEM — Passing a farm from one generation to the next can be difficult, but succession planning experts say there are many resources available to farmers to help them “hang up their hats” and equip a younger generation to carry on farming.

During the Northwest Ag Show at the Oregon State Fairgrounds last week, a group of experts convened to give farmers succession advice.

“There are so many different things involved in succession planning. It’s not just a will and trust,” said Nellie McAdams, executive director of Oregon Agricultural Trust. “It can sort of seem like unraveling a ball of yarn and not knowing where the end is.”

According to McAdams, 81% of farmers don’t have a succession plan. So, how can farmers become better prepared?

Diana Tourney, an accountant who runs workshops through Clackamas Community College’s Small Busi-



Diana Tourney **Molly McCargar** **Nellie McAdams**

ness Development Center, offered several pieces of advice.

First, she said, farmers should know their options. There isn’t a one-size-fits-all succession plan. For some farmers, the best option may be to transfer their land to direct heirs. Other farmers may choose to transfer land to non-relations. Yet others may choose a conservation easement.

It’s important to have conversations with potential successors early on, said Tourney. Are those successors competent yet? If they’re not ready, what needs to change?

“It’s important to know the family dynamics,” said Tourney.

Tourney said farmers should outline their non-negotiables versus

areas where they’re willing to compromise.

It’s important too, Tourney said, to work with appraisers and know what your land is worth.

Tourney also encourages farmers to create clear goals, know changing tax laws and work with professionals, including an agricultural attorney, accountant and banker.

Molly McCargar, who grows hundreds of acres of broccoli, beans, cauliflower, squash, cherries, hops and grass seed at Pearmine Farms, a fourth-generation family farm in Gervais, Ore., also shared advice on succession planning from her experiences.

McCargar said one of the most valuable things she learned is to work with a family counselor or licensed therapist during succession planning to avoid family fallouts. McCargar said she has seen families torn apart while making succession plans. She believes going to counseling with her relatives saved her family a lot of heartache.

McCargar’s family also set up a

group of advisers — including the then-CEO of Wilco and the leader of a cherry association — to meet with her family once a quarter for breakfast to exchange ideas.

“It’s good to have outside voices who don’t have a stake in the farm but understand your industry,” she said.

She said it’s wise to start the planning process years in advance. She and her brother, who now run the farm, started talking with their relatives about the succession plan around 2005, and it wasn’t finalized until about 2011. Now, McCargar is already thinking about the next generation.

McAdams, of the Oregon Agricultural Trust, said farmers who don’t have a successor can still keep their farmland in agriculture. The tool she recommends is called a working land conservation easement, a voluntary private contract between a landowner and a land trust or conservation district. Farmers benefit through cash payments or tax breaks and know their land will be protected for future agricultural use.

CALENDAR

Submit upcoming ag-related events on www.capitalpress.com or by email to newsroom@capitalpress.com.

FRIDAY, JAN. 21
SAIF Agri-Business Banquet: 6-9 p.m. Salem Convention Center, 200 Commercial St. SE, Salem. The SAIF Agri-Business Banquet is a celebration of the agricultural community and its impact on the mid-Willamette Valley. This rich and proud history is honored through special entertainment with a message. The speaker will be Terry Tymchuck from the Oregon Historical Society. We will also recognize an outstanding FFA student for leadership in shaping the future of the industry. Contact: 503-581-1466 Website: <https://bit.ly/3sJlPs5>

SUNDAY-WEDNESDAY JAN. 23-26
Dairy Forum 2022: J.W. Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa, Palm Desert, Calif. Presented by International Dairy Foods Association, the forum will feature what’s new, now and next for dairy foods. Website: www.idfa.org

THURSDAY, JAN. 27
USBI Biochar in the Woods Seminar (online): 9 a.m.-4 p.m. At the day-long, online seminar and the following field day events in Butte County, Calif. (free), you will learn how to make and use biochar onsite to increase the water holding capacity and resilience of forest soils. Website: <https://bit.ly/3q1Ejli>
Uses and Benefits of Collaborative Robots in Manufacturing (online): 10-11 a.m. Is your manufacturing facility undergoing a workforce shortage? Attracting, hiring, and keeping workers is one of today’s

key workforce challenges. In this free webinar, we will discuss how collaborative robotics may be able to help. We will include demonstrations and examples of cobots. Website: <https://techhelp.regfox.com/20221robotics>

TUESDAY-THURSDAY FEB. 1-3
Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show: George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, Texas. The convention will include industry speakers and educational events. Website: <http://www.ncba.org>

TUESDAY-THURSDAY FEB. 8-10
World Ag Expo: 9 a.m. International Agri-Center, 4500 S. Laspina St., Tulare, Calif. One of the world’s largest ag shows returns this year to Tulare, Calif. With hundreds of exhibitors, presentations, seminars and other events, the World Ag Expo attracts attendees from around the nation — and the world. Website: <http://www.WorldAgExpo.org>

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 9
Intro to Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) is an internationally recognized method of identifying and managing food safety-related risk. Participants will receive an International HACCP Alliance seal and certificate. Website: <https://techhelp.regfox.com/introhaccp2022>

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY FEB. 9-12
Organic Seed Growers Conference: Oregon State University Campus. The Organic Seed Growers Conference is the largest event focused solely on organic seed in North

America, bringing together hundreds of farmers, plant breeders, researchers, certifiers, food companies, seed companies, and others from across the U.S. and around the world. Farm tours and short courses are held prior to the full two-day conference. Website: <https://seedalliance.org/>

FRIDAY-SATURDAY FEB. 18-19
Oregon State University Small Farms Conference (online): Everything you ever wanted to know about succeeding as a small-scale farmer. Website: <https://bit.ly/3IA8jx9>

THURSDAY, FEB. 24
Virtual classes for pesticide applicators (online): 8 a.m.-noon. There will be virtual classes for pesticide applicators’ recertification, offered by Oregon OSHA and the Oregon Farm Bureau Health & Safety Committee. The virtual training will provide continuing education credits for any pesticide applicator licensed in Oregon. Participants will receive pesticide recertification CORE credits to maintain an applicator’s license. The four CORE credit hours provided are approved by the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture’s “Worker Protection Standard: What You Should Know.” Website: <http://www.OregonFB.org/pesticideclass>

THURSDAY-FRIDAY FEB. 24-25
USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum (virtual): The forum will include more than 30 breakout sessions on climate, innovation, trade, commodity outlooks and supply chains. Website: <https://www.usda.gov/oce/ag-outlook-forum>

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY MARCH 8-9
Oregon Wine Symposium 2022: Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Portland. The Oregon Winegrowers Association will host an in-person event and trade show March 8-9 at the Oregon Convention Center. The live event attracts industry owners, directors, academics, winemakers, viticulturalists, and sales and marketing professionals. Website: <https://www.oregon-winesymposiumlive.com/>

THURSDAY-SUNDAY MARCH 17-20
Oregon FFA State Convention: Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center, 3800 SW Airport Way, Redmond, Ore. Oregon FFA members from around the state will gather to compete and to learn during their annual convention in Redmond. Website: <https://oregonffa.com/state-convention/>

SATURDAY-SUNDAY MARCH 26-27
Central Oregon Agricultural Show: 9 a.m. Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center, 3800 SW Airport Way, Redmond, Ore. Welcome to the first-ever Central Oregon Agricultural Show, featuring exhibitors, presentations, seminars and more. See you in Redmond! Website: <https://northwestagshow.com/> Phone: 800-882-6789

TUESDAY, MARCH 29
National Cattlemen’s Beef Association Legislative Conference: 5:30-8:30 p.m. J.W. Marriott Hotel, Washington, D.C. The conference will focus on federal policy. Website: www.ncba.org

Capital Press Managers
Joe Beach Editor & Publisher
Anne Long Advertising Director
Carl Sampson Managing Editor
Samantha Stinnett Circulation Manager

Entire contents copyright © 2022
EO Media Group
dba Capital Press

An independent newspaper published every Friday.

Capital Press (ISSN 0740-3704) is published weekly by EO Media Group, 2870 Broadway NE, Salem OR 97303.

Periodicals postage paid at Portland, OR, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to Capital Press, P.O. Box 2048 Salem, OR 97308-2048.

To Reach Us
Circulation 800-781-3214
Email Circulation@capitalpress.com
Main line 503-364-4431
News Staff
Idaho
Carol Ryan Dumas 208-860-3898
Boise
Brad Carlson 208-914-8264
Western Washington
Don Jenkins 360-722-6975
Eastern Washington
Matthew Weaver 509-688-9923
Oregon
George Plaven 406-560-1655
Mateusz Perkowski 800-882-6789
Sierra Dawn McClain 503-506-8011
Designer
Randy Wriughthouse 800-882-6789

To Place Classified Ads
Telephone (toll free) 800-882-6789
Online CapitalPress.com/classifieds

Subscriptions
Mail rates paid in advance
Easy Pay U.S. \$4 /month
(direct withdrawal from bank or credit card account)
1 year U.S. \$ 65
2 years U.S. \$115
1 year Canada \$230
1 year other countries call for quote
1 year Internet only \$ 52
Visa and Mastercard accepted

To get information published
Mailing address:
Capital Press
P.O. Box 2048
Salem, OR 97308-2048

News: Contact the main office or news staff member closest to you, send the information to newsroom@capitalpress.com or mail it to “Newsroom,” c/o Capital Press. Include a contact telephone number.

Letters to the Editor: Send your comments on agriculture-related public issues to opinions@capitalpress.com, or mail your letter to “Opinion,” c/o Capital Press. Letters should be limited to 300 words. Deadline: Noon Monday.

Capital Press ag media
CapitalPress.com
MarketPlace.capitalpress.com
facebook.com/CapitalPress
facebook.com/FarmSeller
twitter.com/CapitalPress
youtube.com/CapitalPressvideo

Index
Markets 10
Opinion 6

Correction policy
Accuracy is important to Capital Press staff and to our readers.
If you see a misstatement, omission or factual error in a headline, story or photo caption, please call the Capital Press news department at 503-364-4431, or send email to newsroom@capitalpress.com.
We want to publish corrections to set the record straight.